

(any special music and such things as lighting a unity candle can be inserted in the service) 1

## **Processional**

### **Greeting**

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

O God, open our eyes to your presence  
Open our ears to your call  
Open our hearts to your love.

### **Introduction and Welcome**

Brothers and sisters in Christ, we are gathered here as the people of God to witness the marriage of \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. We come to share in their joy and to ask God to bless them.

Marriage is a gift of God, sealed by a sacred covenant. God gives human love. Through that love, a husband and wife come to know each other with mutual care and companionship. God gives joy to humanity. Through the joy God gives to a marriage, the couple may share their new life with others as a gift to the world. With our love and our prayers, we are here to support \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ as they now in joy give themselves to each other.

### **Prayer**

O God, we gather to celebrate your gift of love and its presence among us. We rejoice that

two people have chosen to commit themselves to a life of loving faithfulness to one another. We praise you for the ways you have touched our lives with a variety of loving relationships. We give thanks that we have experienced your love through the life-giving love of Jesus Christ and through the care and affection of other people. 2

Renew within us a loving spirit. Enrich our lives with the gracious gift of your love. May our celebration of love and commitment give to us a new joy and hope in our relationships. Through Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

### **Readings** (scripture & other)

### **Sermon**

### **Pledge of Support by Families**

Do you the families of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ give your prayerful blessing and loving support to their marriage? If so, please say "We do."

### **Declaration of Intention**

With God and before this gathered community, I ask you to affirm your willingness to enter this covenant of marriage, and to share all joys and sorrows of this new relationship, whatever the future may hold

(groom), will you have (bride) to be your wife, and will you love her as long as you both shall live? If so answer, "I will with the help of God."

(bride), will you have (groom) to be your husband, and will you love ho, as long as you both shall live? If so answer, "I will with the help of God."

### **Prayer**

God of the ages, hear our prayers of encouragement and support for this union of \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Bless us as we offer our prayerful and loving support to their marriage. Bless them as they pledge their lives to each other. With faith in you and in each other, may they always bear witness to the power of the love which they are proclaiming this day. May their love continue to grow, and may it be a reflection of your love for us all; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

### **Marriage Covenant/Vows**

I ask you now to make a covenant with one another before God and this community of faith as the beginning of your marriage.

(vows)

### **Rings**

These rings are the outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace, signifying to all the uniting of \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_ in holy marriage.  
(ring vows)

### **Declaration of Marriage**

\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, you have committed yourselves to each other in this joyous and sacred covenant. You are now one even as you grow in your own identity. Fulfill your promises. Love and serve God, honor Christ and each other, and rejoice in the power of the Holy Spirit.

By their promises made before us this day, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ have united themselves as husband and wife in sacred covenant. Those whom God has joined together, let no human seek separate.

### **Blessing**

The grace of Christ be with you; the love of God surround you; the Holy Spirit keep you that you may grow in holy love, find delight in each other always, and remain faithful until your life's end. Amen.

### **Benediction**

### **Recessional**