

Marriage Service – Traditional Order

The Welcome

The Minister welcomes the congregation, and they are invited to stand. The bridal party process into the church accompanied by music. The groom and best man wait at the front. [If the bride is veiled, the veil is lifted, and any bridal flowers are given to the chief bridesmaid]

A Hymn

During which the bridesmaids sit down

The Preface [The meaning of Christian Marriage]

The Declarations

The minister asks whether there are any who object to the marriage. The couple are asked whether they know any reason not to be married. The minister asks the Groom and Bride their intentions to be married in the following words:

N, will you take N to be your wife / husband?
Will you love her / him, comfort her / him, honour and protect her / him, and, forsaking all others, be faithful to her / him as long as you both shall live?

They each in turn answer

I will.

The Minister

Will you, the families and friends of N and N, support and uphold them in their marriage now and in the years to come?

All: We will.

The Collect [A special prayer]

The Vows

The minister asks who accompanies the bride in the following words:

Who brings this woman to be married to this man?

Consort: I do [The consort then sits down]

The couple face each other, hold hands and each say in turn:

I, N , take you, N ,
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, [and obey]
till death us do part;
according to God's holy law.
In the presence of God I make this vow.

The Giving of the Ring(s)

The minister receives the ring(s) and says a prayer of dedication. [The best man then sits down]

The ring(s) are placed on the fourth finger of the left hand and the following words are used [if only one the bride says 'receive' instead of 'give you']:

N, I give you this ring
as a sign of our marriage.
With my body I honour you,
all that I am I give to you,
and all that I have I share with you,
within the love of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Proclamation

The minister pronounces the couple husband & wife

The Blessing of the Marriage

The couple kneel (or remain standing) and the minister prays for them

The minister may invite the couple to embrace and the congregation to applaud.

The Reading(s) and Address

The couple sit. The bible readings and a talk by the minister follows

A Hymn (Optional)

The Prayers

The prayers may include thanksgiving, spiritual growth, faithfulness, love, home and children

A Hymn

During which the couple and the marriage party make their way to the signing of the registers.

The Registration of the Marriage

Music is played as the registers are signed.

The Dismissal

The congregation is invited to stand

The minister gives a final congregational blessing

The marriage party process out of the building