

The Marriage Service

St. Michael's Betchworth and St. Mary's Buckland

The Welcome

The minister welcomes the people using these or other appropriate words

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you

All and also with you.

Hymn

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, 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 fulfil God's purposes for the whole of their earthly life together.

The Declarations

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 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?

All We will.

The Collect

The minister invites the people to pray, silence is kept and the minister says the Collect

God our Father, from the beginning, you have blessed creation with abundant life. Pour out your blessings upon *N* and *N*, that they may be joined in mutual love and companionship, in holiness and commitment to each other. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

The Giving away

Who brings this woman to be married?

The Vows

The minister introduces the vows

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

Form 1 of the vows

The bride and bridegroom face each other.

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.

They loose hands.

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.**

They loose hands.

Form 2 of the Vows

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

**I, *N*, take thee, *N*, to my wedded 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 ordinance;
and thereto I plight thee my troth.**

They loose hands.

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

**I, *N*, take thee, *N*, to my wedded 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, cherish, and to obey,
till death us do part,
according to God's holy ordinance;
and thereto I give thee my troth.**

[If preferred, the word 'obey' may be omitted as follows:

*I, *N*, take thee, *N*, to my wedded 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 ordinance; and thereto I give thee my troth.]*

The Giving of Rings

(The minister receives the rings, and says)

Heavenly Father, by your blessing,
let these rings be to *N* and *N*
a symbol of unending love and faithfulness,
to remind them of the vow and covenant
which they have made this day
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The bridegroom places the ring on the fourth finger of the bride's left hand and, holding it there, 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.**

They loose hands and the bride places a ring on the fourth finger of the bridegroom's left hand and, holding it there, 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 Proclamation

The minister addresses the people:

In the presence of God, and before this congregation,
N and *N* have given their consent and made their marriage vows to each other. They have declared their marriage by the joining of hands and by the giving and receiving of rings. I therefore proclaim that they are husband and wife.

The minister joins their right hands together and says:

Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder.

The Blessing of the Marriage

The husband and wife kneel

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, for you have created joy and gladness, pleasure and delight, love, peace and fellowship. Pour out the abundance of your blessing upon *N* and *N* in their new life together. Let their love for each other be a seal upon their hearts, and a crown upon their heads. Bless them in their work and in their companionship; awake and asleep, in joy and in sorrow, in life and in death. Finally, in your mercy, bring them to that banquet where your saints feast for ever in your heavenly home. We ask this through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

The minister says to the couple:

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit,
bless, preserve and keep you;
the Lord mercifully grant you the riches of his grace,
that you may please him both in body and soul,
and, living together in faith and love,
may receive the blessings of eternal life.

All Amen.

The following acclamations may also be used:

Blessed are you, heavenly Father.
All: You give joy to bridegroom and bride.
Blessed are you, Lord Jesus Christ
All: You bring life to the world.
Blessed are you, Holy Spirit of God.
All: You bind us together in love.
Blessed are you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever.
All: Amen.

Reading(s)

Address

Hymn

Prayers

These or other suitable prayers are used. The prayers usually include these concerns and may follow this sequence:

- ¶ *Thanksgiving*
- ¶ *Spiritual growth*
- ¶ *Faithfulness, joy, love, forgiveness and healing*
- ¶ *Children, other family members and friends*

Faithful God, holy and eternal,
source of life and spring of love,
we thank and praise you for bringing *N* and *N* to this day,
and we pray for them.

Lord of life and love:

All **hear our prayer.**

May their marriage be life-giving and life-long,
enriched by your presence and strengthened by your grace;
may they bring comfort and confidence to each other
in faithfulness and trust.

Lord of life and love:

All **hear our prayer.**

May the hospitality of their home
bring refreshment and joy to all around them;
may their love overflow to neighbours in need
and embrace those in distress.

Lord of life and love:

All **hear our prayer.**

May they discern in your word
order and purpose for their lives;
and may the power of your Holy Spirit
lead them in truth and defend them in adversity.

Lord of life and love:

All **hear our prayer.**

May they nurture their family with devotion,
see their children grow in body, mind and spirit
and come at last to the end of their lives
with hearts content and in joyful anticipation of heaven.

Lord of life and love:

All **hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude with the Lord's Prayer.

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

All **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

(or)

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as
we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into
temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Hymn

The Dismissal

The minister says:

God the Holy Trinity make *you* strong in faith and love,
defend *you* on every side, and guide *you* in truth and peace;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among *you* and remain with *you* always.

All: Amen.

Registration of the Marriage

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