

Christian Marriage

Call to Worship

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Where two or three gather in Jesus' name, our Lord has promised to be with us there. Jesus is also with us who have gathered in his name to celebrate with the Word of God and prayer the marriage of Kurtis and Sarah. We are assured of God's gracious help and guidance in these words from the Psalms:

M: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good.

C: His love endures forever.

M: The LORD is gracious and compassionate; slow to anger, and rich in love;

C: He is good to all.

M: God is our refuge and strength,

C: An ever-present help in trouble.

M: He is our God forever and ever;

C: He will be our guide even to the end.

M: May God be gracious to us and bless us

C: And make his face shine on us.

M: Loving Father, we are grateful for your goodness in permitting us to gather as the family and friends of Kurtis and Sarah to share their joy on this special day. Looking on them with favor, strengthen their confidence in your firm promises, and assure them of your abiding love. As your Son Jesus graced the wedding at Cana with his presence, so may he be with us who pray in his name.

C: Amen.

Word of God

Lessons..... 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a

⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. ⁸ Love never fails.

Hymn “In Unity and Peace”

Refrain: How good it is and how pleasant
to live in peace. How good it is and
how pleasant to live together in one Lord.

1. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,
agree in ev’rything you say.

May there be no division among you;
but be united in one mind.

For there is one Lord, one faith, one God of us all. *refrain*

2. Live a life that is worthy of your call;
be humble, gentle, and patient.

Bear with each other in ways that are loving
preserve the unity of faith.

For there is one Lord, one faith, one God of us all. *refrain*

3. Share the love that has joined us as one;
unite in spirit and ideals.

Never be rivals; do not be conceited,
but look to others in their need.

For there is one Lord, one faith, one God of us all. *refrain*

Sermon..... Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

⁹ Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: ¹⁰ If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! ¹¹ Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? ¹² Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

Marriage Rite

M: Dear friends: When God in love created the world, he made man and woman in his own image and bonded them together in marriage. Through this blessed union of husband and wife, God established the family, provided for the physical and spiritual welfare of the children, and fostered the peace and stability of society.

God intended marriage to bring loving companionship to the people of his world. But because of sin, the joy of marriage was soon overcast with sorrow, and the harmony of the family life was shattered by strife. Out of love God sent his Son Jesus to die on the cross to take away the sins of all people. Everyone who believes in Jesus receives forgiveness and is enabled by the Holy Spirit to live in peace and joy.

God's love for you is boundless. He commands you, in response to his love, to love each other. Love is forgiving and enduring. Love shows itself in truth and faithfulness, in thoughtfulness and understanding, in patience and kindness. Marriage furnishes a unique opportunity to put this love into practice.

The pattern for Christian marriage is the intimate union of Christ and his Church, which the apostle Paul depicts in Ephesians 5. After urging believers to "submit to one another out of reverence for Christ," he makes this application for Christians spouses: "Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the Church...Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ love the Church and gave himself for her." It is reverence for Christ on the part of husband and wife that lays the foundation for Christian marriage.

You have come here to be united in marriage, which consists in your mutual consent, sincerely and freely given. You are now invited to declare this intent in the presence of God and these witnesses.

Hymn..... “In Christ Alone”

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease.
My Comforter, my All in All,
Here is the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the one he came to save.
Till on the cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied.
For every sin on him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay,
Light of the World, by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day,
Up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory,
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am his, and he is mine,
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the pow'r of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from his hand.
Till he returns or calls me home,

Here in the pow'r of Christ I stand.
In Christ alone, in Christ alone!

Marriage Promises

M: (*to the groom*): Kurtis, do you take Sarah to be your wife? Do you promise to be guided by the counsel and direction God has given in his Word and love your wife as Christ loved the Church? Do you promise to be faithful to her, cherish her, support her, and help her in sickness and in health as long as you both shall live? If so, answer, "I do."

G: I do.

M: (*to the bride*): Sarah, do you take Kurtis to be your husband? Do you promise to be guided by the counsel and direction God has given in his Word and submit to your husband as the Church submits to Christ? Do you promise to be faithful to him, cherish him, support him, and help him in sickness and in health as long as you both shall live? If so, answer, "I do."

B: I do.

M: Join your right hands and make your promises to each other:

I, _____, in the presence of God and these witnesses, take you, _____, to be my wife/husband. I promise to be faithful to you as long as we both shall live.

Exchange of Rings

M: Exchange rings as a symbol of the lifelong commitment and abiding love which you as husband and wife have promised each other.

_____, receive this ring as a symbol of my love and faithfulness.

Declaration of Marriage

M: By their promises, Kurtis and Sarah have bound themselves together in marriage before God and these witnesses. Therefore, I declare 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.

Marriage Blessing

M: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit preserve you in faithfulness, strengthen you in love, and guide you to life's end.

Communion

Hymn.....“May the Peace of God”

May the peace of God our heav'nly Father,
And the grace of Christ risen Son,
And the fellowship of God the Spirit
Keep our hearts and minds within his love.
And to him be praise for his glorious reign
From the depths of earth to the heights of heav'n.
We declare the name of the Lamb once slain
Christ eternal, the King of kings.
May this peace which passes understanding,
And this grace which makes us what we are,
And this fellowship of God his Communion
Make us one in spirit and in heart.
And to him be praise for his glorious reign
From the depths of earth to the heights of heav'n.
We declare the name of the Lamb once slain
Christ eternal, the King of kings.

Prayers

M: Let us pray:

Eternal God, source of love, help Kurtis and Sarah to fulfill the promises they have made here today and to reflect your steadfast love in their love for each other. Give them kindness and patience, affection and understanding, happiness and contentment. Use their family and friends to support them in difficult days, that their love for each other may continue to grow as long as they live.

Gracious Father, in your goodness you bring people together into families and enrich their lives with abundant blessings. Renew the love of husbands and wives, parents and children, that they may strengthen and support each other on the way that leads to our heavenly home, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

C: 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 and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Blessing

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and [✠] give you peace.

C: Amen.