THIRD 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.*

1. **CALL TO WORSHIP**

*The minister says:*

Let us worship God.

1. **HYMN**
2. **STATEMENT**

*The minister says:*

We are here in the presence of God

to witness the vows of A.. and B.. as they give themselves to each other in Christian marriage. We offer them our continuing support and love in their covenant with each other.

We rejoice in the uniqueness of their marriage, and seek with them God’s blessing.

Marriage is to be entered upon thoughtfully and reverently, and with a deep awareness of its sacred and enduring nature.

Marriage is honourable and holy.

It is founded in the loving nature of God.

It is part of God’s purpose for humanity, and was provided by him

for the comfort and happiness of a couple and for the welfare of human society.

It was hallowed by our Lord’s gracious presence at the marriage in Cana of Galilee; and is consecrated as the symbol

of the union between Christ and his Church.

Today as A.. and B.. are married,

we are confident that this deepening of their commitment to each other will lead to enrichment and joy in their lives.

1. **PRAYERS**

*The minister says:*

Let us pray.

Gracious God,

we give you thanks and praise for all your gifts of goodness and grace.

We praise you for your gift of love, uniting our families, blessing our lives, enfolding us all our days.

Especially we thank you for the love which dwells and grows in the hearts of A . . . and B . . . , and for the happiness and trust that has led them here.

As they seek now in marriage to confirm that happiness and deepen that trust, may your Spirit of love sanctify their joy and enrich their love.

Guide them by your grace, surround them with your presence, and keep them in your love; through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

1. **EXCHANGE OF VOWS**

*The minister says:*

Will the congregation please stand.

*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.*

*They make their vows, either by reading them, or by repeating them after the minister, or by responding to a question put by the minister.*

*The minister says:*

Jesus said,

‘This is my commandment:

love one another as I have loved you.’ (either partner may make the vow first)

1. *. says:*

Before God

and in the presence of our families and friends, I, A.. ,

declare my love for you, B..

and I give myself to you as your wife/husband/[preferred pronoun].

I promise you my love, my loyalty, and my trust for as long as we both shall live.

1. *. says:*

Before God

and in the presence of our families and friends,

I, B.. ,

declare my love for you, A..

and I give myself to you as your wife/husband/[preferred pronoun].

I promise you my love, my loyalty, and my trust for as long as we both shall live.

1. **GIVING AND RECEIVING OF THE RING(S)**

*The minister says:*

As a token of these promises

and as a symbol of your marriage, this ring (these rings) is (are) given and received.

May this ring (these rings) be to you a sign of the endless love you have pledged to each other this day.

*(either partner may give the ring first)*

1. *. places a ring on the fourth finger of B..’s left hand.*
2. *. places a ring on the fourth finger of A..’s left hand.*
3. **DECLARATION OF MARRIAGE**

*The couple join hands,*

*and the minister places his right hand upon their joined hands.*

*The minister says:*

A . . . and B . . . ,

you have declared your love for each other before God and this congregation. You have pledged that you will live together in Christian marriage,

in the words of your promises and in the symbolism of the joining of hands and the giving of rings.

I therefore declare you to be married. In the name of God,

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

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

1. **MARRIAGE BLESSING**

*The couple kneel.*

*The minister says:*

A.. and B.. ,

may the blessing of God rest upon you

in the keeping of the promises you have made.

May his holy presence sanctify your love and dwell richly in your lives. Amen.

God guard you on every side. God guide you in truth and peace. God gird you with faith and love.

Amen.

1. **SCRIPTURE LESSONS, including a GOSPEL READING**
2. **ADDRESS**
3. **PRAYERS**

*The minister says:*

Let us pray.

Gracious God, for the promise, for the hope,

for the love of this day, we praise you.

Bless your children now with the strength of your Spirit,

that they may build a life of joy and fulfilment on the foundations of commitment and love.

May they be sustained by the love and support that now surrounds them. May they always remain open-hearted, courageous, and strong.

Give to them generosity of spirit, understanding of each other, warm and loyal friendship. Grant that they may go forward from this day delighting in their love.

May their love grow, and in time to come may it prove able to heal and to help, to overcome difficulties, and to bring reconciliation.

So, may all see in them a symbol of your love

from which nothing can separate us and which nothing can overcome.

Be with them now

and remain with them for ever. Amen.

**Our Father . . .**

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

*The minister blesses the people from God:*

I wish you joy in the Lord always. And the blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you all. Amen.