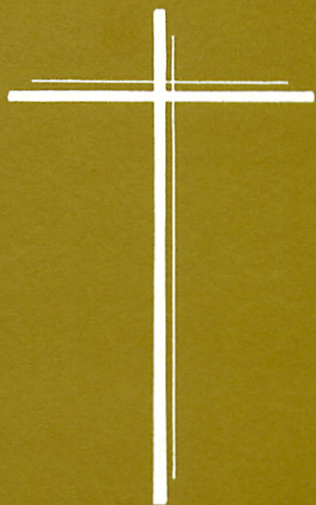


MARRIAGE SERVICES



MARRIAGE SERVICES

from

A New Zealand Prayer Book

He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa

The Church of the Province of New Zealand

Te Haahi o te Porowini o Niu Tirenī

COLLINS

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The congregation is invited to read this before the service begins.

A wedding is one of life's great moments, a time for good wishes, feasting and joy. St John tells us how Jesus shared in such an occasion, and gave there a sign of new beginnings.

Marriage is intended by God to be a creative relationship – God's blessing enables husband and wife to love and support each other in good times and bad. 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, made and celebrated in the presence of God and before a priest and congregation.

The couple has prepared the service of their choice, assisted by the priest. On this their wedding day they face each other, make their promises with clear understanding, and receive the Church's blessing.

*You, the congregation, are witnesses of the marriage, and express your support by your presence and your prayers. Your part is written in **bold type**.*

'Love is patient and kind. Love never comes to an end.'

*The marriage may be set within any of the **Liturgies of the Eucharist**. Guidance for this may be found among the **Additional Directions** on page 807.*

Marriage Liturgy

First Form

Welcome and Introduction

The priest may greet the people.

The priest says to the congregation

We have come together in the presence of God to witness and celebrate the marriage of *N* and *N*, and to pray God's blessing upon them now and in the years ahead.

Marriage is a gift of God our Creator, whose intention is that husband and wife should be united in heart, body and mind. In their union they fulfil their love for each other.

Marriage is given to provide the stability necessary for family life, so that children may be cared for lovingly and grow to full maturity.

Marriage is a way of life to be upheld and honoured. No one should enter into it lightly. It involves a serious and life-long commitment to each other's good in a union of strength, sympathy and delight.

The priest says to the couple

N and *N*, we rejoice with you;
we are glad to join with you
in the celebration of your marriage,
to witness your vows,
to pray with you
and to wish you joy in your life together.

The priest prays

God our Creator,
be with us now
as we celebrate the marriage of *N* and *N*.

Give them your blessing.
Grant them happiness and long life together
and help us to support them with our love.
Amen.

The Ministry of the Word

*A suitable reading (or readings) follows either here or before **The Marriage**,
or before **The Prayers**.*

After the reading a minister may speak to the people.

The Declarations

The priest asks the bridegroom

N, of your own free choice will you take N to be your wife?

The bridegroom answers I will.

Will you love her, comfort her, honour and keep her,
in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others
be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

The bridegroom answers I will.

The priest asks the bride

N, of your own free choice will you take N to be your husband?

The bride answers I will.

Will you love him, comfort him, honour and keep him,
in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others
be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?

The bride answers I will.

The priest may ask the parents

As *N* and *N* enter a new life together, will you, their parents, give them your blessing?

The parents say to the couple

May God bless you both.

The priest may ask the whole congregation

You, as friends and family,
have come to witness this exchange of vows.
Will you do all in your power to support this marriage now
and in the years ahead?

The people reply **We will.**

The priest prays

Eternal God, creator and sustainer of us all, give your grace to *N* and *N*. Grant that in the years ahead they may be faithful to the vows they make this day, and that in the strength of the Holy Spirit they may grow together in the love, joy and peace of our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

The Ministry of the Word may follow here.

The Marriage

The bride and bridegroom face each other.

The bridegroom takes the bride's hand(s) 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
until we are parted by death.
This is my solemn vow.

