

OLMSTED COMMUNITY CHURCH
SERVICE OF CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE
COUPLE'S REVIEW COPY

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

SEATING OF PARENTS

+*Optional* **LIGHTING OF CANDLES** (*side candles for Unity Candle*)

WEDDING PARTY PROCESSIONAL

BRIDAL PROCESSIONAL

GREETING

Dearly beloved, we are gathered together in the sight of God to witness and bless the joining together of _____ and _____ in Christian marriage. We come to surround them with our prayers, and to share in their joy. Marriage is a gift of God, sealed by a sacred covenant. God gives us human love, and through that love husband and wife come to know each other with mutual care and companionship. As this woman and this man give themselves to each other today, we remember that at Cana in Galilee our Savior Jesus Christ made the wedding feast a sign of God's love. Through the Holy Spirit, Christ is present with us now. With our love and our prayers, we support _____ and _____ as they now freely give themselves to each other.

DECLARATION OF INTENTION

Before God and this congregation, I ask you to affirm your willingness to enter into this covenant of marriage and to share all the joys and sorrows of this new relationship.

To Groom: _____, will you have _____ to be your wife in holy marriage, and will you love her faithfully as long as you both shall live? I WILL, WITH THE HELP OF GOD.

To Bride: _____, will you have _____ to be your husband in holy marriage, and will you love him faithfully as long as you both shall live? I WILL, WITH THE HELP OF GOD.

+*Optional* **PRESENTATION:** Who presents this woman to be married to this man? HER MOTHER AND I or I DO or Who presents this couple to be united in marriage? WE DO.

PLEDGE OF SUPPORT

The marriage of _____ and _____ unites their families and creates a new one. They ask for your blessing. Will all of you, by God's grace, do everything in your power to uphold and care for these two persons in their marriage? If so, answer "We will."

PRAYER: God of our mothers and of our fathers, hear our encouragement and support for this union of _____ and _____. Bless us as we offer our prayerful and loving support of their marriage. Bless them as they pledge their lives to each other. With faith in you and in each other, may this couple always bear witness to the reality of the love in which we share this day. May their love continue to grow, and may it be a true reflection of your love for us all; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

+*Optional* **READING** (may be Scriptural or secular), **HYMN** or **SOLO**

HOMILY

PRAYER: Eternal God, creator and preserver of all life, giver of all grace: Bless and sanctify with your Holy Spirit _____ and _____ who come now to join in marriage. Let them give their vows to each other in the strength of your steadfast love; a love which begins in trust, grows through companionship, and deepens with understanding. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

EXCHANGE OF VOWS

Man to woman: _____, in the name of God, I give myself to you to be your husband. I promise to love and sustain you in the covenant of marriage, from this day forward, in sickness and in health, in plenty and in want, in joy and in sorrow, as long as we both shall live.

Woman to man: _____, in the name of God, I give myself to you to be your wife. I promise to love and sustain you in the covenant of marriage, from this day forward, in sickness and in health, in plenty and in want, in joy and in sorrow, as long as we both shall live.

EXCHANGE OF RINGS

The rings are an outward and visible symbol of the vows you take today. It is a band of precious metals, a circle with no beginning and no ending, and represents a love (like that of God) which is everlasting. Let us pray: Bless, O God, the giving of these rings. Remind those who wear them of your encircling love and their pledge of unending faithfulness to one another. Amen.

Giver to recipient: _____, I give you this ring as a sign of my vow, and with all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you.

+Optional LIGHTING OF THE UNITY CANDLE

The lighting of the Unity Candle is another visible way to express the joining of two persons, brought together as two distinct individuals who unite to form a family. The flames of the individual candles remain bright, yet come together to create a unique relationship that brings even more light to the world.

+Optional SOLO

+Optional FLOWER PRESENTATION (*flowers given to mothers or parents*)

DECLARATION OF MARRIAGE

You have spoken your vows before God and this gathering. May God confirm your covenant and fill you both with grace.

Now that _____ and _____ have given themselves to each other by solemn vows, with the joining of hands and the giving of rings, I announce to you that they are husband and wife; in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Those whom God has joined together, let no one separate.

BLESSING OF THE MARRIAGE

_____ and _____, you are now joined as wife and husband with the blessing of Christ's church. Be merciful in all your ways, kind in heart, and patient and understanding of one another. Forgive as freely as God has forgiven you. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, always thankful for what God has done for you.

BENEDICTION

May God bless you and keep you. May God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May God look upon you with kindness and give you peace. Amen.

+Optional INTRODUCTION

Ladies and gentlemen, I am pleased to present _____

THE KISS

Now begin your new life together with a kiss.

RECESSIONAL