

# The Traditional Order for The Service of Marriage in the United Methodist Church

## **PRELUDE MUSIC:**

## **SEATING OF THE HONORED GUESTS**

Grandmothers, Grandfathers

Mothers, father of groom

[Enter Pastor(s) and Groom, best man and other groomsmen]

## **PROCESSIONAL MARCHES**

Bridesmaids (with or without groomsmen escorts)

Maid of Honor

Flower Girl(s) [and ring bearer(s)]

Bride & Father

## **WELCOME** (Pastor to congregation)

Welcome to La Plata United Methodist Church. My name is Bruce Jones, and I serve as the pastor here. Thank you so much for coming to support and to bless [Groom] and [Bride] as they begin their new life together today. In this day and age of modern technology we ask everyone to please turn off their cellphones and pagers or set them to vibrate if they are necessary. Also, as this is a service of worship before God, we ask that you do not take any flash photography during the ceremony. Thank you.

[If you wish to have a hymn, here is a good place for a first hymn]

## **GATHERING** (Pastor to congregation)

Dearly beloved, we are gathered together here in the sight of God, and in the presence of these witnesses, to join together [Bride] and [Groom] in holy marriage; which is an honorable estate, instituted of God, and signifying unto us the mystical union which exists between Christ and his Church; which holy estate Christ adorned and beautified with his presence at a wedding in Cana of Galilee. It is therefore not to be entered into unadvisedly, but reverently, discreetly, and in the fear of God. It is into this holy estate these two persons come now to be joined.

## **CHARGE TO THE COUPLE** (Pastor to couple)

[Groom] and [Bride], I require and charge you both, as you stand here in the presence of God, before whom the secrets of all hearts are disclosed, that, having duly considered the holy covenant you are about to make, you do now declare before this company, your pledge of faith, each to the other. Be well assured that if these solemn vows are kept unviolated as God's Word demands, and if steadfastly you endeavor to do the will of your heavenly Father, God will bless your marriage, he will grant you fulfillment in it, and he will establish your home in peace.

[This can be a place to have a reading or a scripture read]

## **PLEDGE OF FAITH**

[Groom], will you have [Bride], to be your wife, to live together in the holy estate of matrimony? Do you promise to love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health; and forsaking all others keep yourself only to her so long as you both shall live? If so, say I do.

Groom answers: **I do.**

[Bride], will you have [Groom], to be your husband, to live together in the holy estate of matrimony? Do you promise to love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health; and forsaking all others keep yourself only to him so long as you both shall live? If so, say I do.

Bride answers: **I do.**

### **GIVING AWAY OF THE BRIDE**

Who presents (gives) this woman to be married to this man?

Father answers: **Her mother and I do.**

[Father goes and sits down]

[Move up into Chancel.]

[Here's a good place for a scripture lesson, a hymn or solo, and/or a homily. A homily is a short message or sermon offering encouragement and wisdom to the couple.]

### **THE VOWS**

[Pastor turns to groom, and says "Repeat after me ..."]

**I, [Groom], 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, till death us do part, according to God's holy ordinance; and thereto I pledge you my faith.**

[Pastor turns then to bride and says "Repeat after me ..."]

**I, [Bride], 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, till death us do part, according to God's holy ordinance; and thereto I pledge you my faith.**

### **EXCHANGE OF RINGS**

The wedding ring is the outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace, signifying to all the uniting of this man and woman in holy matrimony, through the Church of Jesus Christ our Lord. Let us pray...

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

Groom:

**In token and pledge, of our constant faith, and abiding love; with this ring, I thee wed. With all that I am, and all that I have, I wish to honor you. So this ring is a sign, of my unending devotion, and commitment to you. I give this to you, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Bride:

**In token and pledge, of our constant faith, and abiding love; with this ring, I thee wed. With all that I am, and all that I have, I wish to honor you. So this ring is a sign, of my unending devotion, and commitment to you. I give this to you, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

### **UNITY CANDLES & MUSIC [Optional]**

### **PRONOUNCEMENT (Pastor to congregation)**

Forasmuch as [Bride] and [Groom] have consented together in holy marriage, and have witnessed the same before God and this company, and thereto have pledged their faith each to the other, and have declared the same by joining hands and by giving and receiving *rings*; I pronounce that they are husband and wife together, 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.**

## **PRAYER OF BLESSING**

O eternal God, creator and preserver of all humankind, giver of all spiritual grace, the author of everlasting life: Send your blessing upon [Groom] and [Bride], whom we bless in your name; that they may surely perform and keep the vow and covenant between them made, and may ever remain in perfect love and peace together, and live according to your laws.

Look graciously upon them, that they may love, honor, and cherish each other, and so live together in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and a place of peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

And now, let us join together in the prayer that Jesus taught ...

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER** (congregation together)

**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. Amen.**

[If you wish a closing hymn, this is a good place for that]

## **THE BENEDICTION** (Pastor)

Now may, God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit bless, preserve, and keep you; the Lord graciously with his favor look upon you, and so fill you with all spiritual benediction and love that you may so live together in this life that in the world to come you may have life everlasting. **Amen.**

## **THE KISS** (Pastor turns to groom and says ...)

[Groom], you may kiss your bride.

[the kiss]

## **INTRODUCTION OF COUPLE** [if desired]

Friends and Loved ones, it is my joy and honor to introduce to you, Mr. & Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_.

## **RECESSIONAL MARCH & POSTLUDE MUSIC**

## **DISMISSAL OF THE GUESTS**

[In reverse order of their entrance, see wedding coordinator.]