They loose hands.

The bride takes the bridegroom's hand(s) 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
until we are parted by death.
This is my solemn vow.

They loose hands.

The priest receives the ring(s) and may say

Most holy God, bless these rings (*this ring*).
Grant that they who wear them
(*he who gives it and she who wears it*)
may be faithful to each other and continue
bound together in love to their lives' end,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

The giver places the ring on the other's finger, holds it there and says

N, I give you this ring
as a symbol of our marriage.
With my body I honour you,
and all I have I share with you.

If only one ring is used, before they loose hands, the bride may say

N, I receive this ring
as a symbol of our marriage.
With my body I honour you,
and all I have I share with you.

The priest joins the couple's right hands and declares

N and N have given themselves to each other with solemn vows
and have declared their marriage
by joining hands
and the giving and receiving of rings (*of a ring*);
they are now husband and wife.

Let no one come between those whom God has joined together.

The priest says

The power of God keep you,
the love of God be in your life and work together,
the grace of God strengthen your love that it may endure
forever.

Amen.

The register may be signed here in the presence of the congregation.

The Ministry of the Word may follow here.

The Prayers

*The service continues on page 796 with **The Prayers** and concludes with **The Blessing** on page 804.*

*When the marriage is part of a **Liturgy of the Eucharist**, directions are to be found on page 807.*

Marriage Liturgy

Second Form

The priest may greet the people

Welcome to you all.

Introduction and Declarations

The priest then says to the people

We have come together
to ask God's blessing on *N* and *N*,
to witness their marriage
and to bring them our love and support.

I ask you now to pray for them;
and not just to pray today
or only in this place
but to pray in your hearts continually
and over the years.

It is praying, their praying and ours,
which will fulfil God's purposes for *N* and *N*.
Praying is an outlook, a sustained energy,
which creates a marriage
and makes love and forgiveness life-long.

Eternal love never fails;
our love needs to forgive and be forgiven.
As we pray and forgive we minister reconciliation.
Those who marry
are God's ministers to each other
of reconciliation and change.
As they grow together,
wife and husband foster one another's strengths,
they provide each other with the reassurance and love
needed to overcome their weaknesses.

From this beginning
God draws them now to a completely new life.
They become awake to each other,
aware of each other,
sensitive to each other's needs.

The priest says to the couple

N and N, you are welcome.
Pray that God will uphold and cheer your life together,
that your promises be honoured,
your words true,
now and in time to come.

For our part we ask you to make your public declaration.

The bridegroom says

I love N,
and I want to marry her.

The bride says

I love N,
and I want to marry him.

The priest may say to the parents

N N, will you accept and support this marriage?

The parents respond

We will. May God bless you both.

The priest may say to any children of the bride or groom

N, will you help N and N in their marriage?

Children Yes, I will.

The priest may say

May God's grace surround you
and keep you all,
and so we pray

**The peace of God
which is beyond our understanding
keep guard over your thoughts and hearts.**

God keep you friends with one another,
forgiving one another in kindness.

**May you follow Jesus in happiness or suffering.
May hope keep you joyful.
Stand firm in trouble.
Be strong in prayer.**

May God make you compassionate and brave.

**Above all,
may there always be love
to bind and keep you whole.**

The Ministry of the Word

*A suitable reading (or readings) follows here or before **The Prayers.***

After the reading a minister may speak to the people.

The Marriage

The priest may pray

Jesus,
do for N and N
as you did in Cana of Galilee.
Take the old water, their busy individual lives,
and turn them into gospel wine.

The bride and bridegroom face each other and join hands.

The bridegroom says

N, I take you to be my wife.
All that I have I offer you;
what you have to give I gladly receive;
wherever you go I will go.
You are my love.
God keep me true to you always
and you to me.

The bride says

N, I take you to be my husband.
All that I have I offer you;
what you have to give I gladly receive;
wherever you go I will go.
You are my love.
God keep me true to you always
and you to me.

