

MARRIAGE SERVICE:

A Modern Version



Rev. Dr. Gregg R. Anderson

Aspen Chapel

INTRODUCTION

Let us join in celebration. We have been invited to share the joy of this day with _____ and _____. As their friends and families, we form a community to celebrate their love and witness their wedding.

Let us pray –

O God, for the joy of this occasion we thank you. For the meaning of this wedding day we thank you. For this important moment in an ever-growing relationship we thank you. For your presence here and at all times we thank you; in your name, O Lord, we say and pray, amen.

We have come together to celebrate the life that _____ and _____ have found together. Together we acknowledge the two of you and your love for each other. All of us have found joy in knowing you. And you have given us a hint of that strange and wondrous thing that exists between you called love. So we surround you with our love as we give our blessing and say amen to your marriage.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Lord, we thank you for what we have – life, friends, family, the happiness of this moment and this relationship. Especially do we thank you for marriage – that in it we express our love to one another, that in

it we enhance the personality of another and that in marriage each of us becomes a more complete and fulfilled person. We pray that you will guide _____ and _____ to realize their potential and their love.

MESSAGE

_____ and _____, you have said many things to each other in the time you have already spent together. You have discussed your past and explored your future. You now know that your time together will be filled with many new and exciting experiences. You also know that there will be times of sadness as well as times of happiness, times of sickness as well as times of good health, times of disagreement and times of agreement. You know the faults of each other as well as the qualities of each other. Through all of this, you have decided and committed yourselves to live your lives together. This service is your affirmation and reaffirmation each to the other. May God bless your covenant.

PREPARATION TO VOWS

As you are about to make your vows of marriage each to the other know that love and loyalty alone will avail as the foundation of a happy and enduring home. No other ties are more tender, no other vows more sacred than these you now make.

So you are now called upon to live together with love and deep friendship; each one being for the well being of the other, so that your life together will be full of joy and the home which you will establish may abide in God's peace now and forever more.

QUESTION

_____, _____ has indicated she wants to be your wife. So now I ask you, will you give of yourself to her? Will you try to share completely with her in your life together? Will you try always to be open and honest in your relationship? Will you try always to give her all

comfort and support and strength? Will you try, in all ways, to give of yourself to her?

_____, _____ has indicated he wants to be your husband. So now I ask you, will you give of yourself to him? Will you try to share completely with him in your life together? Will you try always to be open and honest in your relationship? Will you try always to give him all comfort and support and strength? Will you try, in all ways, to give of yourself to him?

VOWS

(Will you now join hands to make your vows)

I, _____, take you, _____, to be my wife; and I promise to stand beside you and with you always; in times of celebration and in times of sadness; in times of pleasure and in times of pain; in times of health and in times of illness; I will live with you and love you always.

I, _____, take you, _____, to be my husband; and I promise to stand beside you and with you always; in times of celebration and in times of sadness; in times of pleasure and in times of pain; in times of health and in times of illness; I will live with you and love you always.

RING VOWS

O Lord, we ask your blessing upon these rings and that they who give them and wear them may abide in your peace, now and forever more. Amen.

Groom

I give you this ring, as a sign of my promise, and a symbol of our love.

Bride

I give you this ring, as a sign of my promise, and a symbol of our love.

PASTORAL PRAYER

May _____ and _____
marriage reflect your will, O Lord, for their lives. May
they be strengthened through this marriage bond and
truly fulfill their lives in this relationship. We pray that
their loyalties and priorities may be in agreement. We
pray that in loving you and knowing your love for
them, their love for each other may be strengthened.
May they enjoy all the blessings of marriage – the
happiness of sharing physical and emotional love, the
joy of being secure with the one you love, and
pleasures of growing together; through Jesus Christ
our Lord, Amen.

PRONOUNCEMENT

As a minister of the church of Jesus Christ, I declare
that you, _____ and _____,
are now husband and wife. We as your friends and
family have witnessed this moment of supreme joy
and happiness. May your bond of love never be
broken, but be forever.

BENEDICTION

And now may the Lord bless you and keep you. May
the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be
gracious to you. May the Lord lift up his countenance
upon you and give you peace. Amen and amen.