

# The Marriage Service

# 3

Alternative Services Series 3

Black numbers indicate material which is mandatory  
Blue numbers indicate material which is optional

## Notes

- 1 The Banns.** The banns are to be published in the church on three Sundays at the time of Divine Service by the officiant in the form set out in the Book of Common Prayer or in the following form : I publish the banns of marriage between *N* of . . . and *N* of . . . . This is the first [second] [third] time of asking. If any of you know any reason in law why these persons may not marry each other you are to declare it now.
- 2 Hymns and Canticles.** These may be used at suitable points during the service. Sections 1; 20, and 23 may be sung if so desired.
- 3 Permitted Omissions.** Sections with numbers in blue may be omitted.
- 4 Seating.** It is recommended that chairs should be provided for the bride and bridegroom during the lessons and sermon. It is appropriate that they should stand for section 6.
- 5 The Readings.** At least one reading must be used, either at the beginning of the service (section 4) or after the Marriage (section 22) ; but readings must not be used at both places. At Holy Communion there are two readings, of which the Gospel must be one. Suggested readings are printed on pp. 21–24.
- 6 The Giving Away.** This ceremony is optional. If the bride is not given away in marriage by her father, this

may be done by another member of her family, or by a friend representing the family.

- 7 **The Vows.** In sections 11 and 12 the vows A and the vows B are not interchangeable. Either the vows A or the vows B must be used throughout. Before the day of the marriage the priest shall inquire of the couple which form of the vows they have agreed to use.  
  
The couple may read the vows (sections 9–16) or repeat them after the priest.
- 8 **The Registration of the Marriage.** If the registration of the marriage does not take place at section 21, it shall take place at the end of the service.
- 9 **The Psalm.** The psalm (section 23) may be used in any authorized form.
- 10 **The Lord's Prayer.** The Lord's Prayer (section 29) may be used in the Prayer Book version or the Series 2 version.
- 11 **Prayers.** Instead of the additional prayers (sections 31–38), prayers which the couple have written or selected in co-operation with the priest may be used. Silence may be kept ; or free prayer may be offered.
- 12 **Congregational Prayers.** Sections 32, 33, 36 and 38 may be said by the congregation if so desired.

## The Marriage Service

### 1 Stand

The bride and bridegroom stand before the priest.  
The following sentence may be said :

God is love, and those who live in love  
live in God : and God lives in them.

1 John 4.16

### 2 The priest may say,

The Lord be with you.

All

**And also with you.**

### 3 Priest

God our Father,  
you have taught us through your Son  
that love is the fulfilling of the law.  
Grant to your servants  
that, loving one another,  
they may continue in your love  
until their lives' end :  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All

**Amen.**

### 4 Sit

A lesson or lessons may be read (see section 22). If two or three lessons are read, a psalm (see section 23) or a hymn may be sung between them.

### 5 A sermon may be preached.

## The Marriage

### 6 The bride and bridegroom stand before the priest, and the priest says,

We have come together in the presence of God, to witness the marriage of *N* and *N*, to ask his blessing on them, and to share in their joy. Our Lord Jesus Christ was himself a guest at a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and through his Spirit he is with us now.

The Scriptures teach us that marriage is a gift of God in creation and a means of his grace, a holy mystery in which man and woman become one flesh. It is God's purpose that, as husband and wife give themselves to each other in love throughout their lives, they shall be united in that love as Christ is united with his Church.

Marriage is given, that husband and wife may comfort and help each other, living faithfully together in need and in plenty, in sorrow and in joy. It is given, that with delight and tenderness they may know each other in love, and, through the joy of their bodily union, may strengthen the union of their

hearts and lives. It is given, that they may have children and be blessed in caring for them and bringing them up in accordance with God's will, to his praise and glory.

In marriage husband and wife belong to one another, and they begin a new life together in the community. It is a way of life that all should honour ; and it must not be undertaken carelessly, lightly, or selfishly, but reverently, responsibly, and after serious thought.

This is the way of life, created and hallowed by God, that *N* and *N* are now to begin. They will each give their consent to the other ; they will join hands and exchange solemn vows, and in token of this they will give and receive a ring.

Therefore, on this their wedding day we pray with them, that, strengthened and guided by God, they may fulfil his purpose for the whole of their earthly life together.

