

**THE WITNESSING AND
BLESSING OF A MARRIAGE**

Date • Time



**First Middle Last
and
First Middle Last**

PRELUDE

PROCESSION

ACCLAMATION Marriage Rites for the Whole Church, page 20

Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **Blessed be God, now and for ever. Amen.**

or this

Presider Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

***or, from* Easter Day through the Day of Pentecost,**

Presider Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

or this

Presider Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

then follows

Presider Beloved, let us love one another,

People **For love is of God.**

Presider Whoever does not love does not know God,

People **For God is love.**

Presider Since God so loves us,

People **Let us love one another.**

OPENING ADDRESS.....21

Presider Dear friends in Christ, [*or Dearly beloved,*] in the name of God and the Church we have come together today with *First Middle* and *First Middle*, to witness the vows they make, committing themselves to one another in marriage. Forsaking all others, they will bind themselves to

one another in a covenant of mutual fidelity and steadfast love, remaining true to one another in heart, body, and mind, as long as they both shall live.

The lifelong commitment of marriage is not to be entered into lightly or thoughtlessly, but responsibly and with reverence. Let us pray, then, that God will give them the strength to remain steadfast in what they vow this day. Let us also pray for the generosity to support them in the commitment they undertake and for the wisdom to see God at work in their life together.

or this, for those who have previously made a lifelong commitment to one another

Presider Dear friends in Christ, [*or Dearly beloved,*] in the name of God and the Church we have come together today with *First Middle* and *First Middle*, to witness the sacred vows they make this day as they are married, and reaffirm their commitment to one another. Forsaking all others, they will renew their covenant of mutual fidelity and steadfast love, remaining true to one another in heart, body, and mind, as long as they both shall live.

Let us pray, then, that God will give them the strength to remain steadfast in what they vow this day. Let us also pray for the generosity to support them in the commitment they undertake, and for the wisdom to see God at work in their life together.

Hymn

THE COLLECT.....22

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

A moment of silence is observed.

Presider God of abundance: assist by your grace *First* and *First*, whose covenant of love and fidelity we witness this day. Grant them your protection, that with firm resolve they may honor and keep the 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.**

or this

Presider Almighty and everliving God: look tenderly upon *First* and *First*, who stand before you in the company of your Church. Let their life together bring them great joy. Grant them so to love selflessly and live humbly, that they may be to one another and to the world a witness and a sign of your never-failing love and care; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, to the ages of ages.

People **Amen.**

or this

Presider O God, faithful and true, whose steadfast love endures for ever: we give you thanks for sustaining *First* and *First* in the life they share and for bringing them to this day. Nurture them and fill them with joy in their life together, continuing the good work you have begun in them; and grant us, with them, a dwelling place eternal in the heavens where all your people will share the joy of perfect love, and where you, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, live and reign, one God, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

or, for those who bring children

Presider Holy Trinity, one God, three Persons perfect in unity and equal in majesty: Draw together with bonds of love and affection *First* and *First*, who with *their families* seek to live in harmony and forbearance all their days, that their joining together will be to us a reflection of that

perfect communion which is your very essence and life, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who live and reign in glory everlasting.

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 DECLARATION OF THE COVENANT25

[*Presider* Who presents *First* and *First* as they seek the blessing of God and the Church on their love and life together?

Answer We do.

Presider Will you love, respect, and pray for *First* and *First*, and do all in your power to stand with them in the life they will share?

Answer We will.]

Presider **First** and **First** you have come before God and the Church to exchange [*and renew*] solemn vows with one another and to ask God's blessing.

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

Presider **First**, do you freely and unreservedly offer yourself to **First**?

Answer I do.

Presider Will you [*continue to*] live together in faithfulness and holiness of life as long as you both shall live?

Answer I will, with God's help.

Presider Will all of you gathered to witness these vows do all in your power to uphold and honor this couple in the covenant they make?

People **We will.**

Presider Will you pray for them, especially in times of trouble, and celebrate with them in times of joy?

People **We will.**

THE PRAYERS26

Presider Then let us pray for **First** and **First** in their life together and for the concerns of this community.

A moment of silence is observed.

