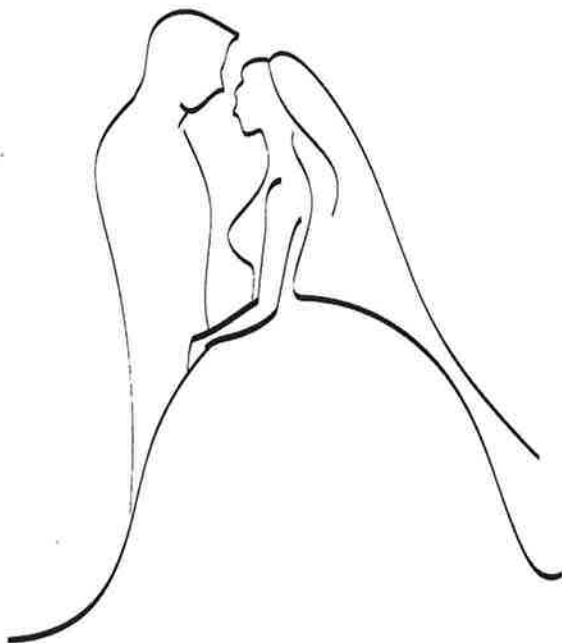


THE CELEBRATION AND BLESSING OF A MARRIAGE

Planning & Information Guide



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

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Welcome to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Congratulations!! We at St. Stephen's are privileged to provide for you what we can to make your wedding a happy and blessed experience.

This booklet is a guide to help you know what decisions you need to make in preparation for your wedding ceremony and to help make this as easy and enjoyable a process as possible.

As exciting and happy a time your wedding will be, the **main focus** will be your marriage and life together after the ceremony. To help you prepare, you will attend premarital meetings with Fr. Michael. Please make your appointments with him either during coffee hour after our 10AM Sunday Service or by calling 610-461-0490 or 610-996-0657.

At your initial meeting with Fr. Michael, he will provide you with wedding forms, to be filled out and returned to the church office at least one month prior to the wedding date so our Administrator can provide a wedding service leaflet with all the information you want included.

Please read this entire booklet carefully before returning the signed forms to the church office. **If you have any questions**, please feel free to call the church office @ 610-461-0490, Fr. Michael 610-996-0657 or email us at:

Director of Parish Operations (Jan) at dopo@sstephen.org

or

Priest in Charge (Fr. Michael) at michaelknight@sstephen.org.

**May God bless you in the preparation for and
in the living of the Sacrament of Marriage.**

Planning Your Wedding...

- ◇ Decide on a date and time of the wedding & rehearsal
- ◇ Check the schedule of the officiating clergy person
- ◇ If this is not the first marriage of either party, the Bishop's permission is required for this marriage. **Permission must be requested 6 months in advance.**
- ◇ Pre-Marital Counseling scheduled
- ◇ Decide on a service with or with the Holy Eucharist
- ◇ Decide who will bring up the gifts (elements)
- ◇ Decide which readings, psalms and gospel will be used
- ◇ Decide who will read the first and second reading and the psalm.
- ◇ Decide on the music and schedule an organist, sound technician and or soloist.
- ◇ Decide on Flowers
- ◇ Marriage license

Preparing your wedding bulletin...

If you wish to have your wedding bulletins printed by us, we'll be happy to oblige. But we'll need your help...

- ◇ The Priest in Charge has the **final approval** on all bulletin contents.
- ◇ All Bulletin information should be **in at least 2 weeks in advance** to make your bulletin as lovely and complete as possible.
- ◇ The Final bulletin proofing should be **at least one week** before the wedding.

Choose a **bulletin cover**? (Appropriate photos or clip art can be used or you may choose something that we have already.) _____

Do you want a "family thank you" in the back of the bulletin? _____

Do you wish deceased relatives remembered in the service? _____

(Reading from the Old Testament)

Which reading did you select?(see back of booklet) _____

Who will be doing the first reading (see back of booklet) _____

(Reading from the New Testament)

Who will be doing the second reading? (see back of booklet) _____

Which Psalm did you select? (see back of booklet) _____

Who will be reading the Psalm? _____

Which Gospel did you select? (see back of booklet) _____

Who will do the Homily? _____

Appropriate places for music are:

- ◇ The Prelude and Processional
- ◇ The Gospel anthem
- ◇ After the vows
- ◇ The Offertory
- ◇ The Communion
- ◇ Recessional

The ceremony music must in some way reflect the holiness of the sacrament and the Glory of God. The Priest in Charge has final approval on all music to be used during the ceremony.

There are a number of wonderful wedding websites that offer ideas for wedding music. Here are a few sites:

<http://www.hymns.me.uk/wedding-hymns.htm>

<http://www.weddingguideuk.com/articles/wordsmusic/hymns/hymnsforyourservice.asp#yourhymns>

Getting your Marriage License ...

