

## Wedding Hymns

- 1 All things bright and beautiful
- 2 Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
- 3 And did those feet in ancient time
- 4 Come to a wedding
- 5 Dear Lord and Father of mankind
- 6 Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising
- 7 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father
- 8 Guide me, O thou great Redeemer
- 9 I danced in the morning when the world was begun
- 10 I vow to thee, my country, all earthly things above
- 11 Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy
- 12 Love divine, all loves excelling
- 13 Make me a channel of your peace
- 14 Morning has broken
- 15 One more step along the world I go
- 16 We pledge to one another, before the Lord above

A wedding is one of life's great moments, a time of solemn commitment as well as good wishes, feasting and joy. St John tells us how Jesus shared in such an occasion at Cana, and gave there a sign of new beginnings as he turned water into wine.

Marriage is intended by God to be a creative relationship, as his blessing enables husband and wife to love and support each other in good times and in bad, and to share in the care and upbringing of children. For Christians, marriage is also an invitation to share life together in the spirit of Jesus Christ. It is based upon a solemn, public and life-long covenant between a man and a woman, declared and celebrated in the presence of God and before witnesses.

On this their wedding day the bride and bridegroom face each other, make their promises and receive God's blessing. You are witnesses of the marriage, and express your support by your presence and your prayers. Your support does not end today: the couple will value continued encouragement in the days and years ahead of them.

*Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*

*1 Corinthians 13.4-7*

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# Order of Service

## The Welcome

*The minister welcomes the people using these words*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with you

*All* **and also with you.**

*All* **God of wonder and of joy:  
grace comes from you,  
and you alone are the source of life and love.  
Without you, we cannot please you;  
without your love,  
our deeds are worth nothing.  
Send your Holy Spirit,  
and pour into our hearts  
that most excellent gift of love,  
that we may worship you now  
with thankful hearts  
and serve you always with willing minds;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*A Hymn may be sung*

As I travel through the bad and good,  
keep me travelling the way I should.  
where I see no way to go  
you'll be telling me the way, I know:

*And it's from the old ...*

Give me courage when the world is rough,  
keep me loving though the world is tough;  
leap and sing in all I do,  
keep me travelling along with you:

*And it's from the old ...*

You are older than the world can be,  
you are younger than the life in me;  
ever old and ever new,  
keep me travelling along with you;

*And it's from the old I travel to the new;  
keep me travelling along with you.*

## 16

WE pledge to one another, before the Lord above,  
entire and whole and perfect, this union of our love;  
a love that will be patient, a love that will be wise,  
that will not twist with envy, nor lose itself in lies;  
a love that will not falter, a love to hold us fast,  
and bind us to each other as long as life shall last.

We pray that God will guide us through all the years to be,  
our lives be shaped by courage, hope and serenity.  
Through joy and celebration, through loneliness and pain,  
may loyalty, compassion and tenderness remain,  
that those who share the blessing of love that cannot cease,  
may walk the paths of gentleness into the place of peace.

14

MORNING has broken, like the first morning,  
blackbird has spoken, like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!  
Praise for them, springing, fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,  
like the first dewfall on the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,  
sprung in completeness where his feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning  
born of the one light Eden saw play!  
Praise with elation, praise every morning,  
God's re-creation of the new day!

15

ONE more step along the world I go,  
one more step along the world I go;  
from the old things to the new,  
Keep me travelling along with you:  
*And it's from the old I travel to the new;  
keep me travelling along with you.*

Round the corners of the world I turn,  
more and more about the world I learn;  
all the new things that I see  
you'll be looking at along with me:  
*And it's from the old ...*

**Preface**

*The Congregation sits as the bride and groom remain standing.  
The minister says:*

We have come together in the presence of God, to witness the marriage of *N* and *N*, to ask his blessing on them, and to share in their joy. Our Lord Jesus Christ was himself a guest at a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and through his Spirit he is with us now.

The Bible teaches us that marriage is a gift of God in creation and a means of his grace, a holy mystery in which man and woman become one flesh. It is God's purpose that, as husband and wife give themselves to each other in love throughout their lives, they shall be united in that love as Christ is united with his Church.

Marriage is given, that husband and wife may comfort and help each other, living faithfully together in need and in plenty, in sorrow and in joy. It is given, that with delight and tenderness they may know each other in love, and, through the joy of their bodily union, may strengthen the union of their hearts and lives. It is given as the foundation of family life in which children may be born and nurtured in accordance with God's will, to his praise and glory.

In marriage husband and wife belong to one another, and they begin a new life together in the community. It is a way of life that all should honour; and it must not be undertaken carelessly, lightly, or selfishly, but reverently, responsibly, and after serious thought.