The priest receives the ring(s) and prays

Christ our light,
encircle *these rings* with your blessing,
(a) *ring(s)* to show the love of N and N.
Bind them together
and keep them in your love eternally.

The giver places the ring on the other's finger and says

N, this ring I give to you,
with my body I honour you.
God make me your true *husband/wife*
in the spirit of Jesus Christ.

The priest joins their right hands together and says

God so join you together that nothing shall ever part you.

Blessed are you, heavenly Father,
you give joy to bridegroom and bride.

Blessed are you, Jesus our Redeemer,
you have brought new life to us all.

Blessed are you, Holy Spirit of God,
you bring us together in love.

Blessed are you Creator, Saviour and Giver of life,
one God to be praised for ever. Amen.

The priest continues

N and N
may Christ's love purify your love for each other,
Christ's humanity keep you sensitive and practical.

May the Light of the world illuminate your way ahead,
the Bread of heaven nourish you,
the true Vine enliven you.

May Christ be the beginning
of a new, fulfilled and blessed life,
and Christ the end.

The register may be signed here in the presence of the congregation.

The Ministry of the Word may follow here.

The Prayers

*The service continues on page 796 with **The Prayers** and concludes with **The Blessing** on page 804.*

*When the marriage is part of a **Liturgy of the Eucharist**, directions are to be found on page 807.*

Marriage Liturgy

Third Form

In this service the couple, in consultation with the priest, make a choice for each section from the options provided in the two columns.

Introduction

The priest may greet the people.

The priest says to the congregation

We have gathered to celebrate the marriage of *N* and *N*. Marriage is the promise of hope between a man and a woman who love each other, who trust that love, and who wish to share the future together.

It enables two separate people to share their desires, longings, dreams and memories, and to help each other through their uncertainties. It provides the encouragement to risk more and thus to gain more. In marriage, husband and wife belong together, providing mutual support and a stability in which their children may grow.

Here in the presence of God we recognise and affirm their relationship as they begin their married life in the community.

We have come together to witness the promises of *N* and *N* in marriage; to share with them in their happiness and in their hopes for the future.

Marriage involves caring and giving. It involves learning to share one's life with another person, forgiving as Christ forgives; enjoying the love and meaning which can be found together. It involves facing together whatever adversity may arise.

Here before God, *N* and *N* wish to pledge their love for each other and their desire to spend their lives together.

Welcome

The priest says to the couple

N and N , we welcome you.
We are glad to join with you
in the celebration of your marriage,
to witness your vows, to pray with you,
and to wish you joy in your life together.

The priest says

Father, touch us with an awareness of your presence in all the world around us. Awaken in us a sense of wonder that you have created us in love. As we celebrate the marriage of N and N, deepen our love for those close to us, and for those who, although strangers, need our concern. Help N and N as they commit themselves to each other, and grant us all a heightened sense of joy in life, because we share this moment with them.
Amen.

The priest and people say together

**God of love,
we thank you
for the gift of marriage
and for the joys it brings.
Bless us as we share
in this wedding.
We thank you for the love
which has brought N and N
to each other
and for their desire
to share that love
for the rest of their lives.
Amen.**

The Ministry of the Word

*A suitable reading (or readings) follows either here or before **The Marriage** or before **The Prayers**.*

After the reading a minister may speak to the people.

The Declarations

The priest asks the bridegroom

N, do you love and trust *N* and want to be her husband ?

The bridegroom answers

Yes, I do.

The priest asks the bridegroom

Will you stand by her no matter what happens, respecting her as a person, understanding her needs and enjoying her love until death parts you?

The bridegroom answers

Yes, I will.

The priest asks the bride

N, do you love and trust *N* and want to be his wife?

The bride answers

Yes, I do.

The priest asks the bride

N, will you take *N* to be your husband? Will you share his joys and ease his burdens? Will you be honest with him, and be faithful to him always, as long as you both live?

The bride answers

I will, with the help of God.

