

Marriage is a gift of God in creation through which husband and wife may know the grace of God. It is given that as man and woman grow together in love and trust, they shall be united with one another in heart, body and mind, as Christ is united with his bride, the Church.

The gift of marriage brings husband and wife together in the delight and tenderness of sexual union and joyful commitment to the end of their lives.

It is given as the foundation of family life in which children are born and nurtured and in which each member of the family, in good times and in bad, may find strength, companionship and comfort, and grow to maturity in love.

Marriage is a way of life made holy by God, and blessed by the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ with those celebrating a wedding at Cana in Galilee.

Marriage is a sign of unity and loyalty which all should uphold and honour.

It enriches society and strengthens community.

No one should enter into it lightly or selfishly but reverently and responsibly in the sight of almighty God.

Craig & Rebecca are now to enter this way of life.

They will each give their consent to the other and make solemn vows, and in token of this they will each give and receive a ring.

We pray with them that the Holy Spirit will guide and strengthen them, that they may fulfil God's purposes for the whole of their earthly life together.

## THE DECLARATIONS

Priest:

First, I am required to ask anyone present who knows a reason why these persons may not lawfully marry, to declare it now.

The vows you are about to take are to be made in the presence of God, who is judge of all and knows all the secrets of our hearts; therefore if either of you knows a reason why you may not lawfully marry, you must declare it now.

Craig, will you take Rebecca to be your wife?  
Will you love her, comfort her, honour and protect her,  
and, forsaking all others,  
be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

**I will.**

Rebecca, will you take Craig to be your husband?  
Will you love him, comfort him, honour and protect him,  
and, forsaking all others,  
be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?

**I will.**

Priest:

Will you, their parents, do all in your power now, and in the years ahead, to support Craig & Rebecca with your love and your prayers?

**Parents:We will.**

Priest:

Will you, the families and friends of Craig & Rebecca, support and uphold them in their marriage , now and in the years to come?

**All:We will.**

Priest:

God our Father, from the beginning  
you have blessed creation with abundant life.

Pour out your blessings upon Craig & Rebecca,  
that they may be joined in mutual love and companionship,  
in holiness and commitment to each other.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **READING**

**Reader - Phil Long - Brides Uncle**

**Seeing The Good Side (Philippians Chapter 4 Verses 4-9)**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

## **READING**

**Reader - Mike Long - Brides Uncle**

### **Getting The Perfect Relationship ( Colossians Chapter 3 Verses 12-17)**

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.

Let the word of Christ\* dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him

## **THE TALK**

**The Reverend Joan Wakeling**

## **HYMM**

**One More Step Along The World I Go**

## **THE MARRIAGE**

### **The Bride Says a Few Words**

Priest: Craig & Rebecca, I now invite you to join hands and  
make your vows,  
in the presence of God and his people.

The Groom takes the Brides' right hand in his, and says

I, Craig Andrew take you,  
Rebecca Jade, to be my 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,  
till death us do part;  
according to God's holy law.  
In the presence of God this is my vow

The Bride takes the Groom's right hand in hers, and says

I, Rebecca Jade take you,  
Craig Andrew, to be my 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,  
till death us do part;  
according to God's holy law.  
In the presence of God this is my vow

## **The Giving of Rings**

The minister receives the rings:

Priest: Heavenly Father, by your blessing  
let these rings be to Craig & Rebecca  
a symbol of unending love and faithfulness,  
to remind them of the vow and covenant  
which they have made this day  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

***The Groom places the ring on the fourth finger of the bride's left hand and,  
holding it there, says***

Rebecca, I give you this ring  
as a sign of our marriage.  
With my body I honour you,  
all that I am I give to you,  
and all that I have I share with you,  
within the love of God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

***The Bride places a ring on the fourth finger of the bridegroom's left hand  
and, holding it there, says***

Craig, I give you this ring  
as a sign of our marriage.  
With my body I honour you,  
all that I am I give to you,  
and all that I have I share with you,  
within the love of God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit

## **THE PROCLAMATION**

Priest: In the presence of God, and before this congregation,  
Craig & Rebecca have given their consent  
and made their marriage vows to each other.  
They have declared their marriage by the joining of hands  
and by the giving and receiving of rings.  
I therefore proclaim that they are husband and wife.

The minister joins their right hands together and says  
Priest: Those whom God has joined together let no one put  
asunder.

## **THE BLESSING**

Priest: Blessed are you, O Lord our God,  
for you have created joy and gladness,  
pleasure and delight, love, peace and fellowship.  
Pour out the abundance of your blessing  
upon Craig & Rebecca in their new life together.  
Let their love for each other be a seal upon their hearts  
and a crown upon their heads.  
Bless them in their work and in their companionship;  
awake and asleep, in joy and in sorrow, in life and in death.  
Finally, in your mercy, bring them to that banquet  
where your saints feast for ever in your heavenly home.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

Priest: God the Father,  
God the Son, God the Holy Spirit,  
bless, preserve and keep you;  
the Lord mercifully grant you the riches of his grace,  
that you may please him both in body and soul,  
and, living together in faith and love,  
may receive the blessings of eternal life.

**All: Amen.**

## THE PRAYERS

Priest: Faithful God, holy and eternal,  
source of life and spring of love,  
we thank and praise you for bringing Craig & Rebecca to this  
day,  
and we pray for them. Lord of life and love:  
**All: hear our prayer.**

Priest: May their marriage be life-giving and life-long,  
enriched by your presence and strengthened by your grace;  
may they bring comfort and confidence to each other  
in faithfulness and trust. Lord of life and love:  
**All: hear our prayer.**

Priest: May the hospitality of their home  
bring refreshment and joy to all around them;  
may their love overflow to neighbours in need  
and embrace those in distress. Lord of life and love:  
**All: hear our prayer.**

Priest: May they discern in your word  
order and purpose for their lives;  
and may the power of your Holy Spirit  
lead them in truth and defend them in adversity.  
Lord of life and love:  
**All: hear our prayer.**

Priest: May they nurture their family with devotion,  
see their children grow in body, mind and spirit  
and come at last to the end of their lives  
with hearts content and in joyful anticipation of heaven.  
Lord of life and love:  
**All: hear our prayer.**