A **Marriage License** must be obtained in the state of Pennsylvania. Both applicants must appear together in person before the marriage license clerk.

A \$60.00 **cash** fee is required when applying for the marriage license. Both applicants must be 18 years of age or older. Anyone who is under the age of 18 must have their custodial parent accompany them to sign a permission form, and there is an additional \$20.00 fee.

If there were any prior marriages dissolved by death or divorce, proof of death or a certified copy of the last divorce decree must be shown. You cannot apply for your marriage license unless a divorce decree was granted at least 30 days before you apply.

The marriage license will be issued at the time of application, but is not valid for three days after application. The marriage license is only valid for 60 days.

If you are a Citizen of the United States of America the following documents are required.

Photo Identification when applying, such as a driver's license or passport is acceptable, also social security numbers are required.

If you are not a citizen of the United States of America and are applying for a marriage license while visiting our country, you must present to the Marriage license clerk valid proof that you are of current legal status; such as, a valid Passport with a valid Visa, and or Green card. If you have been married before, you must present a certified document proving that the marriage was dissolved by divorce or death. If these documents are not in English, it is necessary that the document be translated into English. A notarized affidavit of the translator is required as verification in support of the document. It is the responsibility of the couple to bring to our attention any other particular circumstances regarding their application, in order for our office to assist you in the process of acquiring a marriage license from Delaware County.

The applicants will also be responsible for providing an independent interpreter (i.e., a third party) if either applicant does not speak English. (An extra fee of \$20.00 will be due.)

Office hours are 8:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., Monday thru Friday. There are no weekend hours.

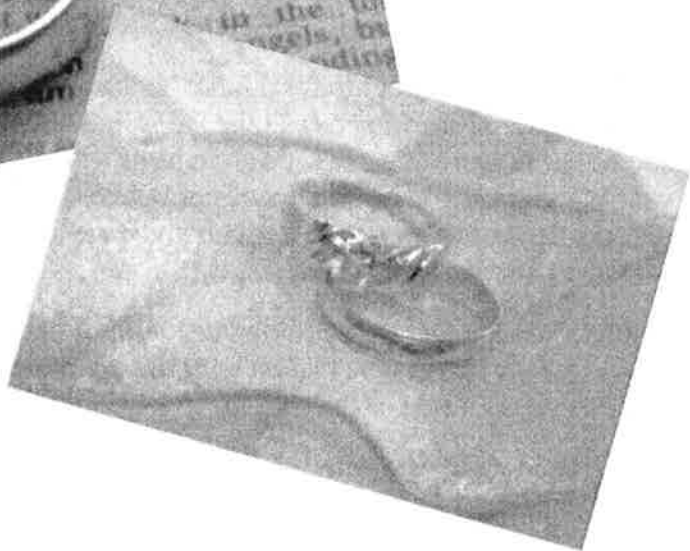
For further information, please call 610-891-4548.



The Rules...

Although we want the wedding ceremony to be a complement of ideas, there are a few things that are very important and non-negotiable:

1. The guiding principles for the conduct of the Service of Marriage are those contained in the Book of Common Prayer, pgs. 423-438.
2. Approval of the date and time for the Marriage and reservation of the Church shall be granted only after consulting with the Priest in Charge.
3. Videotaping & Photography: **MUST** be done with available light.
4. The Priest in Charge reserves the right to refuse to officiate at the Marriage if any member of the wedding party is under the influence of alcohol or drugs. The Priest in Charge's judgment is final. No drugs of any kind are to be brought on church property.
5. The Priest in Charge **MUST** have "in hand" the Marriage License before he/she may officiate at the Marriage.
6. Divorced persons may be married in this church as long as they have filled out an application for consent for remarriage and it has been approved by the Bishop. Assistance in filling out the application will be provided by the Priest in Charge.
7. Smoking in this facility is absolutely PROHIBITED.
8. Rice, birdseed, or confetti shall not be thrown on the church grounds. The tradition of throwing rice at the Bride and Groom is longstanding, and has been known to cause death in birds and is slippery when wet. We suggest you use rose petals or bubbles. (if you choose to use rose petals you must arrange for them to be cleaned up before the wedding party has left the premises).
9. Please do not tape or tack bows/decorations onto our pews. Bows/Decorations can be tied on with ribbon or pipe cleaners. There are 12 pews on each side of the church.
10. No decorations are permitted on the Altar.



The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage

At the time appointed, the persons to be married, with their witnesses, assemble in the church or some other appropriate place.

During their entrance, a hymn, psalm, or anthem may be sung, or instrumental music may be played.