The priest asks the bridegroom

N, will you take *N* to be your wife? Will you share her joys and ease her burdens? Will you be honest with her, and be faithful to her always, as long as you both live?

The bridegroom answers

I will, with the help of God.

The priest asks the bride

Will you stand by him no
matter what happens,
respecting him as a person,
understanding his needs and
enjoying his love until death
parts you?

The bride answers

Yes, I will.

Affirmation

The priest may ask the parents

In your new relationship with N
and N, do you, as their parents,
pledge your loving support?

Are you willing to strengthen
this marriage by upholding
both N and N with your love
and concern?

The parents reply

We do.

The parents reply

We are.

They may say to the couple

May you find a rich and full life
together.

May you find a rich and full life
together.

The priest may ask the whole congregation

Will you, their friends and family, do all in your power to support
this couple now, and in the years ahead?

The people reply

We will.

The Ministry of the Word may follow here.

The Marriage

The bride and bridegroom face each other.

The Vows

The bridegroom takes the bride's hand(s) in his and says

N, I take you to be my wife, to be with you whatever happens to us. In prosperity and in hardship, in health and in sickness, in sorrow and in joy, I will love, protect and serve you as long as we live. This I vow before God.	N, today I take you to be my wife. Whatever life may bring, I will love and care for you always.
---	--

They loose hands.

The bride takes the bridegroom's hand(s) in hers and says

N, I take you to be my husband, to be with you whatever happens to us. In prosperity and in hardship, in health and in sickness, in sorrow and in joy, I will love, protect and serve you as long as we live. This I vow before God.	N, today I take you to be my husband. Whatever life may bring I will love and care for you always.
--	--

They loose hands. .

The Ring

The priest receives the ring or rings, and may say

Eternal God, bless <i>these rings</i> as <i>symbols</i> of the love and trust between N and N.	Let <i>these rings</i> say to all that your commitment is deep and life-long.
--	---

The giver places the ring on the other's finger, holds it there and says

This ring is a token
of my faithfulness and love,
and a symbol
that all I have I share with you.

Let this ring symbolise
our one life together.

If only one ring is used, before they loose hands the bride may say

I accept this ring as a symbol
of our one life together.

I accept this ring as a symbol
of our one life together.

The Pronouncement

The priest says to the couple

N and N, you have declared the
love you have for each other
and your hopes for the future.
You have made promises to
each other, and have
symbolised them by joining
hands and giving (a) ring(s).
You are now husband and wife.

The priest says to the congregation

We have witnessed the
promises made by N and N, and
now recognise them as husband
and wife.

God's Guidance

The priest says to the couple

May God give you
light to guide you
and love to unite you,
so that you may be faithful
to the vows
you have made this day,
and live together
in joy and peace
till your lives end.
Amen.

N and N,
you have committed yourselves
to one another in love,
joy and tenderness.
Become one.
Fulfil your promises.
And may God's grace
be with you for ever.
Amen.

The register may be signed here in the presence of the congregation.

The Ministry of the Word may follow here.

The Prayers

*The service continues as below with **The Prayers** and concludes with **The Blessing** on page 804.*

*When the marriage is part of a **Liturgy of the Eucharist**, directions are to be found on page 807.*

The Prayers

The priest may say to the couple

N and N, we welcome you now as husband and wife.
Pray, and we will pray with you.
May God enrich the life you have chosen,
and fulfil your hopes.

Unless it has already been used in the second form of the marriage liturgy the priest and congregation may say the following.

Blessed are you, heavenly Father,
you give joy to bridegroom and bride.

Blessed are you, Jesus our Redeemer,
you have brought new life to us all.

Blessed are you, Holy Spirit of God,
you bring us together in love.

Blessed are you Creator, Saviour and Giver of life,
one God to be praised for ever. Amen.

