

# The Wedding Ceremony Planner of Lighthouse United Methodist Church



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# **SUGGESTED OUTLINE FOR YOUR WEDDING PROGRAM**

Below is the outline of the traditional service of Holy Matrimony as used in the United Methodist Church. Items in [brackets] are optional.

## **The Prelude**

List the organ or other instrumental prelude music here.

## **The Seating of the Mothers**

## **The Bridal Procession**

## **The Words of Grace and Greeting**

## **The Declaration of Intention**

## **The Presentation of the Bride**

## **[Solo or Instrumental Interlude]**

## **The Scripture Lesson(s)**

## **The Pastoral Meditation**

## **The Exchange of Vows**

## **The Blessing and Exchange of Rings**

## **The Declaration of Marriage**

## **[Solo or Instrumental Interlude]**

*If the unity candle is used, the lighting should take place here.*

*A vocal or instrumental solo may accompany the lighting.*

## **The Blessing of the Marriage**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

*The prayer may be spoken, sung as a solo or sung by the congregation.*

## **The Dismissal With blessing**

## **The Introduction of the Bride and Groom**

## **The Recession**

## **The Postlude**

# SUGGESTED SCRIPTURE LESSONS

## Old Testament Lessons

|                                      |                                  |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Genesis 1:26-28, 31                  | The creation of man and woman    |
| Song of Solomon 2:10-14, 16a, 8: 6-7 | Love is as strong as death.      |
| Isaiah 43: 1-7                       | You are precious in Gods' sight. |
| Isaiah 55: 10-13                     | You shall go out in joy.         |
| Isaiah 61: 10-62:3                   | Rejoice in the Lord.             |
| Isaiah 63: 7-9                       | The steadfast love of the Lord.  |

## New Testament Epistle Lessons

|                         |                                |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Romans 12: 1-2, 9-18    | The life of a Christian        |
| I Corinthians 13        | The greatest of these is love. |
| II Corinthians 5: 14-17 | In Christ we are new creation. |
| Ephesians 2: 4-10       | God's love for us.             |
| Ephesians 4: 1-6        | Called to the one hope.        |
| Ephesians 4: 25-5:2     | Rules for the new life.        |
| Philippians 2: 1-2      | The Christlike spirit.         |
| Philippians 4: 4-9      | Rejoice in the Lord.           |
| Colossians 3: 12-17     | Live in love and thanksgiving. |
| I John 3: 18-24         | Love one another.              |
| I John 4: 7-16          | God is love.                   |
| Revelation 19: 1, 5-9a  | The wedding feast of the Lamb. |

## Gospel Lessons

|                     |                                 |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| Matthew 5: 1-10     | The Beatitudes                  |
| Matthew 7:21, 24-27 | A house built upon a rock.      |
| Matthew 22: 35-40   | Love, the greatest commandment. |
| Mark 2: 18-22       | Joy in Christ as at a wedding   |
| Mark 10: 42-45      | True greatness                  |
| John 2: 1-11        | The marriage feast of Cana      |
| John 15: 9-17       | Remain in Christ's love         |

## SUGGESTED HYMNS

### From the United Methodist Hymnal (1989)

- 61 Come, Thou Almighty King
- 66 Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven
- 89 Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee
- 90 Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones
- 93 Let All the World in Every Corner Sing
- 96 Praise the Lord Who Reigns Above
- 111 How Can We Name a Love
- 117 O God, Our Help in Ages Past
- 126 Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above
- 138 The King of Love My Shepherd Is
- 139 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
- 158 Come, Christians, Join to Sing
- 164 Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life
- 166 All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine
- 408 The Gift of Love
- 451 Be Thou My Vision
- 475 Come Down, O Love Divine
- 549 Where Charity and Love Prevail
- 642 Christ is Made the Sure Foundation
- 643 When Love is Found
- 644 Jesu, Joy of Our Desiring
- 645 O Perfect Love
- 647 Your Love, O God, Has Called Us Here
- 695 O Lord, May Church and Home Combine
- 732 Come, We That Love the Lord

# A SERVICE OF CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE

## GREETING

### ***Pastor to people:***

Dearly beloved, we are gathered here in the sight of God, and in the presence of these witnesses, to join together this man and this woman, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, in holy matrimony, which is an honorable estate, instituted of God, signifying to us the union that exists between Christ and his Church; which holy estate Christ adorned and beautified with his presence in Cana of Galilee. It is therefore not to be entered into unadvisedly but reverently, discreetly, and in the fear of God. Into this holy estate these two persons come now to be joined.

