

Service of Christian Marriage



for the

Bride
and
Groom

date

Midway United Methodist Church
1930 Midway Road
Douglasville, Georgia 30135

The Entrance

The Gathering

The entrance of the families

The mothers of Bride and Groom light the Unity Candles

Musical Solo

The Pastor, Groom and his party enter the Sanctuary and take their place at the Altar

The Bride and her party enter the Sanctuary

The Greeting

The Pastor instructs the congregation to turn to page 864 in the “United Methodist Hymnal” and begins the service by speaking to the Bride and Groom.

Friends, we are gathered together in the sight of God to witness and bless the joining together of Bride and Groom in Christian marriage. The covenant of marriage was established by God, who created us male and female for each other. With his presence and power Jesus graced a wedding at Cana of Galilee, and in his sacrificial love gave us the example for the love of husband and wife.

Bride and Groom come to give themselves to one another in this holy covenant.

The Declaration of Intention

Declaration by the Man and the Woman

Bride and Groom:

Minister I ask you now, in the presence of God and these people, to declare your intention to enter into union with one another through the grace of Jesus Christ who calls you into union with himself as acknowledged in your baptism.

(The Minister addresses Bride)

Bride, will you have Groom to be your husband, to live together in holy marriage? Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others, be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?

(Bride shall answer) I will.

(The Minister addresses Groom)

Groom, will you have Bride to be your wife, to live together in holy marriage? Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others, be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

(Groom shall answer) I will.

(The Minister addresses Bride's Father)

Who gives this woman to be married to this man?

(Bride's Father shall respond) Her mother and I

Response of the Families and People

(The Minister addresses the Congregation)

The marriage of Bride and Groom unites their families and creates a new one. They ask for your blessing.

(The Minister leads the response on behalf of Bride and Groom's families.)

We rejoice in your union and pray God's blessing upon your.

(The Minister speaks to the Congregation)

Will all of you, by God's grace, do everything in your power to uphold and care for these two persons in their marriage?

(The Congregation responds) We will.

Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us Pray.

God of all peoples, you are the true light illumining everyone. You show us the way, the truth, and the life. You love us even when we are disobedient. You sustain us with your Holy Spirit. We rejoice in your life in the midst of our lives. We praise you for your presence with us, and especially in this act of solemn covenant; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(People) Amen.

The Proclamation and Response

The Marriage

Exchange of Vows

(Bride, Groom and Minister move to the kneeling altar.)

(The Minister asks Groom to repeat the vow to Bride.)

In the name of God, I take you, Bride, 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, until we are parted by death.

This is my solemn vow.

(The Minister asks Bride to repeat the vow to Groom.)

In the name of God, I take you, Groom, 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, until we are parted by death.

This is my solemn vow.

Blessing and Exchange of Rings

(The Minister addresses the Congregation)

These rings are the outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace, signifying to us the union between Jesus Christ and his church.

(The Minister blesses the giving of the rings through prayer.)

Bless, O Lord, the giving of these rings that they who wear them may live in your peace and continue in your favor all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(The Minister addresses the Groom requiring him to place the wedding ring on the Bride's finger and make the following vow:)

Groom, please repeat after me.

Bride, I give you this ring as a sign of my vow, and with all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you; in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Blessing and Exchange of Rings

(The Minister addresses the Bride requiring her to place the wedding ring on the Groom's finger and make the following vow:)

Bride, please repeat after me.

Groom, I give you this ring as a sign of my vow, and with all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you; in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

The Declaration of Marriage

(Bride and Groom join hands and the Minister will place his hands on their joined hands.)

The Minister:

Bride and Groom,

You have declared your consent and vows before God and this congregation. May God confirm your covenant and fill you both with grace.

(The Minister addresses the Congregation)

Now that Bride and Groom have given themselves to each other by solemn vows, the giving and receiving of rings, and with the joining of hands, I announce to you 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 put asunder. Amen.

The Lighting of the Unity Candle by Bride and Groom
Musical Solo

Blessing of the Marriage

(Bride and Groom kneel as the Minister prays)

O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of Christian marriage that in it is represented the covenant between Christ and his church. Send therefore your blessing upon Bride and Groom, that they may surely keep their marriage covenant, and so grow in love and godliness together that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(The Minister shares the Holy Sacrament of Communion with Bride and Groom.)

Sending Forth

Dismissal with Blessing

(The Minister addresses Bride and Groom)

A brief homily from the Minister

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“Love is Patient and kind; love is not jealous nor boastful; it is not arrogant nor rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not enviable nor resentful; it does not rejoice in the wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Bride and Groom you hold closely to God and to each other and God’s blessings will be upon you and your home will be established in peace.

And now may God the Eternal keep you in love with each other, so that the peace of Christ may abide in your home. Go to serve God and your neighbor in all that you do.

(The Minister addresses the Congregation)

Bear witness to the love of God in this world, so that those to whom love is a stranger will find in you generous friends. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

Bride is instructed to kiss her husband.

Introduction of Bride and Groom

The Minister addresses the Congregation by saying: Ladies and Gentlemen, I am pleased to introduce to you, Mr. and Mrs. Groom.

Going Forth

Mr. and Mrs. Groom leave the Sanctuary, followed by the wedding party, mothers and other wedding guests.

The Minister dismisses the Congregation.