

Marriage was ordained that husband and wife may comfort and help each other, living faithfully together in plenty and in need, in sorrow and in joy.

It is intended that with delight and and tenderness they may know each other in love, and through the joy of their bodily union they may strengthen the union of their hearts and lives.

It is intended that they may be blessed in the children they have, in caring for them and in bringing them up in accordance with God's will to his praise and glory.

In marriage husband and wife begin a new life together in the community. It is a permanent commitment that all should honour. It must not be under taken carelessly, lightly or selfishly, but by God's help, with reverence, responsibility, respect and the promise to be faithful.

This is a way of life, created and hallowed by God, that Michelle and Philip are now about to begin. They will give each other their consent to the other: they will join hands and exchange solemn vows, and in token of this they will give and receive a ring.

Therefore on this their wedding day we pray with them, that, strengthened and guided by God, they may fulfil his purpose for the whole of their earthly life together.

THE COLLECT

Almighty God,
Through God your Son Jesus Christ you send the Holy Spirit
To be the life and light of all your people:
Open the hearts of these your servants
To the riches of his grace,
That they may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit
In love and joy and peace;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

FIRST READING

A reading from the Song of Songs (2:10-14,16)

My beloved lifts up his voice, he says to me "Come then, my love, my lovely one, come. For see, winter is past, the rains are over and gone. The flowers appear on earth. The season of glad songs has come, the cooing of the turtle dove is heard in our land. The fig tree is forming its first figs and the blossoming vines give out their fragrance. Come then, my love, my lovely one, come. My dove, hiding in the clefts of the rock. In the covert of the cliff, show me your face, let me hear your voice, for your voice is sweet and your face is beautiful. My beloved is mine and I am his.

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL READING

Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ, according to John (15:12-16)

All : Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus said to his disciples, "This is my commandment, love one another, as I have loved you. No one can have greater love than to lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I shall no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his masters business, I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. You did not chose me, no, I chose you, and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you anything you ask him in my name.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

THE MARRIAGE

Dean Paul:

God the judge of all knows all the secrets of our hearts, therefore if either of you knows any reason why you may not lawfully marry you must declare it now.

THE CONSENT

Dean Paul:

Philip, will you take Michelle to be your wife?

Will you love her, comfort her, honour and care for her and forsaking all others, be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

Philip: I will

Dean Paul:

Michelle, will you take Philip to be your husband?

Will you love her, comfort her, honour and care for her and forsaking all others, be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

Michelle: I will.

THE VOWS

Philip:

I philip take you Michelle 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
This is my solemn vow.

Michelle:

I Michelle take you Philip 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
This is my solemn vow.

THE BLESSING OF THE RINGS

Dean Paul:

Heavenly Father,
May these rings be to Michelle and Philip
a symbol of unending love and faithfulness
to remind them of the vow and covenant
which they have made this day.

Amen.

EXCHANGE OF THE RINGS

Philip:

Michelle, I give you this ring
as a sign of our marriage.
With my body I honour you,
and all that I have I share with you
in the name of the God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Michelle:

Philip, I give you this ring
as a sign of our marriage.
With my body I honour you,
and all that I have I share with you
in the name of the God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

THE DECLARATION

Dean Paul:

In the presence of God, and before this congregation Michelle and Philip have given their consent and made their marriage vows to each other. They have declared their marriage by joining of hands and by giving and receiving of rings. Therefore, in the name of God I pronounce that they are husband and wife.

What god has joined together let not man put asunder (Mark 10:9)

THE BLESSING

Dean Paul:

God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit bless, preserve and keep you:

the Lord mercifully grant you the riches of his Grace, that you may live together in faith and love,

And receive the blessings of eternal life.

All: Amen

AFFIRMATION BY THE PEOPLE

Dean Paul:

Will you the friends and family of Michelle and Philip support and encourage them in marriage.

All: We Will

THE ACCLAMATIONS

Dean Paul:

Blessed are you, heavenly Father,

All: You give Joy to Michelle and Philip

Dean Paul:

Blessed are you, Lord Jesus Christ

All : You have brought new life to all of your people

Dean Paul:

Blessed be the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

All: One God, to be praised for ever. Amen

LIGHTING OF THE MARRIAGE CANDLE

Michelle and Philip light the wedding candle as a symbol of the love which now unites them in Holy Matrimony.

~song~

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

We pray for Michelle and Philip, as they begin their married life together. May they always be true friends to each other and face the challenges of life together. May their lives be filled with joy and laughter, may God grant them good health and may they always find happiness and comfort in each other.

Lord Hear Us

All: Lord graciously hear us

We pray for two families who come together on this special day and pray that they continue to be a source of love, support and guidance throughout Philip's and Michelle's lives.

Lord Hear Us

All: Lord graciously hear us

We pray for baby Thomas, that he may continue to grow in strength and love, as his parents begin their journey together as husband and wife.

Lord Hear Us

All: Lord graciously hear us

As we gather to celebrate this joyful day we remember with special love, friends and family members who have touched our lives and are sadly no longer with us. We thank god for the treasured memories that they have left with us.

Lord Hear Us

All: Lord graciously hear us

We pray for all the married people; for those who married yesterday, for the new couple married today, and for those who will marry tomorrow. May the Lord guide and protect them.

Lord Hear Us

All: Lord graciously hear us

Merciful Father, Accept these our thanksgivings and prayers, For the sake of your son. Our saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen

THE PEACE

Jesus said a new commandment I give to you,
That you love one another;
Even as I have loved you that you also love one another.
(John 13:34)

Dean Paul:

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: Amen

Dean Paul : Let us offer one another a sign of peace