Leader For **First** and **First**, seeking your blessing and the blessing of your holy people; Loving God,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader For a spirit of loving-kindness to shelter them all their days; Loving God,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader For friends to support them and communities to enfold them;
Loving God,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader For peace in their home and love in their family; Loving God,

People **Hear our prayer.**

[*Leader* For the grace and wisdom to care for the children you entrust to
them [*or may entrust to them*]; Loving God,

People **Hear our prayer.]**

Leader For the honesty to acknowledge when they hurt each other, and
the humility to seek each other's forgiveness and yours; Loving
God,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader For the outpouring of your love through their work and witness;
Loving God,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader For the strength to keep the vows each of us has made; Loving
God,

People **Hear our prayer.**

[*Leader* For all who have been reborn and made new in the waters of
Baptism; Loving God,

People **Hear our prayer.]**

[*Leader* For those who lead and serve in communities of faith; Loving
God,

People **Hear our prayer.]**

[*Leader* For those who seek justice, peace, and concord among nations;
Loving God,

People **Hear our prayer.]**

[*Leader* For those who are sick or suffering, homeless or poor; Loving God,

People **Hear our prayer.]**

[*Leader* For victims of violence and those who inflict it; Loving God,

People **Hear our prayer.]**

[*Leader* For communion with all who have died; Loving God,

People **Hear our prayer.]**

Presider Giver of every gift, source of all goodness, hear the prayers we bring before you for *First* and *First*, who seek your blessing this day. Strengthen them as they share in the saving work of Jesus, and bring about for them and for all you have created the fullness of life he promised, who now lives and reigns for ever and ever.

People **Amen.**

Presider As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

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.**

Hymn

THE MARRIAGE.....29

Presider **First** and **First**, I invite you now, illumined by the Word of God and strengthened by the prayer of this community, to make your covenant before God and the Church.

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

In the name of God, I, **First**, give myself to you, **First**, and take you to myself. I will support and care for you by the grace of God: in times of sickness, in times of health. I will hold and cherish you in the love of Christ: in times of plenty, in times of want. I will honor and love you with the Spirit's help: in times of anguish, in times of joy, forsaking all others, as long as we both shall live. This is my solemn vow.

or this

In the name of God, I, **First**, give myself to you, **First**, and take you to myself. I will support and care for you: in times of sickness, in times of health. I will hold and cherish you: in times of plenty, in times of want. I will honor and love you: in times of anguish, in times of joy, forsaking all others, as long as we both shall live. This is my solemn vow.

Presider Let us pray.

A moment of silence is observed.

Presider Bless, O God, these rings as signs of the enduring covenant **First** and **First** have made with 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 in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

If the two have previously given and worn rings as a symbol of their commitment, the rings may be blessed on the hands of the couple.

Presider Let us pray.

A moment of silence is observed.

Presider By the rings which they have worn, faithful God, *First* and *First* have shown to one another and the world their love and faithfulness. Bless now these rings, that from this day forward they may be signs of the vows *First* and *First* have exchanged in your presence and in the communion of your Church, through Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

PRONOUNCEMENT.....30

Presider Now that *First* and *First* have exchanged vows of love and fidelity in the presence of God and the Church, I pronounce that they are married and bound to one another as long as they both shall live.

People **Amen.**

THE BLESSING OF THE COUPLE31

Presider Let us pray.

A moment of silence is observed.

Presider Most gracious God, we praise you for the tender mercy and unflinching care revealed to us in Jesus the Christ for the great joy and comfort bestowed upon us in the gift of human love. We give you thanks for *First* and *First*, and the covenant of faithfulness they have made. Pour out the abundance of your Holy Spirit upon them. Keep them in your

steadfast love; protect them from all danger; fill them with your wisdom and peace; lead them in holy service to each other and the world.

The Presider continues with one of the following

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, [*or God, the holy and undivided Trinity,*] bless, preserve, and keep you, and mercifully grant you rich and boundless grace, that you may please God in body and soul.

People **Amen.**

or this

God make you a sign of the loving-kindness and steadfast fidelity manifest in the life, death, and resurrection of our Savior, and bring you at last to the delight of the heavenly banquet, where he lives and reigns for ever and ever.

People **Amen.**

THE PEACE.....32

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

THE BLESSING OF THE PEOPLE

Enriching Our Worship 1, page 71

Presider The Wisdom of God, the Love of God, and the Grace of God, strengthen you to be Christ's hands and heart in the world; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

People **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

The Book of Common Prayer, page 366

Presider Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People **Thanks be to God.**

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
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