

# A SERVICE FOR MARRIAGE

## FIEC Second Form<sup>1</sup>

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### **A WELCOME**

Use a form of words that achieves the following:

- a connection to the group;
- an understanding of who you are and your role as celebrant;
- and any necessary housekeeping.

You may include an instruction to get the group to stand.

### **PROCESSIONAL**

We have come together in the sight of God for the joining in marriage of this man [*Groom*] and this woman [*Bride*].

Our Lord Jesus Christ said of marriage that 'From the beginning of creation God made them male and female. "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one." So they are no longer two but one. What therefore God has joined together, let not man put asunder'.

Marriage is the symbol of God's unending love for his people, and of the union between Christ and his Church. So Saint Paul teaches that the husband must love his wife as Christ loved the Church, and that the wife must give due honour to her husband.

Marriage should be honoured by all, and is not to be entered into lightly or carelessly, but with reverent and serious respect for those purposes for which it was instituted by God.

Marriage is a gift from God for the well-being of mankind and for the proper expression of natural instincts and affections with which he has endowed us.

It is a life-long union in which a man and a woman are called so to give themselves in body, mind, and spirit, and so to respond, that from their union will grow a deepening knowledge and love of each other. In the joys and sorrows of life, in prosperity and adversity, they share their companionship, faithfulness, and strength.

In marriage a new family is established in accordance with God's purpose, so that children may be born and nurtured in secure and loving care, for their well-being and instruction, and for the good order of society, to the glory of God.

[*Groom*] and [*Bride*] have now come here to be joined in this holy union to which God has led them. They seek his blessing on their life together, that they may fulfil his purpose for them; and they ask us to support them in this prayer. If any person here can show why they may not lawfully be joined in marriage he should speak now, or hereafter remain in silence.

**Speaking to the persons to be married, the minister says:**

I charge you both, as you will answer before God, that if either of you know any reason why you may not lawfully be joined together in matrimony, you now confess it. For be assured that those who marry otherwise than God's word allows are not joined together by God, neither is their matrimony lawful in his sight.

## THE CONSENT

*[Groom]*, will you take *[Bride]* to be your wife, to live together according to God's law? Will you give her the honour due to her as your wife and, forsaking all others, love and protect her, as long as you both shall live?

The man answers:

I will

*[Bride]*, will you take *[Groom]* to be your husband, to live together according to God's law? Will you give him the honour due to him as your husband and, forsaking all others, love and protect him, as long as you both shall live?

The woman answers:

I will

The minister may ask:

Who brings this woman to be married to this man?

Answer:

I do

The minister (together with all the people) says:

God our Father, in your great love for mankind you have given us the gift of marriage; so bless these two persons as they pledge their lives to each other, that their love may evermore grow to be the true reflection of your love for us all; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## THE WEDDING

I *[Groom]*, in the presence of God, take you *[Bride]* to be my wife; 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, as long as we both shall live. This is my solemn vow and promise.

I *[Bride]*, in the presence of God, take you *[Groom]* to be my 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, as long as we both shall live. This is my solemn vow and promise.

## EXCHANGE OF WEDDING RINGS

The minister receives the wedding ring[s], and may then say:

Grant, Lord, that this ring may be a token and constant sign of the pledge of love and faithfulness which these two persons make to each other; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The groom places the ring on the ring finger of his bride and holding it there says:

*[Bride]*, with this ring I wed you; with all that I am and all that I have I honour you; in the name of God. Amen.

Before loosing hands, the bride says:

*[Groom]*, I receive this ring in token of our marriage. May God enable us to grow in love together.

If the woman gives a ring to the man, this procedure is to be repeated appropriately.

The minister then says:

Those whom God has joined together let not man put asunder.

Before God and in the presence of us all, by solemn consent and promise, by the giving and receiving of a ring, and by the joining of hands, *[Groom]* and *[Bride]* have now accepted each other in marriage. In the name of God, I declare them to be husband and wife.

God the Father enrich you with his grace, God the Son make you holy in his love, God the Holy Spirit strengthen you with his joy. The Lord bless you and keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**  
**Blessed be the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; one God, to be praised for ever.**

## **BIBLE READING(S)**

## **ADDRESS BY THE MINISTER**

## **PRAYERS**

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. **Amen.**

Almighty Father, giver of life and love, look in favour on all who are made one in marriage, and especially on these your servants as they enter into their new life together. In your love deepen their love; strengthen their wills to keep the promises they have made; that they may live to your glory and to the good of mankind; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty Father, you have created us in your own image, and by your gracious gift mankind is increased. To *[Groom]* and *[Bride]* grant the blessing of children; and such wisdom and loving care in the nurture of their family, that they and their children may come to know you in their lives and give you praise and honour; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty God, Lord of the universe, all love, strength, and understanding come from you; so direct and govern us in body and soul that we may strive to live according to your word and to do everything that is agreeable to your will: through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **BENEDICTION**

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

## **SIGNING OF THE REGISTER**

## **RECESSIONAL**

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