

## **Wedding Order of Service**

**Prelude** – *you need to work with the organist to choose music*

**Processional** – *same as above. There are often two different pieces: one for the bridesmaids; another for the bride. In same sex marriages, often both partners enter the sanctuary with processional)*

### **Greeting – Rev. Michael Caine**

Love comes from God.

Everyone who truly loves is a child of God.

Let us worship God.

### **Introduction**

We gather here today for a wedding. In the presence of God, (name) and (name) stand before us. They are here to ask God's blessing... and also your blessing on the beginning of their married life together.

We are here to witness their vows, to surround them with our prayers and to share in their joy.

Scriptures teach that the bond and covenant of marriage is a gift of God, a holy mystery, in which two people make a life together. Marriage is sealed by a holy covenant:

God gives human love. Through that love, a couple comes to know one another with mutual care and companionship. God gives joy. Through that joy, two people may share their life together with others, as Jesus shared new wine at the wedding in Cana.

With our love, hope and prayers, we support (name) and (name) as they give themselves to one another in marriage.

(Name) and (name), before we begin, I want to ask you both to take a deep breath. And then to look carefully at one another. That's what all this is about. Why you're here.

After all the preparations and work, no matter how it comes out, it will be all right, because what we're doing here is about you two together, and the life you have, and are and will be making together for one another and your family.

Now I want to ask you to look around this sanctuary – take a moment and see the faces of those who are able to be here to support you... (Pause)

And there are even more who are than here. In church, we call it the cloud of witnesses. Those who are unable to be here today, but who are keeping you in their thoughts. And also all those who have gone before you, but without whom you could not be here today.

In all the ways we come together and in the spaces that are left between us, in the grace that has brought you here, in the trust with which you make promises today, and in the hope for your lives together, I pray we catch glimpses of God's presence here too.

### **Prayer**

Will you pray with me...

### **Readings**

(Traditionally, there is a reading from Scripture or some sacred text. There may also be other readings.)

### **Declaration of Intention**

Before God and this congregation, I ask you to affirm your willingness to enter into this covenant and to share all the joys and sorrows of your life together whatever the future may hold.

(Name), will you have (groom) as your husband/spouse, and love him/her faithfully as long as you both shall live? (If so, answer, "I will with the help of God.")

(Name), will you have (bride) as your wife/spouse, and love her/him faithfully as long as you both shall live? (If so, answer, "I will with the help of God.")

### **Declaration of Support**

Despite the intimacy of the promises that (name) and (name) make to create their marriage, their lives together need the support of a whole, often invisible web of friends and family who support, uphold, advise and guide them. Representing a community even larger than those present today, may I ask those here today, who are able, to stand in support of this couple. Do you offer your blessing and loving support to (name) and (name) as they make their promises today?

If so, please say enthusiastically, "We Do!"

### **The Prayer of our Savior**

*(If the couple would like the Lord's Prayer prayed at their wedding, this is where it would happen.)*

### **Wedding Vows –**

*(Now you turn to one another -- giving the bride's flowers to a bridesmaid-- and repeat after me)*

**I, \_\_\_\_\_, give myself to you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be your wife/husband/spouse. I promise to love and sustain you in the bonds of marriage from this day forward, in sickness and health, in plenty and in want, in joy and in sorrow as long as we both shall live.**

### **Blessing and Exchange of Rings –**

*Pastor takes the rings and asks that they might always be a sign of the promises made here today.*

*(Repeat after me)*

I give you this ring as a sign of my promises. Of my love and faithfulness.

### **Unity Candle**

*(If the couple wants to light a unity candle, that ritual happens at this point.)*

### **Pronouncement & Kiss**

Because (name) and (name) have made these promises to one another, and before us and before God, because they have exchanged rings as a sign of their promises to make this covenant visible for all to see, now therefore in the eyes of God and before all people, they are married with our blessing.

You may kiss for the first time... as wife and husband/married people!

### **Final Words/Benediction**

May God bless you and keep you.

May God's face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

May God look upon you with kindness and give you peace.

Amen.

### **Recessional – (to be arranged with organist)**