FIRST ORDER FOR MARRIAGE

*The congregation may stand as the marriage party enters the church. The couple to be married stand together before the minister.*

*The minister may welcome the couple and the congregation.*

# CALL TO WORSHIP

The minister says:

God is love;

and those who dwell in love are dwelling in God, and God in them. or

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Let us worship God.

# HYMN

1. **STATEMENT**

*The minister says:*

We have come together in the presence of God, for the marriage of A.. , and B.. ; to share their joy,

and to promise them our support and love.

Marriage is a gift of God and a means of grace.

In the life-long union of marriage we can know the joy of God, who made us in his own image.

Marriage is founded in God’s loving nature, and in his covenant of love with us in Christ.

A couple in giving themselves to each other in love, reflect the love of Christ for his Church.

In Christian marriage,

A couple are called to live faithfully together,

to love each other with respect, tenderness, and delight.

The companionship and comfort of marriage enable the full expression of physical love between a couple

They share the life of a home

[and may be trusted with the gift and care of children].

They help to shape a society

in which human dignity and happiness may flourish and abound.

Our Lord Jesus Christ was himself

a guest at a wedding in Cana of Galilee.

Through his Spirit he is with us now, to enrich our love and to give us his peace and joy.

# PRAYERS

*The minister says:*

Let us pray. Gracious God,

we thank you for all the gifts of your love, and especially for the gift of marriage.

We praise you for your guidance in the lives of A.. and B.. , for the joy they find in each other,

and for the love and trust they bring to the happiness of this day.

And since we know that without you nothing is strong, nothing is holy, we pray that you will enrich them with your grace

as they make their marriage covenant together. Grant that your joy may be in them,

and that their joy may be full; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

# EXCHANGE OF VOWS

*The congregation standing, the minister says to the couple:*

As a seal to the vows you are about to make, will you join hands.

*The couple turn and face each other, and each takes the other by the right hand, or by both hands.*

*The vows may be made by either partner first. They may be made by reading them or by repeating them after the minister, or by responding to a question put by the minister.*

*A.. or B..* says:

In the presence of God and before these witnesses, I, A.. ,

give myself to you, B.. , to be your wife/husband/[preferred pronoun], and take you now to be my wife/husband/[preferred pronoun],

I promise to love you,

to be faithful and loyal to you, for as long as we live.

*A.. or B.. says:*

In the presence of God and before these witnesses, I, B.. ,

give myself to you, A.. , to be your wife/husband/[preferred pronoun], and take you now to be my wife/husband/[preferred pronoun]

I promise to love you,

to be faithful and loyal to you, for as long as we live. *Alternatively, the vows may be put in the form of a question. The minister says:*

In the presence of God

and before these witnesses,

do you, A.. , give yourself to B.. to be their wife/husband/[preferred pronoun] and take them now to be your wife/husband/[preferred pronoun]

Do you promise to love them, to be faithful and loyal to them,

for as long as you both shall live?

**I do.**

In the presence of God

and before these witnesses,

do you, B.. , give yourself to A.. to be their wife/husband/[preferred pronoun], and take them now to be your wife/husband/[preferred pronoun],?

Do you promise to love them,

to be faithful and loyal to them, for as long as you both shall live?

**I do.**

# GIVING AND RECEIVING OF THE RING(S)

*The minister receives the ring(s) and says:*

As a token of the covenant into which you have entered this ring (these rings) is (are) given and received.

May it (they) be a sign of the unending love you have pledged to each other this day.

*(Where there are two rings, the exchange may be begun by either partner.)*

*A.. or B.. places a ring on the fourth finger of B.. or A..’s left hand, and may say:*

B.. , I give you this ring in God’s name, as a symbol of all that we have promised, and all that we shall

share.

*B.. or A.. places a ring on the fourth finger of A.. or B..’s left hand, and may say:*

A.. , I give you this ring in God’s name, as a symbol of all that we have promised, and all that we shall share.

*or, if there be only one ring, the recipient says:*

A.. , I receive this ring in God’s name, as a symbol of all that we have promised, and all that we shall

share.

*The minister says:*

By this sign you take each other,

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, for as long as you live.

# DECLARATION OF MARRIAGE

*The couple join hands,*

*and the minister places his hand over their joined hands and says:*

Since you have covenanted together in marriage,

and have declared your love for each other before God and these witnesses,

I proclaim you to be married,

in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Those whom God has joined together, no one must separate.

# MARRIAGE BLESSING

*The couple kneel. The minister says:*

Blessed be God the Father, who gives joy to A.. and B..

Blessed be the Lord Jesus Christ, who brings new life to the world. Blessed be the Holy Spirit of God, who brings us together in love.

Blessed be the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God to be praised for ever. Amen.

May the Lord bless you and guard you;

may the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; may the Lord look kindly on you

and give you peace. Amen.

*The Marriage Schedule may be signed here, in front of the congregation, or at the end of the service.*

# [ 9 HYMN]

1. **SCRIPTURE LESSONS, including a GOSPEL READING**

# ADDRESS

1. **PRAYERS**

*The minister says:*

Let us pray. Almighty God, we thank you for all the ways love comes into our lives,

and for the opportunities of joy and fulfilment that marriage brings.

Bless A . . . and B . . .

who have been joined together in your name. Confirm them in their happiness; keep them faithful and true to each other, ready to forgive and be forgiven.

As they grow together in love, may each be to the other

a companion in joy, a comfort in sorrow, and a strength in need.

May your presence in their home,

make it a place of welcome and sharing, of security and peace.

[Bless them with the gift and care of children, that together they may grow to know and love you in your Son.]

Bless their families and friends,

who have given them love and friendship through the years.

We pray for your whole human family, and for those who suffer while we rejoice.

Bring near the day when all people will live in peace and in the knowledge of your love.

Eternal God,

we remember those who were close to us, who have passed through death into life everlasting.

Bring us with them at the last to the Father’s house,

the family of God complete in the glory of your presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Our Father . . .**

# HYMN

1. **BLESSING**

The minister says:

Go in peace, and in the joy of the Lord. And the blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you all. Amen.