

## Traditional Wedding Ceremony

### Statement of Purpose:

Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of God to witness the joining together of this man & woman in holy matrimony. The sacred relationship of marriage was established by God in creation, & our Lord Jesus Christ adorned marriage by His presence & first miracle at the wedding in Cana of Galilee. The apostle Paul chose marriage to symbolize the union between Christ & His church, & holy Scripture commends marriage to be honored among all people.

The union of husband & wife in heart, body, & mind is intended by God for their mutual joy; for the help & comfort given to one another in prosperity & adversity; & when it is God's will, for the procreation of children & their nurture in the knowledge & love of the Lord.

Therefore marriage is not to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly, but soberly, deliberately, & in reverent fear before God.

Into this holy union (Groom) and (Bride) now come to be joined.

### Declaration of Consent:

To Groom: (Name), will you have this woman to be your wife; to live together in the holy covenant of marriage? Will you love her, comfort her, honor & keep her, in sickness & in health, & forsaking all others, be faithful to her so long as you both shall live? If so, answer, "I will."

To Bride: (Name), will you have this man to be your husband; to live together in the holy covenant of marriage? Will you love him, comfort him, honor & keep him, in sickness & in health, & forsaking all others, be faithful to him as long as you both shall live? If so, answer, "I will."

To Congregation: Will all of you witnessing these promises do all in your power to uphold these two persons in their marriage? If so, please answer, "We will."

### The Giving of the Bride:

To the Brides' Father: Who is giving this woman to be married to this man? (The bride's father answers "I do", or "her mother & I do".. He then takes the bride's right hand & places it in the grooms left hand, & retires to take his place & is seated).

### The Marriage Vows:

(Invite wedding party to come forward)

Our Lord Jesus Christ taught us that at the beginning of creation God "made them male & female." 'For this cause a man shall leave his father & mother & shall cleave to his wife; & the two shall become one flesh.' Consequently they are no longer two, but one flesh."

You have come to be made husband & wife. Now will you please join hands & repeat these vows after me?

(The Groom repeats these vows as the minister instructs)

I, (Groom), take you, (Bride) to be my wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better or worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness & in health, to love and to cherish, until we are parted by death; as God is my witness, I give you my promise.

(The Bride repeats these vows as the minister instructs)

I, (Bride), take you, (Groom) to be my husband, to have & to hold, from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness & in health, to love & to cherish, until we are parted by death; as God is my witness, I give you my promise.

### Reading of Scripture:

The Word of God describes the kind of love we are to have, each for the other:

"Love is patient, love is kind, & is not jealous; love does not brag & is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

Having this kind of love in your hearts, you have chosen to exchange rings as the sign & the seal of the vows you are making today. May I have the rings?

### The Exchange of Rings:

(while holding the rings)

Bless, O Lord, these rings to be a sign of the vows by which this man & woman have bound themselves to each other; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

(The giver places the ring on the ring-finger of the other's hand & repeats as the minister instructs)

I give you this ring, as a symbol of my vow, & with all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you; in the name of the Father & of the Son & of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### Prayer for the Bride & Groom:

Eternal God, creator & preserver of life, author of salvation, and giver of all grace, look with favor upon this man & this woman whom You make one flesh in holy matrimony.

Grant that their wills be so knit together in Your will, & that their spirits be so knit with Your Spirit, that they may each grow in love & peace with You and with one another all the days of their lives.

Give them grace, when they hurt each other, to recognize & acknowledge their fault, & to seek each other's forgiveness & Yours. Make their life together a sign of Christ's love to this sinful & broken world. Give them such fulfillment & mutual affection that they may reach out in love & concern for others. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

### Pronouncement of Marriage:

Now that (Groom) & (Bride) have given themselves to each other by solemn vows, before us & before God as witness, & have shown their affection & trust by the giving & receiving of rings & by joining hands, I pronounce that they are husband & wife, in the name of the Father, & of the Son, & of the Holy Spirit.

Therefore, what God has joined together, let man not separate. Amen.

### The Nuptial Kiss:

(Then the minister says to the bridegroom)

(Groom), you may kiss your bride.

### Presentation of the Newlyweds:

Dear friends, may I present to you Mr. and Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_.