The priest says

As Christ teaches us, we pray

**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 for ever. Amen.**

Kua akona nei tatou e to tatou Ariki,
ka inoi tatou

**E to matou Matua i te rangi
Kia tapu tou Ingoa.
Kia tae mai tou rangatiratanga.
Kia meatia tau e pai ai
ki runga ki te whenua,
kia rite ano ki to te rangi.**

**Homai ki a matou aiane
he taro ma matou mo tenei ra.**

**Murua o matou hara,
Me matou hoki e muru nei
i o te hunga e hara ana ki a matou.
Aua hoki matou e kawea kia whakawaia;
Engari whakaorangia matou i te kino:
Nou hoki te rangatiratanga, te kaha,
me te kororia,
Ake ake ake. Amine.**

One of the following **Forms of Prayer** is used.

1

Some or all of the following petitions may be used.

The minister and people pray responsively.

Gracious God we pray for N and N and give thanks that you have brought them together in marriage.

Spirit of God bless this marriage.

We thank you for the love and care which, through their parents, has guided N and N to maturity, and prepared them for this commitment.

Spirit of God bless this marriage.

Help them (*to be wise and loving parents and*) to grow together in faithfulness and honesty, in mutual support and patience.

Spirit of God bless this marriage.

Make their life together a sign of your love in this broken world; may forgiveness heal injury and joy triumph over sorrow.

Spirit of God bless this marriage.

Be with them in their work and renew them in their leisure.

Spirit of God bless this marriage.

May they welcome into their home both friends and strangers and so reflect Christ's love for all people.

Spirit of God bless this marriage.

In all their future together may they enjoy each other's lives and grow through the love they share.

Amen.

Other prayers may be offered.

*Then follows **The Marriage Blessing** and **The Dismissal** as on pages 804-805.*

All or part of the following prayer may be used.

There may be silence between sections.

Eternal God, creator of us all,
we praise you for all the ways
in which your love comes into our lives,
and for all the joys
that can come to men and women through marriage.

Today we especially pray for *N* and *N*
as they begin their married life.
With them we thank you for the love and care of their parents,
which has guided them to maturity
and prepared them for this commitment.

Give them strength
to keep the vows they have made,
to be loyal and faithful to each other,
and to support each other throughout their life,
that they may bear each other's burdens
and share each other's joys.
Help them to be honest and patient with each other,
(*to be wise and loving parents*)
and to welcome both friends and strangers into their home.

In all their future together
may they enjoy each other
and grow through the love they share,
until, at the end of this life,
you receive us all into your eternal kingdom,
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer.
Amen.

Other prayers may be offered.

*Then follows **The Marriage Blessing** and **The Dismissal** as on
pages 804-805.*

Holy creator Spirit,
 you made us and you change us.
 Let your loving wisdom work with *N* and *N*,
 deepening and developing their desire,
 moulding and freeing their generosity.
 May they achieve stability
 and sweetness in their daily lives until their lives shall end.
 May they train, support and inspire the children
 with whom you entrust them
 to enjoy your blessing and to serve your world.

Holy Spirit of God,
you know our strength
and for our frailty you have compassion.
Be with *N* and *N*
in all they undertake.
And grant that we their friends,
with all who become their friends,
may sense and understand their needs
and help as opportunity demands.

Other prayers may be offered.

*Then follows **The Marriage Blessing** and **The Dismissal** as on
 pages 804-805.*

Loving Spirit,
 grant to N and N,
 that in giving and forgiving
 they may receive from each other lasting joy.
Bind them together with cords that cannot be broken.
Bind them together with love.

Grant that they may always take delight in each other,
 and each remain the other's heart's desire.
Bind them together with cords that cannot be broken.
Bind them together with love.

May they reach such trust and confidence in each other
 as shall keep them from unnecessary distress.
 May they find courage to meet
 the heartaches, disappointments and agonies life can bring.
Be their rock, their fortress,
for they put their trust in you.

Help them to look beyond their own family
 and their own concerns
 to see the world, suffering and struggling,
 the world you have given us to share with one another.
Open their eyes and their hearts.

