

# The Marriage Ceremony

*Use the following outline to help plan the program for your wedding. Omit everything in brackets when composing your program.*

## **The Prelude**

(List Music as desired)

## **The Processional---including the Bride**

**The Call to Worship** (section A)

**The Giving of the Bride---“Who Gives this Woman?”**

**Hymn** (if Desired list name and number of hymn)

**Scripture** (or Scripture & Homily or Other Readings list readings as desired)

**The Covenant Before God** (Section B)

**The Exchange of Vows** (Section C)

**The Exchange of Rings** (Section D)

**The Prayer** (Section E)

**The Pronouncement of Marriage** (Section F)

**Lighting of the Unity Candle** (if Desired)

(An anthem will be needed many prefer *The Lord's Prayer*)

**The Blessing of the Husband and Wife** (Section G)

**Presentation of the Bride and Groom** (If desired)

**The Recessional** (List music as desired)

*The Following is the actual ceremony divided into sections for your use only. The sections are outlined above. This does not need to be reproduced in the program.*

The Prelude

The Processional

## **THE SERVICE FOR THE SOLEMNIZATION OF MARRIAGE**

The persons to be married shall stand before the minister with their witnesses, the man standing at the right hand of the woman. Then the minister shall say:

### **Section A:**

Dearly beloved, we are here assembled, in the presence of God and these witnesses, to join together this man, ....., and this woman, ....., in holy marriage, which is blessed by our Lord Jesus Christ, governed by God's commandments, and is to be held in honor among all men. Therefore it is not to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly, but reverently, discreetly, and in the fear of God.

In Holy Scripture we are taught: that marriage was instituted by God Himself, and is therefore a holy estate; that, according to the ordinance of God, a man and his wife shall be one flesh; that, under the New Covenant, the married state has been sanctified to be an emblem of Christ and His Church; that the husband and wife should love one another even as Christ loves the Church; and be subject to one another even as the Church is subject unto Christ; that, in consequence, Christians thus united together, should love one another as one in the Lord, be faithful one to the other, bear one another's infirmities and weaknesses, cherish one another in joy and sorrow, pray for and encourage one another in all things, and live together as heirs of the grace of life.

Into this holy estate these two persons come now to be joined.

### **Section B**

The minister shall say to the man, addressing him by his Christian name:

....., will you have ..... to be your wife, to live together in the holy bond of marriage? Will you love her, honor her, and care for her, under all conditions and circumstances of life, and through the grace of God, approve yourself a faithful Christian husband to her so long as you both shall live? If this is your desire then answer and say, "I will."

The man shall answer:

I will.

The minister shall say to the woman, addressing her by her Christian name:

....., will you have ..... to be your husband, to live together in the holy bond of marriage? Will you love him, honor him, and care for him, under all conditions and circumstances of life, and through the grace of God, approve yourself a faithful Christian wife to him so long as you both shall live? If this is your desire then answer and say, "I will."

The woman shall answer:

I will.

### **Section C**

The man, with his right hand, taking the woman by her right hand, shall say after the minister:

I, ....., take you, ....., to be my wedded wife; and I do promise and covenant to be your loving and faithful husband; for better, for worse; for richer, for poorer; in sickness and in health; so long as we both shall live.

They shall release hands; and the woman, with her right hand, taking the man by his right hand, shall likewise say after the minister:

I, ....., take you, ....., to be my wedded husband; and I do promise and covenant to be your loving and faithful wife; for better, for worse; for richer, for poorer; in sickness and in health; so long as we both shall live.

### **Section D**

The minister shall say to the man, "What token do you bring?"

The man shall here give the ring to the woman, which the minister taking from her shall deliver again to the man and say:

Take this ring and place it upon the finger of this woman and say: This ring I give to you, in token and pledge of our constant faith and abiding love.

The minister shall say to the woman, "What token do you bring?"

The woman shall here give the ring to the man, which the minister taking from him shall deliver again to the woman and say:

Take this ring and place it upon the finger of this man and say: This ring I give to you, in token and pledge of our constant faith and abiding love.

## **Section E**

Let us pray:

Most merciful and gracious God, of Whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, we thank Thee for the love with which Thou dost bind kindred souls together, and especially for the institution of marriage, the tenderness of its ties, the honor of its estate, and the sacredness of its obligations. Look with favor upon these, Thy servants; sanctify and bless their union; grant them grace to fulfill, with pure and steadfast affection, the vow and covenant made between them. Guide them together, we pray, in the way of righteousness and peace, that, loving and serving Thee, with one heart and mind, all the days of their life, they may be abundantly enriched by Thy grace. Vouchsafe unto them the guidance of Thy Holy Spirit, and teach them to do that which is well-pleasing in Thy sight, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

## **Section F**

The minister shall join their right hands and say:

In the Name of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, I now join you together to live within the bonds of holy marriage, as husband and wife. What therefore God has joined together, let not man put asunder. Receive the blessing of the Lord.

Optional Unity Candle with/music like *The Lord's Prayer*

## **Section G**

The man and the woman shall kneel.

The Lord bless you, and keep you;  
The Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious unto you;  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace;  
In the Name of Jesus. Amen.

Presentation of the Bride and Groom (If desired)

The Recessional

The Postlude