

**Subject: Weddings – Christian Ceremony**

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**Christian Ceremony**

Who gives this woman to be married to this man? Thank you.

“God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.”

(If Family Greeting, here....)

We are gathered here in the presence of God to give thanks for the gift of marriage, to witness the joining together of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, to surround them with our prayers, and to ask God’s blessing upon them, so that they may be strengthened for their life together and nurtured in their love for God.

God created us male and female, and gave us marriage so that husband and wife may help and comfort each other, living faithfully together in plenty and in want, in joy and sorrow, in sickness and in health, throughout all their days.

God gave us marriage for the full expression of the love between a man and a woman. In marriage a woman and a man freely give themselves to each other with affection and tenderness.

God gave us marriage for the well-being of human society, (and) for the ordering of family life.

God gave us marriage as a holy mystery in which a man and woman are joined together and become one, just as Christ is one with the church.

In marriage, husband and wife are called to a new way of life, created, ordered, and blessed by God. This way of life must not be entered into carelessly, or from selfish motives, but responsibly and prayerfully.

We rejoice that marriage is given by God, blessed by our Lord Jesus Christ, and sustained by the Holy Spirit. Therefore, let marriage be held in honor among all.

Let us pray: Gracious God, thou art always faithful in your love for us. Look mercifully upon \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ who have come seeking thy blessing. Let thy Holy Spirit rest upon them so that with steadfast love they may honor the promises they make this day, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, having heard how God has created, ordered, and blessed the covenant of marriage, do you affirm your desire and intention to enter this covenant? *I do.*

(If no other family stuff...) Members of the family, do you give your blessing to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, and promise to do everything in your power to uphold them in their marriage? We do.

(If song, Celebrating the New Family, or Unity Candle, here.)

**Prayer:** God of mercy, thou hast never broken thy covenant with us, and thou free us to live together in the power of thy faithful love. Amid all the changing words of our times, may we hear thy eternal Word that is changeless. Then may we respond to thy gracious promises with faithful and obedient lives through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, please face each other, join hands, and by your promises bind yourself to each other as husband and wife.

(If their own vows, here.)

(Groom) repeat after me: I \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wedded wife, and I promise before God and these witnesses to be your loving and faithful husband, in plenty and in want, in joy and in sorrow, in sickness and in health, as long as we both shall live.

(Bride) repeat after me: I \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wedded husband, and I promise before God and these witnesses to be your loving and faithful wife, in plenty and in want, in joy and in sorrow, in sickness and in health, as long as we both shall live.

May I have the rings please? Bless, O Lord, these rings, that the giver and receiver may ever abide in thy peace and continue in thy favor now and forevermore, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Give rings to couple.) Repeat after me, together: With this ring I thee wed. Let it ever be to us, a sign of our constant faith and abiding love. As a token of my faithfulness, I place it now upon your hand. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

(If Lord's Prayer, here.) Our Father, who are 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

(Join right hands.)

Inasmuch as you \_\_\_\_\_, and you, \_\_\_\_\_, have consented together in wedlock and have witnessed the same before God and these present, and have pledged your faith to each other, by the power vested in me by the church and by the power of your own love, I now pronounce you husband and wife. Whom love hath joined together, may it never be put asunder. Amen. (The kiss.)

May the grace of Christ attend you, the love of God surround you, the Holy Spirit keep you, that you may live in faith, abound in hope, and grow in love, both now and forevermore.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my privilege to present to you, Mr. and Mrs.

\_\_\_\_\_.