

A Celebration of Marriage

Welcome and Introduction.

Eternal God, we offer you our thanks that through our earthly lives you speak of your eternal kingdom. We rejoice in the wonder of creation, the gift of human life and the many blessings that our relationships bring, we give thanks for all who celebrate their marriage this day. Renew in them the fruits of your Holy Spirit; that love, joy and peace may abound in their homes, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Stand to Sing Hymn 'Praise my Soul the King of Heaven'

Thanksgiving - We say together

God our Father, today, above all days,
we thank you for our love for each other
and the ways we express and receive that love:

The pleasure of shared activities,
and silent understanding,

The satisfaction of giving,
and the joy of physical union.

We thank you for our homes and families;
for the old and the young,
those whom we need and need us:
for all your loving kindness.

God of grace

We give you thanks and praise

The Act of Confession –

We acknowledge that we are not able to do all that we should or behave as we ought, even though we try!

All: God of mercy, we confess that
we have turned away from you
and from each other;
we repent of our hasty actions,
our unkind words and bitter thoughts,
our greed, our anger and our indifference,
we are sorry for our selfishness,
and all our sin: and ask for your forgiveness.

Almighty God who forgives all who truly repent have
mercy upon us. Pardon and deliver us from all our sins,
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and keep us
in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Stand to sing Hymn 'Be Still for the presence of the Lord'

Sit for the reading:

Sonnet - From the Portugese
How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.
I love thee to the depth and breadth and height
My soul can reach, when feeling out of sight
For the ends of Being and ideal Grace.
I love thee to the level of everyday's
most quiet need, by sun and candlelight.
I love thee freely, as men strive for Right;
I love thee purely, as they turn from Praise.
I love thee with the passion put to use
In my old griefs, and with my childhood's faith.
I love thee with a love I seemed to lose
With my lost saints, - I love thee with the breath,
Smiles, tears, of all my life! - and, if God choose,
I shall but love thee better after death.

Elizabeth Barrett Browning

Remain seated for the second reading:

My dear people, let us love one another since love comes from God and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Anyone who fails to love can never have known God because God is love. God's love for us was revealed, when God sent into the world his only Son so that we could have life through him; this is the love I mean: not our love for God, but God's love for us when he sent his Son to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.

My dear people, since God has loved us so much we too should love one another. No one has ever seen God; but as long as we love one another God will live in us and his love will be complete in us.

1 John 4:7-12

A reflection for today.

Stand to sing Hymn 'Love divine all loves excelling'

Remain standing to renew our commitment to one another

All: God, our Father,
we bring to you our minds and bodies,
our talents and abilities, our ambitions
and plans, and hopes for the future,
our work and our leisure,
our responsibilities and privileges,
our friendships and our family life,
our love for each other
and the joy and sadness that we share.

Gracious God, we remember with thanksgiving
our vows of love and commitment
to you and to each other in marriage.
As we renew our commitment to each other
We pray for your continued blessing.

May we learn from our joys and sorrows ,
and discover new riches in our life together
now and in whatever lies ahead.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Collect.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, you gave
marriage to be a source of blessing to us:
We thank you for the joys of family life:
May we know your presence and peace in our
homes, fill them with your love, and use them for
your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

We sing the Hymn - Lord of all hopefulness

Sit or Kneel for the prayers.

As we give thanks today for marriage, let us pray
that God will keep us and all other married couples
faithful to their marriage vows. That we all may live
and grow together in love and peace all the days of
our life. Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

We pray that our lives together may be a witness to
your love in this troubled world; may unity
overcome division, forgiveness heal injury, and joy
triumph over sorrow. Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

We pray for our children, families and friends, and
all with whom we share our lives. May your
presence be with all whom we love and who love

us, especially those who are far away from home.
Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

God of grace, we pray for those who are widowed
and for those who live alone, through choice or
circumstance. May they know your love and
presence in the lives.
Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

We pray for those who have been hurt in marriage
and whose marriages have broken down. May their
memories and lives be healed in the love of those
around them and in your continual care for each
one of us.
Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

We remember with thankfulness our partners,
relatives and friends departed this life in your faith
and fear, and pray that we may come to share with
them the joys of your eternal kingdom.
Merciful Father, Accept these our thanksgivings
and prayers for the sake of your Son our Saviour
Jesus Christ. Amen.

We gather our prayers in the prayer of the Family of God

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in
heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us
our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass
against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver
us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the
glory, for ever and ever. AMEN

The Mothers' Union Prayer

Loving Lord, We thank you for your love so freely given to us all. We pray for families around the world. Bless the work of the Mothers' Union as we seek to share your love through the encouragement, strengthening and support of marriage and family life. Empowered by your Spirit, may we be united in prayer and worship, and, in love and service reach out as your hands across the world. In Jesus' name. Amen

Final Hymn 'Now Thank we all our God'

Remain standing for the Blessing

Grant that the bonds of our common humanity, by which all your children are united one to another, and the living to the dead, may be so transformed by your grace, that your will may be done on earth as it is in heaven; where, O Father, with your Son and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign in perfect unity, now and for ever. Amen

And the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be with you, and remain with you always.
Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.