SECOND 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

*From the entrance to the church, the minister says:*

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Let us worship God.

# HYMN

*During the singing, the minister leads the procession to the front of the church, and each takes the appropriate place.*

# STATEMENT

*The congregation still standing, the minister says:*

Unless the Lord builds the house,

its builders labour in vain. Psalm 127: 1

We are gathered as a congregation of God’s people,

to witness the joining together of A.. and B.. in marriage.

Marriage reveals the loving nature and wise purpose of God. He made us in his own image,

so that the love and community of his nature are reflected in the human family.

He brings a couple together in such a way that for ever after each is incomplete without the other.

Christian marriage is an image

of the union of Christ and his Church.

Through his cross, our broken relationships

with God and with one another are forgiven and healed, and we are reconciled.

In Christian marriage, the Holy Spirit seals the covenant between a couple,

and lifts them up into the love, joy, and peace of God.

# INTENTION

*The minister asks the couple:*

A.. and B.. , have you come here freely to give yourselves to each other in marriage?

# We have.

1. **PRAYERS**

*The minister says:*

Let us pray.

Holy Father,

we boldly approach your throne of grace through our Lord Jesus Christ. Look upon his merits and not on our unworthiness;

and grant that our prayers in his name may be accepted for his sake, who with you and the Holy Spirit is worshipped and glorified,

one God, now and for ever. Amen. Let us confess our sins.

Righteous God, we confess the sins which separate us from you and divide us from one another:

the pride that puts self at the centre of life, the resentment that corrodes our love.

We acknowledge that we are powerless to change, and we turn to you,

longing to know the perfection of human life shown by our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

The almighty and merciful God

grant you pardon and absolution of all your sins and the power of a new life in Christ. Amen.

Merciful God,

in Jesus Christ you have brought us once again into communion with yourself. Grant that this service of covenant and union may witness to that reconciliation by which we now live as a people healed and forgiven,

one with you and with one another, to your honour and praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

# SCRIPTURE LESSONS,

*including a GOSPEL READING*

# ADDRESS

1. **APOSTLES’ CREED**

*the congregation standing.*

# HYMN

1. **PRAYERS**

*The minister says:*

The Lord be with you! The Lord bless you!

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

God of love, ever faithful, ever sure:

we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, you have entered into a new covenant with your people.

You have restored humankind to grace in the saving mystery of redemption. You grant us to share in your divine life through our union with Christ.

You have made us heirs with him of your eternal glory.

We praise you for the outpouring of your love in the new covenant of grace, and for this symbol of it in the marriage covenant

which seals the love of a couple and reflects your plan of love for the world.

With heart and voice, we join with all creation and your whole family in heaven and on earth to worship you and proclaim your praise:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

We thank you, our Father, for our friends A.. and B..

We thank you for their homes and families,

and for the love, support, and encouragement they have been given.

We thank you for the place they have won in our affections and for the honour in which they are held.

We thank you for leading them to each other,

and for the friendship and love, commitment and trust in which they have grown together.

We thank you for bringing them here, and for the fulfilment of this holy hour when they come with praise to be united by your Spirit.

Living God,

by the presence and power of your Holy Spirit,

may they know the risen Christ to be with them now

as they make their covenant in your sight and before all the company of heaven.

Now to him who is able

through the power which is at work among us to do immeasurably more than all we can ask or think,

to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus from generation to generation for evermore!

Amen.

# EXCHANGE OF VOWS

*The congregation stands.*

*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. (either partner may make the vows first)*

1. *. says:*

I, A.. ,

take you, B.. , to be my wife/husband/[preferred pronoun].

In the presence of God

and before this congregation,

I promise and covenant to be a loving,

faithful, and loyal wife/husband/[preferred pronoun], to you so long as we both shall live.

1. *. says:*

I, B.. ,

take you, A.. , to be my wife/husband/[preferred pronoun]

In the presence of God

and before this congregation,

I promise and covenant to be a loving,

faithful, and loyal wife/husband/[preferred pronoun], to you so long as we both shall live.

# GIVING AND RECEIVING OF THE RING(S)

*The minister says:*

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

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

God of steadfast love, by your blessing may this ring (these rings)

be to A.. and B.. a symbol (symbols) of the vow they have made this day and the covenant into which they have entered.

May they ever remain faithful the one to the other in unbroken love.

Amen.

(where there are two rings, either partner may give a ring first)

As the ring(s) is (are) given and received, 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, so long as you both shall live.

# DECLARATION OF MARRIAGE

*The couple join hands.*

*The minister, taking their joined hands, says:*

A.. and B.. ,

before God and this congregation,

you have covenanted in holy marriage.

In the name of God,

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

I therefore declare you to be married.

Those whom God has joined together, no one must separate.

# MARRIAGE BLESSING

*The couple kneel.*

*The minister says:*

God the Father, God the Son,

God the Holy Spirit,

bless, preserve, and keep you; the Lord mercifully grant you the riches of his grace, that you may please him both in body and soul, and, living together in faith and love, may receive the blessings of eternal life.

Amen.

[15 The Aaronic Blessing may be sung or said.] The Lord bless you and keep you:

the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you:

the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

or

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.

# PRAYERS

*The minister says:*

Let us pray.

Most holy God,

we give you thanks

for the joy and privilege

of sharing with A.. and B.. in their happiness today.

We pray that the blessing you have given them may so inspire them throughout their life together,

that their love for each other may grow with the passing years.

Keep guard over the covenant they have made, and make them strong within your holy love.

Loving Father,

bless their home and defend it from evil.

May it be a home where Christ is known and loved,

where his perfect love casts out fear, and where his cross brings reconciliation and peace. May it be a place of happy welcome and loving, joyful service.

In blessing them with the gift and heritage of children, make them loving and wise parents.

Grant A.. and B.. all that they need,

and give them a generous heart and a kindly spirit.

Faithful God, remember in your love each family represented here.

May those who made vows to each other in the past renew their vows today and find them strengthened.

Lead us through this life, O God.

And when we have fully served you in our generation,

bring us into the presence of your glory, to be numbered with all those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb, even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Our Father . . .**

1. **HYMN**
2. **BLESSING**

*The minister says:*

The peace of God,

which is beyond all understanding,

will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.

The blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be upon you and remain with you always. Amen.