

The Marriage Ceremony

Groom## and ## Bride##

THE INTRODUCTION

All persons reverently standing

“Our help is in the name of the Lord.”

“Except the Lord build the house they labour in vain that build it.”

Dearly Beloved: We are met together in the sight of God and in the presence of these witnesses to join together

Groom## and ## Bride##

in this relationship of marriage according to the ordinance of God, the custom of the Christian Church, and the Laws of New Brunswick, and to seek on their behalf the blessing of God.

Marriage is an honourable and holy relationship instituted by God, sanctioned by Christ's presence at the marriage in Cana of Galilee, and likened by the Apostle Paul to the mystical union which exists between Christ and His Church. It was ordained of God as the foundation and bond of family life, for the mutual help and comfort of husband and wife, and for the welfare of the state.

Marriage is therefore not to be entered upon by any lightly or thoughtlessly, but thoughtfully, reverently, and in the fear of God.

Into this holy relationship **##Groom##** and **##Bride##** now desire to enter; Therefore, if any person can show any just cause why they may not lawfully be joined together, let them now declare it, or forever hold their peace.

Moreover I charge you **##Groom##** and **##Bride##** both, before God, the Searcher of all hearts, that if either of you know of any reason why you may not lawfully be united in marriage, you do now confess it.

The Scriptures

Hear now what the scriptures, written for our help and guidance, teach as touching the duty of God's children to the Lord and to one another.

Jesus said: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life."

Jesus said: "As God has loved me, so have I loved you; continue in my love. If you keep my commandments, you shall abide in my love. This is my commandment, that you love one another, as I have loved you.

The Apostle John said: "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and everyone that loves is born of God, Any one who loves not knows not God; for God is love."

The Apostle Paul said: "Love suffers long, and is kind; Love seeks not her own. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. And now abide faith, hope, and love, these three: but the greatest of these is love."

Let Us Pray

Most holy and merciful God, at once the God of nature and of grace, Creator, Preserver and Redeemer, whose presence alone can sweeten and sanctify every relationship of life, we give You thanks for all your benefits and especially for the ordinance of marriage.

We thank You, O God, that in your providence You have led **##Groom##** and **##Bride##** into mutual affection and confidence. Look down upon them and satisfy their hearts with mutual love, strengthened by Your loving kindness and tender mercies.

Guide and bless them by Your Holy Spirit, and grant them a profound sense of the spiritual obligations they are about to make. May they enter into this sacred relationship in humble dependence upon Your enabling grace.

And may it please You, without whose benediction nothing can prosper, to grant us now the joy and blessing of Your presence.

Grant this, O God, with the forgiveness of our sins, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN.

Who will support **##Groom##** and **##Bride##** in their new life together?

(At this time family members may express their support, or those gathered are asked to stand to indicate their support.)

The Vows

##Groom##: Will you have **##Bride##** to be your wedded wife, to live together under God's care in the holy relationship of marriage? Will you love her, comfort her, honour and keep her in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others, keep you only to her so long as you both shall live?

The man shall answer: I will.

##Bride##: Will you have **##Groom##** to be your wedded husband to live together under God's care in the holy relationship of marriage? Will you love him, comfort him, honour and keep him in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others, keep you only to him so long as you both shall live?

The woman shall answer: I will.

Join your right hands.

I **Groom** do take you **Bride** to be my lawful wedded 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 for as long as we both shall live; and thereto I promise you my faithfulness.

I **Bride** do take you **Groom** to be my lawful wedded 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 for as long as we both shall live; and thereto I promise you my faithfulness.

The Rings

Groom: Do you give this ring in token that you will keep this covenant and perform these vows?

The man shall answer: I do.

Bride: Do you give this ring in token that you will keep this covenant and perform these vows?

The woman shall answer: I do.

Let these rings continue to you both a symbol of the value, the purity, and the constancy of true wedded love, and a seal of the vows you have now made.

Signing of the Register

The Declaration

*Forasmuch as you
Groom and you Bride*

have consented together to marry and have pledged your loyalty to each other in the sight of God and in the presence of this company; and have confirmed the same by the joining of hands and the giving and receiving of rings; therefore in the name of the Father and in the name of the Son and in the name of the Holy Spirit, I pronounce you husband and wife. Whom therefore, God has joined together let not any one put asunder. **AMEN.**

You may kiss.

The Marriage Prayer

O God, the Author and Giver of all good things, we bless you for the gifts of love and friendship, and for the joys which gladden our life. May your blessing rest upon and abide with **Groom** and **Bride** who have pledged their mutual love. Crown this day with your perpetual favour and lead them on the way of love and peace, even into eternal life, through Jesus Christ Our Lord. **AMEN**

The Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine upon you.
And be gracious unto you.
And may the Lord's countenance be upon you.
And give you peace. AMEN.

Announcements:

Introduction of Bride and Groom:

Mr. and Mrs.
Or

Best Man:

Maid of Honour:

Place and Date:

Minister: Rev. Terrance R. Trites (004734)