Give them grace to accept that they are mortal,
 to face the possibility of death
 and the separation it must bring.
Jesus, you are resurrection, you are life.

Other prayers may be offered.

*Then follows **The Marriage Blessing** and **The Dismissal** as on
 pages 804-805.*

Additional Prayers

Creating and redeeming God,
it is your love which in marriage makes two persons fully one.
As *N* and *N* love each other, may they also grow in love for you.
Walking together with Christ as their companion on the way,
may they come to those inexpressible joys
which you have prepared for all who love you.
Amen.

God of peace,
your love is generous,
and reaches out to hold us all in your embrace.
Fill our hearts with tenderness
for those to whom we are linked today.
Give us sympathy with each other's trials;
give us patience with each other's faults;
that we may grow in the likeness of Jesus
and share in the joy of your kingdom.
Amen.

Father of all,
we thank you for this new family,
and for everything these parents
and their children have to share;
by your Spirit of peace draw them together
and help them be true friends to one another.
Let your love surround them and your care protect them,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Dear God,
you are merciful and forgiving.
Grant that *N* and *N*,
their family and all who care for them,
may accept your generous love.
Heal their memories, comfort them,
and send them all from here
renewed and hopeful.
Amen.

Creator Spirit,
we thank you for your gift of sexual love,
by which husband and wife
may express their delight in each other,
find refreshment,
and share with you the joy of creating new life.
By your grace may *N* and *N* remain lovers,
rejoicing in your goodness.
Amen.

God, the source of love,
we pray now for all who are committed to each other in love.
Through their love may they know your love
and so be renewed for your service in the world.
Amen.

God, the author of love,
we pray for all who are married.
Through their love for each other
may they know the reality of your love
for the whole world;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

This prayer may be said by the couple.

God of tenderness and strength,
you have brought our paths together
and led us to this day;
go with us now as we travel through good times,
through trouble, or through change.
Bless our home, our partings and our meetings.
Make us worthy of each other's best,
and tender with each other's dreams,
trusting in your love in Jesus Christ.
Amen.

The Blessing

The Marriage Blessing

The priest shall pronounce the marriage blessing, using one of the following.

All praise and glory to you most gracious God,
for in the beginning you created us men and women.
Grant your blessing then, we pray, to *N* and *N*,
so that in marriage they may be a source of blessing
to each other and to all,
and live together in holy love until their lives' end.
Amen.

Or

Ma te Atua Matua, ma te Atua Tama, ma te Atua Wairua Tapu,
korua e manaaki, e tiaki;
ma te Ariki tohu e titiro atawhai ki a korua,
e whakakii o korua ngakau
ki nga mea pai katoa o te wairua;
kia pai ai to korua noho tahi i tenei ao,
kia whiwhi ai hoki korua ki te ora tonu i tera ao atu.
Amine.

Or

All praise and blessing to you, God of love,
creator of the universe, maker of man and woman in your
likeness,
source of blessing for married life.
All praise to you for you have created courtship and marriage,
joy and gladness, feasting and laughter, pleasure and delight.
May your blessing come in full upon *N* and *N*.
May they know your presence in their joys and in their sorrows.
May they reach old age in the company of friends
and come at last to your eternal kingdom.
Amen.

Or

Ma te Atua Kaha rawa,
nana nei o tatou tupuna,
i hanga i te timatanga i whakatapu,
i hono hoki i runga i te marena;
Mana e riringi ki runga ki a korua tona kaha nui,
mana korua e whakatapu, e manaaki,
kia paingia ai e ia o korua tinana, o korua wairua,
kia noho tahi tonu ai korua i runga i te aroha hara-kore,
a mate noa.
Amine.

The Dismissal

The priest says to the couple

N and N, go now in peace and love.

and to the whole congregation

And the blessing of God,
Creator, Saviour and Giver of life,
be with you all, now and for ever.
Amen.

