

They will know that the one who comes is God who made us and whose family we are. We are his people, his flock; he is our Shepherd. They will come through his gates in gratitude, and go into places where he is worshipped, giving thanks and blessing his name. Yes, they will, because the Lord who meets us is good; his love never ends and he is trustworthy through endless ages. Praise to God the Father. Praise to Jesus Christ our Lord. Praise to the Spirit living in our hearts.

(15)
We affirm
the unity which God himself has given us:
One body, one Spirit, one hope of our calling;
One Lord, One Faith, one Baptism
One God and Father of all
Over all, through all, in all.
Glory be to you, O Lord.

(19)
We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.
We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.
We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. AMEN.

(35)
We believe and trust in God the Father
who made the world.
We believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ,
who redeemed mankind.
We believe and trust in his Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God.
We believe and trust in one God:
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. AMEN.

(37)
We believe in God the Father,
who reveals his love to us in Christ.
We believe in God the Son,

who pours out his Holy Spirit on us.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who teaches us God's truth.
We believe in one God:
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. AMEN.

(The Apostles' Creed may be used)

Suggested Scripture readings for marriage service

Old Testament

Genesis 2:15, 18-25; Song of Songs 8:6-7
Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 67; Psalm 128

Epistle

Romans 12:1-2, 9-13; 1 Corinthians 13:4 – 8a, 13
Ephesians 3:14-21; Ephesians 5:1-2, 21-33
Philippians 1:9-11

Gospel

St. Matthew 7:21, 24-27; St. Mark 10:609
St. John 2:1-11; St. John 15:9-12

The Vows

I, A, take you, B, to be my husband/wife.
In the presence of God and before this congregation,
I promise and covenant
to be a loving, faithful and loyal husband/wife to you
so long as we both shall live.

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The Marriage Service

This leaflet explains the marriage service as used in the Stewartry of Strathearn and is accompanied by a sample service sheet.

The service is contained in *Common Order*, the Church of Scotland's service book. The order of this marriage service reflects the order for a sacrament, that is, *The Word* followed by *Response to the Word*. We hear and reflect on the Gospel of God's love and in thanksgiving respond to it in a sacramental action, in this case the covenant made by husband and wife.

The service comprises the following elements;

1. The service begins at the west end of the church with a **Call to worship**.
2. During the **Processional Hymn** the bridal party is led to the front of the church. This hymn should be strong with measured dignity.
3. The **Preamble** is a statement of the Church's belief about Christian Marriage.
4. The bride and groom **state their intent** in answer to the question, "A..and B.., have you come here freely and without reserve to give yourselves to each other in marriage?" ("We have")
5. The **Prayer of Confession** seeks God's

- blessing for all present and upon the service itself.
6. **Scripture.** Readings from the Old Testament, the Epistles and the Gospels. Whatever the choice there must be a Gospel reading.
 7. **The Address.** A short homily
 8. In saying the **Affirmation of Faith** the congregation joins the bride and groom in a credal statement affirming the Christian faith. Choice will be made from an extensive number of such affirmations.
 9. The second **Hymn** marks the centre point of the service. It is generally quiet and prayerful in type.
 10. The **Prayer of Thanksgiving** is the central prayer of the service and parallels the Great Prayer of the Eucharist. God is praised for the gift of life, for his love shown in the life death and resurrection of Christ and for his leading of bride and groom to this point in their lives. The prayer asks for the Holy Spirit to be with them as they make their covenant.
 11. The **Vows** are exchanged. This is done without interference, the text being placed into the hand of bride and groom respectively.
 12. The **rings** are given and received having been blessed

13. There follows a **declaration** that the parties are married.
14. Bride and groom kneel for **the Blessing**.
15. The **Prayer of Petition** asks God's guidance and blessing upon husband and wife through the years. It concludes with the *Lord's Prayer*.
16. The third **Hymn** should be one of cheerful thanksgiving.
17. The service concludes with a **Benediction** (blessing).

The minister leads the party to the vestry where the Marriage Schedule will be signed. This having been done, the party returns through the church.

In preparation for the service, choices will be made of hymns, scripture readings, affirmation and music for the recession from the church.

Suggested hymns

Church Hymnary 4th edition

A) (Processional)

- 160 Praise my soul the King of heaven
- 63 All people that on earth do dwell
- 124 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation
- 120 God, we praise you. God we bless you.
- 189 Be still (or in B)

B) (Before marriage)

- 577 Christ be beside me
- 166 Lord of all hopefulness (or in C)
- 695 Your love, O God, has called us here
- 696 We come, dear Lord, to celebrate
- 699 God beyond glory

C) (End of service)

- 700 As man and woman we were made
- 146 From all that dwell below the skies
- 697 Let's praise the Creator who gave us each other
- 530 One more step along the world I go

Suggested affirmations

(2)

We affirm our faith in God's merciful love.
He sets us free from our selfish fears.
He calls us from living for ourselves to live for others and to share the joys and sorrows of the world.
He is at work in the world through the Spirit that he gives, making known his trust and power.
He is at work in his Church which has witnessed and served through the ages;
which he still calls to proclaim the Lordship of Christ to all the world.
We honour and worship the Father,
we acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord,
we welcome the power of the Holy Spirit in joyful expectation.

(3)

Loving God
with full hearts we call you Father,
because your Spirit has set us free from fear
and brought us home to you.
Through Christ
we have been adopted into the security of your family;
our home is built on the solid rock of your undying love.
Father, we trust you
and we will praise you for ever.

(11)

We believe in God the Father,
who has made us and all the world.
We believe in God the Son,
who has redeemed us and all mankind.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who sanctifies us and all the elect people of God.
We acknowledge and confess one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, eternal Trinity.
Blessing and honour and glory and power
be unto our God for ever and ever. AMEN.

(12)

The time will come when everyone on earth will
celebrate
God's coming. They will serve him gladly and meet him
with songs of joy.