

Anglican Wedding Service

from A Prayer Book for Australia (Broughton Books, 1995)

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

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

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

We have come together in the presence of God
to witness the marriage of N and N,
and to ask God's blessing on them as we share their joy.
Marriage is a gift of God our creator.
It is a symbol of God's unending love for his people,
and of the union between Christ and his Church.
Christ loved his bride the Church, and gave himself for her.
As he has called N and N to marriage,
so he draws their differing gifts and hopes into a unity of love and service.

Scripture teaches that marriage is a lifelong partnership
uniting a woman and a man in heart, mind and body.
In the joy of their union, husband and wife enrich and respond to each other,
growing in tenderness and understanding.
[Through marriage a new family is formed,
where children may be born and grow in secure and loving care.]
Marriage is therefore to be honoured by all.
No one should enter it lightly or selfishly,
but responsibly and joyfully,
with mutual respect and the promise to be faithful.

So let us pray with N and N
as they prepare to exchange their solemn vows:

Blessed are you, loving God,
your Spirit binds us together.

**Crown our lives with your goodness;
sustain us all our days with your love.**

Bless N and N with wisdom and pleasure.
Be their friend and companion in joy,
their comfort in need and in sorrow.

And when this life is ended
welcome them into your presence,
there with all your people to praise your holy name:

**Blessed be God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Readings – a selection of suitable bible readings is provided.

Other poems and readings in addition to bible readings may also be included.

Sermon – The priest will speak about the readings and the meaning of the ceremony in a short reflection called the sermon.

THE WEDDING

N, will you give yourself to N, to be her husband,
to live with her according to God's word?
Will you love her, comfort her, honour and protect her,
and, forsaking all others, be faithful to her
so long as you both shall live?

I will.

N, will you give yourself to N, to be his wife,
to live with him according to God's word?
Will you love him, comfort him, honour and protect him,
and, forsaking all others, be faithful to him
so long as you both shall live?

I will.

Families and friends, you are witnesses to these vows.
Will you do everything in your power
to uphold N and N in their marriage?

We will.

Vows

(The following traditional vows are popular and mostly frequently used, alternative vows can be provided or vows may be written by the couple with the approval of the priest)

I, N, in the presence of God,
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,
so long as we both shall live.
All this I vow and promise.

N, in the presence of God,
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,
so long as we both shall live.
All this I vow and promise.

giving and receiving of rings

God of steadfast love,
by your blessing,
let *these rings* be for N and N
a symbol of their love and faithfulness
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

I give you this ring
as a symbol of our marriage.
With all that I am and all that I have
I honour you; in the name of God. Amen.

I receive this ring
as a symbol of your love and faithfulness
to the end of our days.

and/or

May God enable us to grow in love together.

Before God and in the presence of us all,
N and N have joined hands
and made their solemn vows,
promising life-long faithfulness to each other.
In the name of God,
I declare them to be husband and wife.
What God has joined together,
let no one separate.

The couple may say

God of tenderness and strength,
you have brought our paths together
and led us to this day;
go with us now as we travel through good times,
through trouble, and through change.
Bless our home, our partings and our meetings.
Make us worthy of one another's best,
and tender with one another's dreams. Amen.

God the Father lovingly enfold you,
God the Son grace your home and table,
God the Holy Spirit crown you with joy and peace.
The Lord bless you and keep you in eternal life.
Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Usually one to three prayers are chosen, and may be said by a reader, by everyone or by the priest.

a For faithfulness

God of all grace,
friend and companion,
look in favour on N and N,
and all who are made one in marriage.
In your love deepen their love,
strengthen their wills
to keep the promises they have made,
that they may continue
in life-long faithfulness to each other;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

b For the joy of loving

God our Creator,
we thank you for your gift of sexual love
by which husband and wife
may delight in each other,
and share with you the joy of creating new life.
By your grace may N and N remain lovers,
rejoicing in your goodness all their days. Amen.

c For children

Lord of life,
you shape us in your image,
and by your gracious gift the human family is increased.
To N and N grant the blessing of children.
Fill them with wisdom and love
as they care for their family,
so that they and their children may know and love you,
through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

d For an existing family

God of all grace and goodness,
we thank you for this new family,
and for everything parents and children have to share;
by your Spirit of peace draw them together
and help them to be true friends to one another.
Let your love surround them
and your care protect them,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

e For grace to live well

Faithful God,
giver of all good things,
give N and N wisdom and devotion
in the ordering of their life together.
May they dwell together in love and peace
all the days of their life,

seeking one another's welfare,
bearing one another's burdens,
and sharing one another's joys;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

f For discipleship

Eternal God,
without your grace nothing is strong, nothing is sure.
Strengthen N and N with patience, kindness, gentleness,
and all other gifts of the Holy Spirit,
so that they may fulfil the vows they have made.
Keep them faithful to each other and to you.
Fill them with such love and joy
that they may build a home of peace and welcome.
Make their life together a sign of Christ's love
in this broken world,
that unity may overcome estrangement,
forgiveness heal guilt,
and joy conquer despair;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

g For the families of the couple

Gracious Lord,
bless the parents and families of N and N
that they may grow in love and friendship.
Grant that, as they have witnessed these vows today,
they may find their lives enriched and strengthened
and their loyalties confirmed. Amen.

h For the healing of memory

Loving God,
you are merciful and forgiving.
Grant that those who are suffering the hurts of the past
may experience your generous love.
Heal their memories, comfort them,
and send them all from here renewed and hopeful. **Amen.**

i For the joy of companionship

All praise and blessing to you, God of love,
creator of the universe,
maker of man and woman in your likeness,
source of blessing for married life.
All praise to you, for you have created
courtship and marriage,
joy and gladness,
feasting and laughter,
pleasure and delight.
May your blessing come in full upon N and N.

May they know your presence
in their joys and in their sorrows.
May they reach old age in the company of friends
and come at last to your eternal kingdom. Amen.

j A prayer for all people

Almighty God, look graciously on the world which you have made and for which your Son gave his life. Bless all whom you make one flesh in marriage. May their life together be a sign of your love to this broken world, so that unity may overcome estrangement, forgiveness heal guilt, and joy overcome despair.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

May N and N so live together that the strength of their love may reflect your love and enrich our common life.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

May they be gentle and patient, ready to trust each other, and, when they fail, willing to recognise and acknowledge their fault and to ask each other's forgiveness.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

[May N and N be blessed with the gift of children. Fill them with wisdom and love as they care for their family.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.]

May the lonely, the bereaved, and all who suffer want or anxiety, be defended by you, O Lord.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

May those whose lives are today brought together be given wisdom, patience and courage to serve one another in Christ's name.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

May friends and family gathered here, and those separated by distance, be strengthened and blessed this day.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

We praise you, merciful God, for those who have died in the faith of Christ. May we be strengthened by their example.

The prayers conclude with

Accept our prayers, loving God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray,

**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.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. **Amen.**

blessing

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ:

concluding with either

and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

or

and the blessing of God,
creator and redeemer,
giver of life and love,
be with you all, now and for ever. **Amen.**

or

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face to shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up his countenance on you, and give you peace. **Amen.**

By request, regular church-goers may like to include Communion which would occur after the prayers and before the blessing.

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