This is the way of life, created and hallowed by God, that *N* and *N* are now to begin. They will each give their consent to the other; they will join hands and exchange solemn vows, and in token of this they will each 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 Declarations**

*The minister says to the congregation*

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

*The minister says to the couple*

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.

*The minister says to the bridegroom*

*N*, will you take *N* 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?

*He answers*

I will.

### *13*

MAKE me a channel of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.  
where there is injury, your pardon Lord,  
and where there's doubt, true faith in you.

O Master, grant that I may never seek  
so much to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved, as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;  
where there is darkness, only light;  
and where there's sadness, ever joy:

O Master, grant that I may never seek  
so much to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved, as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace.  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
in giving to all men that we receive,  
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

LOVE divine, all loves excelling,  
 joy of heaven, to earth come down,  
 fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
 all thy faithful mercies crown  
 Jesu, thou art all compassion,  
 pure unbounded love thou art;  
 visit us with thy salvation,  
 enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver,  
 let us all thy grace receive;  
 suddenly return, and never,  
 never more thy temple leave.  
 Thee we would be always blessing,  
 serve thee as thy hosts above;  
 pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,  
 glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation:  
 pure and spotless let us be;  
 let us see thy great salvation,  
 perfectly restored in thee;  
 changed from glory into glory,  
 till in heaven we take our place,  
 till we cast our crowns before thee,  
 lost in wonder, love, and praise.

*The minister says to the bride*

*N*, will you take *N* 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?

*She answers*

I will.

*The minister says to the congregation*

Will you, the families and friends of *N* and *N*,  
 support and uphold them in their marriage  
 now and in the years to come?

*All* **We will.**

### **The Collect**

*The minister invites the people to pray, silence is kept and the minister says the Collect*

God our Father,  
 from the beginning,  
 you have blessed creation with abundant life.  
 Pour out your blessings upon *N* and *N*,  
 that they may continue to live 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 for ever.

*All* **Amen.**

## ¶ *The Marriage*

### **The Vows**

*The minister introduces the vows*

*N* and *N*, I now invite you to join hands  
and make your vows,  
in the presence of God and his people.

*The bride and bridegroom face each other.*

*The bridegroom takes the bride's right hand in his, and says*

*I, N*, take you, *N*,  
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 I make this vow.

*They loose hands.*

## *10*

I VOW to thee, my country, all earthly things above,  
entire and whole and perfect, the service of my love:  
the love that asks no questions, the love that stands the test,  
that lays upon the altar the dearest and the best;  
the love that never falters, the love that pays the price,  
the love that makes undaunted the final sacrifice.

And there's another country, I've heard of long ago,  
most dear to them that love her, most great to them that know;  
we may not count her armies, we may not see her King;  
her fortress is a faithful heart, her pride is suffering;  
and soul by soul and silently her shining bounds increase,  
and her ways are ways of gentleness and all her paths are peace.

## *11*

LORD of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,  
whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy,  
be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,  
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,  
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,  
be there at our labours, and give us, we pray,  
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,  
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,  
be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,  
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,  
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,  
be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,  
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

I DANCED in the morning when the world was begun  
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,  
and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth;  
at Bethlehem I had my birth.

*Dance then, wherever you may be;  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,  
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,  
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.*

I danced for the scribe and the pharisee,  
but they would not dance and they wouldn't follow me;  
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;  
they came with me and the Dance went on:  
*Dance then, wherever you may be...*

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame:  
the holy people said it was a shame.  
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me high,  
and they left me there on a cross to die:  
*Dance then, wherever you may be...*

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;  
it's hard to dance with the devil on your back.  
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone;  
but I am the Dance and I still go on;  
*Dance then, wherever you may be...*

They cut me down and I leapt up high;  
I am the life that'll never, never die;  
I'll live in you if you'll live in me;  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he:  
*Dance then, wherever you may be...*

*The bride takes the bridegroom's right hand in hers, and says*  
I, *N*, take you, *N*,  
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 I make this vow.

*They loose hands.*

### **The Giving of Rings**

*The minister receives the rings, and says*  
Heavenly Father, by your blessing,  
let these rings be to *N* and *N*  
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.

*All* **Amen.**

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

*They loose hands and the bride places a ring on the fourth finger of the bridegroom's left hand and, holding it there, says*

*N*, 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**

*The minister addresses the people*

In the presence of God, and before this congregation,  
*N* and *N* 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*

Those whom God has joined together let no one put  
asunder.

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love:  
*Great is thy faithfulness...*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!  
*Great is thy faithfulness...*

8

GUIDE me, O thou great Redeemer,  
pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but thou art mighty;  
hold me with thy powerful hand:  
Bread of heaven,  
feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain  
whence the healing stream doth flow;  
let the fiery cloudy pillar  
lead me all my journey through:  
strong deliverer,  
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
bid my anxious fears subside;  
death of death, and hell's destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side:  
songs and praises  
I will ever give to thee.

