



Love is not love which alters when it alteration finds,
or bends with the remover to remove.
O, no! It is an ever-fixed mark,
that looks on tempests and is never shaken.
It is the star to every wandering bark,
whose worth's unknown, although his height be taken.
William Shakespeare

Call to Worship

God is love and those who live in love live in God
and God lives in them
This is the day that the Lord has made
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Hymn 'Praise my soul, the king of heaven'

Greeting

The Lord be with you
and also with you

Introduction

Marriage is gift of God.
and a means of grace
In the life-long union of marriage
We can know the joy of God
In whose image we are made, male and female.

Marriage is founded in God's loving nature
and in the covenant of love made with us in Christ
Husband and wife, in giving themselves to each other in love
reflect the love of Christ for his Church.

In Christian marriage
wife and husband are called to live together faithfully
and to love each other with respect, tenderness and delight.
The companionship and comfort of marriage
enables the full expression
of physical love between husband and wife.

Marriage is given that children may be born
and brought up in security and love,
that home and family life may be strengthened,
as they hand on the values of human dignity
that help to shape our society.

Marriage is a way of life which all people should honour;
it is not to be entered into lightly or selfishly,
but responsibly and in the love of God.

We are here today
to give thanks for the love and friendship
we have found in our partners
to reaffirm our commitment to those we love
and to whom we are committed in marriage
and to pray for renewal in our life together
as couples and families.

Prayers of Adoration and Confession

Gracious God
Your generous love surrounds us
And every good gift comes from you.
We thank you for those who gave us life,
and have loved and guided us.
We are grateful for friends and relatives
whose care and love have helped us
and whose patience and concern
are a source of strength and hope.
We thank you for the love we share with our partners in life.

There have been times, O God,
When we have spoken words in haste
when doors have been slammed in anger
and feelings hurt.
We regret the hurt we have caused,
the trust we have undermined
the times when we have broken our commitments
and seek your forgiveness
for failing to love as you love us.

As we admit our failures and seek in each other
the solace of forgiveness,
help us to hear your word of grace

God is love and those who live in love live in God.
Your sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God

The Early Word

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us
And we have seen his glory

Ruth 1: 16- 18

Song of Solomon 2:8-13



The voice of my beloved! Look he comes,
Leaping upon the mountains
bounding over the hills.

Response

My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag
Look, there he stands behind our wall,
Gazing in at the windows, looking through the lattice.

Response

My beloved speaks and says to me:
'Arise my love, my fair one, and come away;
for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone.

Response

The flowers appear on the earth;
The time of singing has come,
And the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.

Response

The fig tree puts forth its figs,
And the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance.
Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.

Response

Colossians 3:12-17

Hymn At Cana's wedding, long ago'

Tune: Sussex Carol

At Cana's wedding, long ago,
they knew his presence by this sign,
a virtue none but Christ could show,
to turn their water into wine:
and still on us his blessing be
as in the days of Galilee.

What if the way be far to go
and life at times a weary load?
Yet may our hearts within us glow
as theirs on that Emmaus road:
the risen Christ become our guest,
with him to walk, in him to rest.

O Lord of all our life below,
O risen Lord of realms above,
eternal joy be theirs to know,
united in the bond of love:
one in the faith, with one accord,
one with each other and the Lord.

Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (b.1926)

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John 2:1-11

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us
And we have seen his glory

Choir

Sermon

Offering

Hymn God, in the planning and purpose of life

Tune: Slane

God, in the planning and purpose of life,
hallowed the union of husband and wife:
this we embody where love is displayed,
rings are presented and promises made.

Jesus was found, at a similar feast,
taking the roles of both waiter and priest,
turning the worldly towards the divine,
tears into laughter and water to wine.

Therefore we pray that his spirit preside
over the wedding of bridegroom and bride,
fulfilling all that they've hoped will come true,
lighting with love all they dream of and do.

Praise then the Maker, the Spirit, the Son,
source of the love through which two are made one.
God's is the glory, the goodness and grace
seen in this marriage and known in this place.

Words: John L Bell (b.1949) and Graham Maule (b.1958)

Reflections on Marriage – *two couples*

Thanksgiving and Reaffirmation of Marriage

Gracious God

***We thank you for the gift of marriage;
for the lives we have shared
and continue to share.***

***We reaffirm our commitments
declaring that whatever the future holds
we will continue to love and cherish one another
As long as we both shall live***

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

*Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.*

Hymn 'When love is found and hope comes home'

1. When love is found and hope comes home,
sing and be glad that two are one.
When love explodes and fills the sky,
praise God and share our Maker's joy,
2. When love has flower'd in trust and care,
build both each day, that love may dare
to reach beyond home's warmth and light,
to serve and strive for truth and right.
3. When love is tried as loved-ones change,
hold still to hope, though all seems strange,
till ease returns, and love grows wise
through listening ears and opened eyes.
4. When love is torn, and trust betrayed,
pray strength to love till torments fade,

till lovers keep no score of wrong,
but hear through pain love's Easter song.

5. Praise God for love, praise God for life,
in age or youth, in calm or strife.
Lift up your hearts! Let love be fed
through death and life in broken bread.

Brian Arthur Wren, 1936–

Benediction

Dismissal

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

What greater thing is there for two human souls
than to feel that they are joined for life,
to strengthen each other in all labour,
to rest on each other in sorrow,
to minister to each other in all pain,
to be with each other in silent unspeakable memories
at the moment of the last parting?

George Eliot