

**THE CELEBRATION AND  
BLESSING OF A MARRIAGE**

**Date • Time**



**First Middle Last  
and  
First Middle Last**

PRELUDE

PROCESSION

OPENING ADDRESS Marriage Rites for the Whole Church, page 10

*Presider* Dearly beloved: We have come together in the presence of God to witness and bless the joining together of **First Middle** and **First Middle** in Holy Matrimony. The joining of two people in a life of mutual fidelity signifies to us the mystery of the union between Christ and his Church, and so it is worthy of being honored among all people.

The union of two people in heart, body, and mind is intended by God for their mutual joy; for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity; and when it is God’s will, for the gift of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of the Lord. Therefore marriage is not to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly, but reverently, deliberately, and in accordance with the purposes for which it was instituted by God.

Into this holy union **First** and **First** now come to be joined.

If any of you can show just cause why they may not lawfully be married, speak now; or else for ever hold your peace.

I require and charge you both, here in the presence of God, that if either of you know any reason why you may not be united in marriage lawfully, and in accordance with God’s Word, you do now confess it.

THE DECLARATION OF CONSENT..... 11

*The Presider address one member of the Couple then the other.*

*Presider* **First**, will you have this *woman/man* to be your *wife/husband*; to live together in the covenant of marriage? Will you love *her/him*, comfort *her/him*, honor and keep *her/him*, in sickness

and in health; and, forsaking all others, be faithful to *her/him* as long as you both shall live?

*Answer* I will.

*Presider* Will all of you witnessing these promises do all in your power to uphold these two persons in their marriage?

*People* **We will.**

[*Presider* Who presents this woman to be married to this man?

*Answer* **Her \_\_\_\_\_ and I/I/We** do.

**or this**

*Presider* Who presents this woman and this man to be married to each other?

*Answer* **I/We** do.]

## Hymn

COLLECT .....11

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Presider* Let us pray.

*A moment of silence is observed.*

*Presider* O gracious and everliving God, you have created humankind in your image: Look mercifully upon **First** and **First** who come to you seeking your blessing, and assist them with your grace, that with true fidelity and steadfast love they may honor and keep the promises and vows they make; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

*People* **Amen.**

## FIRST READING

*Reader* A Reading from \_\_\_\_\_.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*A moment of silence follows the reading.*

PSALM

*Presider and People*

SECOND READING

*Reader* A Reading from the Gospel according to \_\_\_\_\_.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*A moment of silence follows the reading.*

HOMILY

The Very Rev. Matthew Johnson

**Hymn**

THE MARRIAGE.....13

*Each member of the Couple, in turn, takes the hand of the other and says*

In the Name of God, I, **First**, take you, **First**, to be my **wife/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, until we are parted by death. This is my solemn vow.

*Presider* Bless, O Lord, these rings to be signs of the vows by which **First** and **First** have bound themselves to each other; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*People* **Amen.**

*Each member of the Couple, in turn, places the ring on the hand of the other and says*

***First***, I give you this ring as a symbol of my vow, and with all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

*Presider* Now that ***First*** and ***First*** have given themselves to each other by solemn vows, with the joining of hands and the giving and receiving of rings, I pronounce that they are wed to one another, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder.

***People*** Amen.

THE PRAYERS ..... 14

*Presider* Let us pray together in the words our Savior taught us.

*Presider and People*

**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 trespasses,  
as we forgive 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,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

*Leader* Eternal God, creator and preserver of all life, author of salvation, and giver of all grace: Look with favor upon the world you have made, and for which your Son gave his life, and especially upon ***First*** and ***First***, whom you make one flesh in Holy Matrimony.

*People* **Amen.**

*Leader* Give them wisdom and devotion in the ordering of their common life, that each may be to the other a strength in need, a counselor in perplexity, a comfort in sorrow, and a companion in joy.

*People* **Amen.**

*Leader* Grant that their wills may be so knit together in your will, and their spirits in your Spirit, that they may grow in love and peace with you and one another all the days of their life.

*People* **Amen.**

*Leader* Give them grace, when they hurt each other, to recognize and acknowledge their fault, and to seek each other's forgiveness and yours.

*People* **Amen.**

*Leader* Make their life together a sign of Christ's love to this sinful and broken world, that unity may overcome estrangement, forgiveness heal guilt, and joy conquer despair.

*People* **Amen.**

[*Leader* Bestow on them, if it is your will, the gift and heritage of children, and the grace to bring them up to know you, to love you, and to serve you.

*People* **Amen.]**

*Leader* Give them such fulfillment of their mutual affection that they may reach out in love and concern for others.

*People* **Amen.**

*Leader* Grant that all married persons who have witnessed these vows may find their lives strengthened and their loyalties confirmed.

*People* **Amen.**

*Leader* Grant that the bonds of our common humanity, by which all your children are united one to another, and the living to the dead, may be so transformed by your grace, that your will may be done on earth as it is in heaven; where, O Father, with your Son and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign in perfect unity, now and for ever.

*People* **Amen.**

THE BLESSING OF THE MARRIAGE..... 15

*Presider* Most gracious God, we give you thanks for your tender love in sending Jesus Christ to come among us, to be born of a human mother, and to make the way of the cross to be the way of life. We thank you, also, for consecrating the union of two people in his Name. By the power of your Holy Spirit, pour out the abundance of your blessing upon *First* and *First*. Defend them from every enemy. Lead them into all peace. Let their love for each other be a seal upon their hearts, a mantle about their shoulders, and a crown upon their foreheads. Bless them in their work and in their companionship; in their sleeping and in their waking; in their joys and in their sorrows; in their life and in their death. Finally, in your mercy, bring them to that table where your saints feast for ever in your heavenly home; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever.

*People* **Amen.**

*Presider* God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you; the Lord mercifully with his favor look upon you, and fill you with all spiritual benediction and grace; that you may faithfully live together in this life, and in the age to come have life everlasting.

*People* **Amen.**

THE PEACE.....16

*Presider* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

PROCESSION

POSTLUDE

---

**SERVERS AND ATTENDANTS**

**Best Man** Name

**Bridesmaids/matrons** Names

**Crucifer** Name

**Flower Boy/Girl** Name

**Groomsmen** Names

**Intercessor** Name

**Maid/Matron of Honor** Name

**Musicians** Name

**Presider** Matthew Johnson

**Reader(s)** Name(s)

**Ring Bearer** Name

**Ushers** Names

---

**CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD**

**AND DAY SCHOOL**

231 N. Church St., Rocky Mount, NC 27804

[www.goodshepherdrmt.org](http://www.goodshepherdrmt.org) (252) 442-1134

**Sunday Services** 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

**Wednesday Services** 7:30 a.m. and 12:10 p.m.