

## Traditional Presbyterian Marriage Service

### Introduction

Dearly beloved, we are assembled here in the presence of God to join this man \_\_\_\_\_ and this woman \_\_\_\_\_ in holy marriage, which is instituted by God, regulated by God's commandments, blessed by our Lord Jesus Christ, and to be held in honor among all people. Let us reverently remember that God has established marriage for the welfare and happiness of humankind. By his apostles he has instructed those who enter this relationship to cherish a mutual esteem and love; to bear with each other's infirmities and weaknesses; to comfort each other in sickness, trouble and sorrow; to provide for each other, and for their household, in temporal things; to pray for and encourage each other in the things which pertain to God; and to live together as the heirs of the grace of life.

## Invocation

Dear God, we ask you to be present and favorable to these your servants, that they may be joined in the honorable estate of marriage, and in covenant with you, O God. As you have brought them together by your providence, sanctify them by your Spirit, giving them a new frame of heart fit for their new estate, and enrich them with all grace, whereby they may enjoy the comforts, endure the trials, and perform the duties of life together as your children under your heavenly guidance and protection; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture

Colossians 3: 12 - 16

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience, forbearing and forgiving one another. As the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of God dwell in you richly, teach and admonish one another in all wisdom, and sing psalms and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

## Preparation to Vows

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, as you are about to speak your vows each to other, remember that openness, honesty, forgiveness and loyalty are the foundation of an enduring love. No other ties are more tender, no vows more sacred, no promises more profound, than these you now make.

## Question

\_\_\_\_\_, will you have this woman \_\_\_\_\_ to be your wife, and will you pledge your loyalty to her, in all love and honor, in all duty and service, in all faith and tenderness, to live with her and cherish her according to the ordinances of God in the holy bond of marriage?

\_\_\_\_\_, will you have this man \_\_\_\_\_ to be your husband, and will you pledge your loyalty to him, in all love and honor, in all duty and service, in all faith and tenderness, to live with her and cherish her according to the ordinances of God in the holy bond of marriage?

## Vows of Marriage

I, \_\_\_\_\_ take you, \_\_\_\_\_ to be my wife.

Before God and these witnesses, I will 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.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ take you, \_\_\_\_\_ to be my husband.

Before God and these witnesses, I will 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.

## Ring Exchange

In the giving and receiving of rings, the man and the woman give to each other an outward sign of an inward commitment. Each takes a circle of gold which is unbroken, and will not tarnish, as a symbol of enduring love. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, the rings are tangible reminders that you each give the gift of yourself to the other. Let them be signs of your love.

## Blessing of the Rings

O Lord, we ask your blessing upon these rings. May the rings truly be signs and reminders of sacred love and union.

Especially do we pray your blessing upon they who give them and wear them. May they abide in your peace now and forever more.

Amen.

\_\_\_\_\_, this ring I give you in token and pledge of our constant faith and abiding love.

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## Prayer

Dear God, bestow upon these your children the seal of your approval and your paternal benediction, granting them grace to fulfill, with pure and steadfast affection the vow and covenant between them made. Guide them together, in the way of righteousness and peace that, loving and serving you, with one heart and mind all the days of their life, they may be abundantly enriched with the tokens of your everlasting favor, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray these words:

### Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art 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/trespases as we forgive our debtors/those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

### Pronouncement

By the authority committed to me as a minister of the Church of Christ, I declare that \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are now husband and wife, according to the ordinance of God and the law of the state; in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen. Whom God has joined together, let no one set asunder.

### Benediction

Kiss

Presentation