

# **MARRIAGE BLESSING SERVICE**

## **BRIDAL PROCESSION**

### **THE WELCOME**

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

God is love, and those who live in love live in God and God lives in them. *1 John 4.16*

### **OPENING PRAYER**

God of wonder and of joy:  
grace comes from you,  
and you alone are the source of life and love.  
Without you, we cannot please you;  
without your love, our deeds are worth nothing.  
Send your Holy Spirit,  
and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love,  
that we may worship you now  
with thankful hearts  
and serve you always with willing minds;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

### **HYMN**

### **INTRODUCTION**

In the presence of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
we have come together  
to celebrate the marriage of BRIDE and GROOM,  
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.  
BRIDE and GROOM 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.

#### **DECLARATIONS**

*The minister says to the bridegroom*

N, do 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?

GROOM: I will.

*The minister says to the bride*

N, do 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?

BRIDE: I will.

*The minister says to the congregation*

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

**All We will.**

#### **THE COLLECT**

God our Father, from the beginning you have blessed creation with abundant life. Pour  
out your blessings upon **GROOM** and **BRIDE**,

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. **Amen.**

## **BIBLE READING**

## **ADDRESS**

## **HYMN**

## **THE VOWS**

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

*The bride and bridegroom face each other.*

*The bridegroom takes the bride's right hand in his.*

I, **GROOM**, take you, **BRIDE**,  
to be my wife,  
to have and to hold:  
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.

*They loose hands.*

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

I, **BRIDE**, take you, **GROOM**,  
to be my husband,  
to have and to hold;  
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.

*They loose hands.*

## **THE GIVING OF RINGS**

Heavenly Father, by your blessing  
let *these rings* be to **GROOM** and **BRIDE**  
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*

**GROOM**, 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.

**BRIDE**, 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.

*If rings are exchanged, they loose hands and the bride places a ring on the fourth finger of  
the bridegroom's left hand and, holding it there, says*

### **The Proclamation**

*The minister addresses the people*  
In the presence of God, and before this congregation,  
**GROOM** and **BRIDE** have confirmed  
their marriage vows to each other.  
They have declared their covenant in the joining of hands and in the giving and receiving  
of *rings*.

*The minister joins their right hands together and says*  
Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder.

### **THE KISS**

### **THE BLESSING OF THE MARRIAGE**

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

**GROOM** and **BRIDE** 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.**

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 SIGNING** (*if required, during which music is played, photos are taken*)

#### **PRAYERS CONCLUDING WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER**

#### **HYMN**

#### **THE DISMISSAL**

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.**

#### **THE RECESSIONAL FOR BRIDE AND GROOM**