**An Order of Service for Holy Matrimony**

**Call To Worship**

God is love,

and those who abide in love abide in God

and God abides in them.

**Introduction**

We are gathered in the presence of God

to witness the joining of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in marriage,

according to the ordinance of God and the tradition of the church.

Marriage is a gift of God

and is the commitment of two people

to love and to support one another faithfully for life,

loving and giving themselves to one another with respect, affection, tenderness and delight.

In marriage, a couple shares the life and responsibilities of a home,

(receive the gift and care of children),

in a relationship in which human dignity and happiness flourish.

Such a covenanted union is not to be entered into carelessly or unadvisedly,

but responsibly and prayerfully, relying on God’s grace

and trusting in the promise of Christ’s presence.

Since it is the intention of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to enter into this covenant,

let us seek God’s blessing upon them.

**Prayer for Grace**

Let us pray.

Loving and gracious God

in whom we live and move and have our being;

your glory is incomprehensible,

your majesty infinite,

your love is wider than all the universe.

Send down your Spirit to bless, we pray,

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

as they pledge themselves to each other.

Enrich them with grace and insight

so that they are equipped carry out the duties,

enjoy the comforts, share the happiness and resist the temptations

of their new life together.

May \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ enter into the marriage covenant in humble dependence upon you, and keep the vows and promises made in your presence, through Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

**Declarations of Intention**

*The minister addresses the couple individually in turn:*

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, understanding that God has created, ordered and blessed the covenant of marriage, do you affirm your desire and intention to enter this covenant?

Answer: We do.

**Affirmation of the Families**

Do you, the families of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ promise to uphold and support them in their new life together?

Answer: We do.

**Affirmation of the Congregation**

Do all of you who are witnessing these vows today promise to uphold and support \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in their new life together?

Answer: We do.

**The Holy Scriptures**

*Normally, three passages of scripture are read, one from the Old testament, one from the Psalms and one from the New Testament.*

**A Homily**

**The Vows**

*Each of those entering into the marriage relationship will pledge vows to each other in turn It may be helpful that they repeat after the minister.*

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, to be my husband/wife/spouse,

 according to God’s holy ordinance;

to have and to hold,

from this day forward;

for better, for worse;

for richer, for poorer;

in sickness and in health;

in joy and in sorrow;

to love and to cherish, for as long as we both shall live;

and now, to you and to God, I make this solemn vow and promise.

**The Blessing of the Rings**

*The minister, receiving the rings, says:*

Bless these rings, O God, that in being given and received they may be signs of enduring faithfulness and unbroken love, Amen.

**The Exchange of the Rings**

*The minister, addressing the couple in turn, shall say:*

Place this ring on the third finger of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_’s left hand,

and holding the ring there, say after me:

“I give you this ring

as the symbol and pledge

of the covenant now made between us.”

**The Declaration of the Marriage**

*The couple rejoin their right hands, and the minister, placing their hand over the couple’s, shall say:*

For as much as you, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and you, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, have agreed to marry each other, and have declared this intention before God, and in the presence of these people, I pronounce you to be married in the name of God the Creator, Christ the Son and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

What God has united, let no one divide.

**The Blessing and Charge**

 The Lord bless you and keep you.

 The Lord be kind and gracious to you.

 The Lord look upon you with favour and give you peace.

*The couple may kiss one another.*

**The Marriage Prayer**

*The couple will stand or kneel before the Holy Table.*

Let us pray.

O God, the author and giver of all good things,

we praise you for the richness and variety of life,

and for the joy of loving and being loved.

Especially, we thank you for the gift of marriage

by which human love is blessed and nurtured.

Bless \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ who have exchanged vows;

we pray that they will dwell in unity, love and joy all the days of their lives.

Bless their home with your presence,

give them loyalty of heart,

kindness in their actions,

strength of body

and grace to fulfill with enduring affection

the vows and promises made today.

Never let the love between \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ know decay,

but may common tasks, trials and joys bind them closely.

Defend them against the temptations of life,

give them health and well-being and wisdom

as they seek to live according to your will.

And hear now the prayers that we have on this day that we offer in the silence of this moment…

And now in one voice, we pray as Jesus taught: **Our Father,…**

**The Benediction**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. Amen.

**Signing the Marriage Register**

*The couple, accompanied by their witnesses, will sign the Marriage Register.*

*The couple re-assemble for the announcement of marriage and processional.*