

The Marriage Service

A summary of the service

The following is a summary of the main parts of the Marriage Service.
We have included below:

- The Preface - which is a statement of the Christian understanding of marriage.
- The Declarations, Vows and Giving of Rings - the places where you say something.

A full version of the text is available if required.

Structure of the Marriage Service

The parts in **bold** are those included below.

THE PREPARATION

The Welcome

Hymn

The Preface

The Declarations

Reading

Sermon

¶ THE MARRIAGE

The Vows (and Giving of rings)

The Blessing of the Marriage

Registration of the Marriage

Hymn

Prayers

The Dismissal

they shall be united with one another in heart, body and mind, as Christ is united with his bride, the Church.

The gift of marriage brings husband and wife together in the delight and tenderness of sexual union and joyful commitment to the end of their lives.

It is given as the foundation of family life in which children are [born and] nurtured and in which each member of the family, in good times and in bad, may find strength, companionship and comfort, and grow to maturity in love.

Marriage is a way of life made holy by God, and blessed by the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ with those celebrating a wedding at Cana in Galilee.

Marriage is a sign of unity and loyalty which all should uphold and honour.

It enriches society and strengthens community.

No one should enter into it lightly or selfishly but reverently and responsibly in the sight of almighty God.

N and *N* are now to enter this way of life. They will each give their consent to the other and make solemn vows, and in token of this they will [each] give and receive a ring.

We pray with them that the Holy Spirit will guide and strengthen them, that they may fulfill God's purposes for the whole of their earthly life together.

Preface

In the presence of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we have come together to witness the marriage of *N* and *N*, to pray for God's blessing on them, to share their joy and to celebrate their love. Marriage is a gift of God in creation through which husband and wife may know the grace of God.

It is given that as man and woman grow together in love and trust,

Preparing for your marriage : The Marriage Service (summary)

The minister says to the congregation

First, I am required to ask anyone present who knows a reason why these persons may not lawfully marry, to declare it now.

The minister says to the couple

The vows you are about to take are to be made in the presence of God, who is judge of all and knows all the secrets of our hearts; therefore if either of you knows a reason why you may not lawfully marry, you must declare it now.

The Declarations

The minister says to the bridegroom

N, will you take *N* to be your wife?
Will you love her, comfort her,
honour and protect her,
and, forsaking all others,
be faithful to her
as long as you both shall live?

He answers **I will.**

The minister says to the bride

N, will you take *N* to be your husband?
Will you love him, comfort him,
honour and protect him,
and, forsaking all others,
be faithful to him
as long as you both shall live?

She answers **I will.**

The minister says to the congregation

Will you, the families and friends
of *N* and *N*, support and uphold them
in their marriage now
and in the years to come?

The congregation say **We will.**

(A reading and sermon take place here)

The Vows

N and *N*, I now invite you to join hands
and make your vows,
in the presence of God and his people.

*The bridegroom takes the bride's right
hand in his, and says*

**I, *N*, take you, *N*, to be my wife,
to have and to hold
from this day forward;
for better, for worse,
for richer, for poorer,
in sickness and in health,
to love and to cherish,
till death us do part;
according to God's holy law.
In the presence of God
I make this vow.**

*The bride takes the bridegroom's right
hand in hers, and says*

**I, *N*, take you, *N*, to be my husband,
to have and to hold
from this day forward;
for better, for worse,
for richer, for poorer,
in sickness and in health,
to love and to cherish,
till death us do part;
according to God's holy law.
In the presence of God
I make this vow.**

The Giving of the Rings

*The bridegroom places a ring on the
bride's hand and says*

***N*, I give you this ring
as a sign of our marriage.
With my body I honour you,
all that I am I give to you,
and all that I have I share with you,
within the love of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

*The bride places a ring on the
bridegroom's hand using the same words*