GIVE me joy in my heart, keep me praising,  
 give me joy in my heart, I pray;  
 give me joy in my heart, keep me praising,  
 keep me praising till the end of day.  
*Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,  
 sing hosanna to the king of kings!  
 Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,  
 sing hosanna to the king!*

Give me peace in my heart, keep me loving,  
 give me peace in my heart, I pray,  
 give me peace in my heart, keep me loving,  
 keep me resting till the end of day.  
*Sing hosanna, sing hosanna...*

Give me love in my heart, keep me serving,  
 give me love in my heart, I pray,  
 give me love in my heart, keep me serving,  
 keep me serving till the end of day.  
*Sing hosanna, sing hosanna...*

GREAT is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,  
 there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
 thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;  
 as thou hast been thou for ever wilt be:  
*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
 Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
 all I have needed thy hand has provided,  
 great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.*

## The Blessing of the Marriage

*The husband and wife kneel. The Congregation remain seated and say:*

*All* **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 N and N in their 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 for ever. Amen.**

*The minister says to the couple*

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.**

*Reading & Sermon and Hymn may follow*

## The Prayers

*Prayers are said concluding with the Lord's Prayer*

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

*All*    **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 Dismissal

*The minister says*

God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love,  
defend you on every side, and guide you in truth and

peace;

and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

*All*    **Amen.**

*A hymn may be sung*

*Registration of the Marriage*

DEAR Lord and Father of mankind,  
forgive our foolish ways!  
re-clothe us in our rightful mind,  
in purer lives thy service find,  
in deeper reverence praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard,  
beside the Syrian sea,  
the gracious calling of the Lord,  
let us, like them, without a word  
rise up and follow thee.

O Sabbath rest by Galilee!  
O calm of hills above,  
where Jesus knelt to share with thee  
the silence of eternity,  
interpreted by love!

Drop thy still dews of quietness,  
till all our strivings cease;  
take from our souls the strain and stress,  
and let our ordered lives confess  
the beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire  
thy coolness and thy balm;  
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;  
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,  
O still small voice of calm!

COME to a wedding, come to a blessing,  
 come on a day when happiness sings!  
 Come rain or sun, come winter or summer,  
 celebrate love and all that it brings.

Thanks for the love, that holds us together,  
 parent and child, and lover and friend;  
 thanks to the God, whose love is our centre,  
 source of compassion, knowing no end.

Love is the gift, and love is the giver,  
 love is the gold that makes the day shine;  
 Love forgets self to care for the other,  
 love changes life from water to wine.

Come to this wedding, asking a blessing,  
 for all the years that living will prove;  
 health of the body, health of the spirit,  
 now to you both we offer our love.

## WEDDING HYMNS

### 1

*ALL things bright and beautiful,  
 all creatures great and small,  
 all things wise and wonderful,  
 the Lord God made them all.*

Each little flower that opens,  
 each little bird that sings,  
 he made their glowing colours,  
 he made their tiny wings:  
*All things bright and beautiful...*

The purple-headed mountain,  
 the river running by,  
 the sunset, and the morning,  
 that brightens up the sky.  
*All things bright and beautiful...*

The cold wind in the winter,  
 the pleasant summer sun,  
 the ripe fruits in the garden,  
 he made them every one.  
*All things bright and beautiful...*

He gave us eyes to see them,  
 and lips that we might tell  
 how great is God almighty,  
 who has made all things well.  
*All things bright and beautiful...*

## 2

AMAZING grace (how sweet the sound)  
 that saved a wretch like me;  
 I once was lost, but now am found,  
 was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
 and grace my fears relieved;  
 how precious did that grace appear,  
 the hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares  
 I have already come;  
 'tis grace that brought me safe thus far,  
 and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,  
 his word my hope secures;  
 he will my shield and portion be  
 as long as life endures.

Yes, when this heart and flesh shall fail,  
 and mortal life shall cease,  
 I shall possess within the veil  
 a life of joy and peace.

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,  
 the sun forbear to shine;  
 but God, who called me here below,  
 will be forever mine.

## 3

AND did those feet in ancient time  
 walk upon England's mountains green?  
 And was the holy Lamb of God  
 on England's pleasant pastures seen?  
 And did the countenance divine  
 shine forth upon our clouded hills?  
 And was Jerusalem builded here  
 among those dark satanic mills?

Bring me my bow of burning gold!  
 Bring me my arrows of desire!  
 Bring me my spear! O clouds, unfold!  
 Bring me my chariot of fire!  
 I will not cease from mental fight,  
 nor shall my sword sleep in my hand,  
 till we have built Jerusalem  
 in England's green and pleasant land.