Or

And the blessing of God almighty,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be with you and remain with you for ever.
Amen.

The register may be signed here.

The priest may say to the congregation

Go now to love and serve the Lord. Go in peace.
Amen. We go in the name of Christ.

Additional Directions

Some Suggested Readings

Genesis 1:26-29a, 31a	Man and woman in God's image
Ruth 1:16-18	Faithfulness
Psalms 23	Our shepherd
Psalms 67	The Lord's goodness
Psalms 121	The Lord's blessing
Psalms 128	The gift of a family
Song of Songs 2:8-14	The lovers
Matthew 7:21, 24-27	Hearing and doing
Mark 10:6-9	The two are one
John 2:1-11	Jesus at a wedding
John 15:9-12	Dwelling in Christ's love
Romans 12:9-21	Love in practice
1 Corinthians 12:31 - 13:13	The greatest gift
<i>or selected verses</i>	
Ephesians 3:14-21	Grounded in love
Ephesians 5:21-31	Husband and wife in Christian marriage
Colossians 3:12-17	The love and peace of Christ
1 John 4:7-16	God's love and ours
Revelation 19:6-9	The Lamb's marriage supper

Some Suggested Hymns and Songs

A new commandment
Arahina, e Ihowa
Be thou my vision
Bind us together
Brother, sister, let me serve you
E te Atua, kua ruia nei
Father, hear the prayer we offer
Gracious Spirit, Holy Ghost
Jesus, Lord, we pray

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy
 Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
 Lord Jesus Christ, invited guest
 Lord of love, we ask thy blessing
 Love divine, all loves excelling
 Ma te marie a te Atua
 Make me a channel of your peace
 May the grace of Christ our Saviour
 Nga wahi ra e mine ai
 Now thank we all our God
 O Holy Spirit, Lord of grace
 O perfect love, all human thought transcending
 Praise and thanksgiving, Father, we offer
 Praise, my soul, the king of heaven
 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
 Tama ngakau marie
 The Lord's my shepherd

Marriage and the Eucharist

The Marriage Liturgy may be combined with a Eucharist, in either of the following orders:

- a) ***The Marriage Liturgy***, omitting the final general blessing and dismissal.
*This is followed by the Eucharist, beginning at **The Peace** and ending with **The Marriage Blessing** and **The Dismissal**.*
- b) ***The Preparation*** section and ***The Readings*** from the Eucharist with sentences, prayers and readings appropriate to a marriage.
*This is followed by **The Marriage**, without Readings.
 This is followed by the Eucharist, beginning at **The Peace** and ending with **The Marriage Blessing** and **The Dismissal**.*

*In both orders, one of the **Marriage Blessings** on pages 804-805 is used, and may come before the **Prayer after Communion**, or replace it.*

The couple may exchange a greeting of peace with each other, with their parents, and with other members of the congregation.

The couple remain before the Lord's Table and receive Holy Communion before any other members of the congregation do so.

*In each of the Eucharistic Liturgies an addition to **The Great Thanksgiving** appropriate for marriage is provided on pages 435, 475 and 493.*

General

A priest or bishop presides at the celebration of a marriage.

The selection of the service, and the various alternatives within any service, should be made by the couple in consultation with the priest.

In the Third form of the Marriage Liturgy, selections are made for each section of the service from either column.

Family or friends of the bride and bridegroom may read, speak to the people, or conduct the prayers.

Non-scriptural lessons approved by the priest may be read provided there is at least one New Testament reading.

Hymns, psalms, anthems, or instrumental music may be used at appropriate points in the service. The following are noted as possible places:

*at the entry of the bride, or of the bride and groom,
in association with **The Ministry of the Word**,
before **The Prayers**,
as the wedding party leaves the church.*

The bride and bridegroom may learn the vows by heart, or they may repeat them phrase by phrase after the priest, or they may read them from cards held by attendants.

*When the marriage register is signed in the presence of the congregation, it is signed either after **The Marriage** or at the conclusion of the service.*