## DECLARATION OF INTENTION

### ***The pastor gives one of the following charges to the persons who are to marry:***

I require and charge you both, as you stand in the presence of God, before whom the secrets of all hearts are disclosed, that, having considered the holy covenant you are about to make, you do now declare before this company your pledge of faith, to one another. Be assured that if these solemn vows are kept as God's Word requires, and if you endeavor to do the will of God, your marriage will be blessed, fulfilled, and your home will be established in peace.

### ***Pastor to the man:***

\_\_\_\_\_, will you have this woman to be your wedded wife, to live together in the holy estate of matrimony? Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and health; and forsaking all others keep only to her so long as you both shall live?

***Man: I will***

### ***Pastor to the woman***

\_\_\_\_\_, will you have this man to be your wedded husband, to live together in the Holy estate of matrimony? Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, in sickness and health; and forsaking all others keep only to him so long as you both shall live?

***Woman: I will***

## PRESENTATION

***If the woman is presented in marriage, the pastor asks the presenter(s):***

Who presents this woman to be married to this man?

***Presenter(s):***

I (We) do.

***If the man is presented in marriage, the pastor asks the presenter(s):***

Who presents this man to be married to this woman?

***Presenter(s)***

I (We) do.

***The presenters may then be seated.***

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### EXCHANGE OF VOWS

***Man to woman:***

I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wedded wife, to have to hold, from this day forward, for better or worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part, according to God's holy ordinance, and thereto I pledge you my faith.

***Woman to man::***

I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wedding husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better or worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part, according to God's holy ordinance, and thereto I pledge you my faith.

### BLESSING AND EXCHANGE OF RINGS

***The exchange of rings is optional. Other tangible symbols may be given in addition to, or instead, of rings. The pastor, taking the rings, may say:***

***The pastor may bless the giving of rings or other symbols of marriage:***

Bless, O Lord, the giving of these rings, that they who wear them may abide in Thy peace, and continue in thy favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***The common custom is for the husband to give the wife her ring before the wife gives the husband his ring. While placing the ring on the third finger of the recipient's hand, the giver may say (prompted, line by line, by the pastor):***

In token and pledge of our constant faith and abiding love, with this ring I thee wed, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
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## **SPECIAL MUSIC**

### **DECLARATION OF MARRIAGE**

***The wife and husband and join hands. The pastor may place a hand on or wrap a stole around their joined hands.***

***The couple may turn and face the congregation.***

***Pastor to people:***

Forasmuch as \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ have consented together in holy wedlock, and have witnessed the same before God and this company, and have pledged their faith each to one another, and have declared the same by joining hands and by giving and receiving rings; I pronounce that they are husband and wife together, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Those whom God hath joined together, let no one put asunder  
**Amen.**

***If a unity candle is used, the two side candles representing the husband and wife are lighted first, and the center candle representing the marriage is lighted at this or some later point in the service. The side candles are not extinguished because both husband and wife retain their personal identities. The congregation may be invited to stand, and a doxology or other hymn may be sung.***

### **BLESSING OF THE MARRIAGE**

***The husband and wife may kneel, as the pastor prays:***

O eternal God, creator and preserver of us all, giver of all spiritual grace, the author of everlasting life: send thy blessing upon \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, whom we bless in thy name; that they may surely perform and keep the vow and covenant between them made, and may ever remain in perfect love and peace together and live according to thy laws.

Look graciously upon them, that they may love, honor, and cherish each other, and so live together in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and a place of peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*If Holy Communion is not to be celebrated, the service continues as indicated below.*

*If Holy Communion is to be celebrated, the congregation turns to A Service of Word and Table III in UMH 15 or one of the musical settings. (UMS 17-25), and the pastor follows the text on 124-26 above, beginning with Taking the Bread and Cup and Concluding with the Dismissal with Blessing on 127 or the one below.*

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*The husband and wife may continue to kneel, as all pray the Lord's Prayer.*

## **INTRODUCTION AND KISS**

### **DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING\***

God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit bless, preserve, and keep you; the Lord graciously with his favor look upon you, and so fill you with all spiritual benediction and love that you may so live together in this life that in the world to come you may have life everlasting. **Amen.**

### **GOING FORTH\***

*A hymn may be sung or instrumental music played as the couple, the wedding party, and the people leave. See the listing of suggested recessional hymns (127)*