Then the Celebrant, facing the people and the persons to be married, with the woman to the right and the man to the left, addresses the congregation and says

Dearly beloved: We have come together in the presence of God to witness and bless the joining together of this man and this woman in Holy Matrimony. The bond and covenant of marriage was established by God in creation, and our Lord Jesus Christ adorned this manner of life by his presence and first miracle at a wedding in Cana of Galilee. It signifies to us the mystery of the union between Christ and his Church, and Holy Scripture commends it to be honored among all people.

The union of husband and wife in heart, body, and mind is intended by God for their mutual joy; for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity; and, when it is God's will, for the procreation of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of the Lord. Therefore marriage is not to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly, but reverently, deliberately, and in accordance with the purposes for which it was instituted by God.

Into this holy union *N.N.* and *N.N.* now come to be joined. If any of you can show just cause why they may not lawfully be married, speak now; or else for ever hold your peace.

Then the Celebrant says to the persons to be married

I require and charge you both, here in the presence of God, that if either of you know any reason why you may not be united in marriage lawfully, and in accordance with God's Word, you do now confess it.

The Declaration of Consent

The Celebrant says to the woman

N., will you have this man to be your husband; to live together in the covenant of 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?

The Woman answers

I will.

The Celebrant says to the man

N., will you have this woman to be your wife; to live together in the covenant of 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?

The Man answers

I will.

The Celebrant then addresses the congregation, saying

Will all of you witnessing these promises do all in your power to uphold these two persons in their marriage?

People We will.

If there is to be a presentation or a giving in marriage, it takes place at this time. See [page 437](#).

A hymn, psalm, or anthem may follow.

The Ministry of the Word

The Celebrant then says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Let us pray.

O gracious and everliving God, you have created us male and female in your image: Look mercifully upon this man and this woman who come to you seeking your blessing, and assist them with your grace, that with true fidelity and steadfast love they may honor and keep the promises and vows they make; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Then one or more of the following passages from Holy Scripture is read. If there is to be a Communion, a passage from the Gospel always concludes the Readings.

Between the Readings, a Psalm, hymn, or anthem may be sing or said. Appropriate Psalms are 67, 127, and 128.

When a passage from the Gospel is to be read, all stand, and the Deacon or Minister appointed says

The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
according to _____.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

All readings are available on pages 19 – 27.

After the Gospel, the Reader says

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

A homily or other response to the Readings may follow.

The Marriage

The Man, facing the woman and taking her right hand in his, says

In the Name of God, 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.

Then they loose their hands, and the Woman, still facing the man, takes his right hand in hers, and says

In the Name of God, 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.

The loose their hands.

The Priest may ask God's blessing on a ring or rings as follows

Bless, O Lord, this ring to be a sign of the vows by which this man and this woman have bound themselves to each other; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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

N., I give you this ring as a symbol 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 (*or* in the Name of God).

Then the Celebrant joins the right hands of husband and wife and says

Now that *N.* and *N.* have given themselves to each other by solemn vows, with the joining of hands and the giving and receiving of a ring, I pronounce 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.

People Amen.

The Prayers

All standing, the Celebrant says

Let us pray together in the words our Savior taught us.

People and Celebrant

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 trespases,
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,
for ever and ever. Amen.

If Communion is to follow, the Lord's Prayer may be omitted here.

The Deacon or other person appointed reads the following prayers, to which the People respond, saying, Amen.

If there is not to be a Communion, one or more of the prayers may be omitted.

Let us pray.

Eternal God, creator and preserver of all life, author of salvation, and giver of all grace: Look with favor upon the world you have made, and for which your Son gave his life, and especially upon this man and this woman whom you make one flesh in Holy Matrimony. *Amen.*

Give them wisdom and devotion in the ordering of their common life, that each may be to the other a strength in need, a counselor in perplexity, a comfort in sorrow, and a companion in joy. *Amen.*

Grant that their wills may be so knit together in your will, and their spirits in your Spirit, that they may grow in love and peace with you and one another all the days of their life. *Amen.*

Give them grace, when they hurt each other, to recognize and acknowledge their fault, and to seek each other's forgiveness and yours. *Amen.*

Make their life together a sign of Christ's love to this sinful and broken world, that unity may overcome estrangement, forgiveness heal guilt, and joy conquer despair. *Amen.*

Bestow on them, if it is your will, the gift and heritage of children, and the grace to bring them up to know you, to love you, and to serve you. *Amen.*

Give them such fulfillment of their mutual affection that they may reach out in love and concern for others. *Amen.*

Grant that all married persons who have witnessed these vows may find their lives strengthened and their loyalties confirmed. *Amen.*

Grant that the bonds of our common humanity, by which all your children are united one to another, and the living to the dead, may be so transformed by your grace, that your will may be done on earth as it is in heaven; where, O Father, with your Son, and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign in perfect unity, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Blessing of the Marriage

The people remain standing. The husband and wife kneel, and the Priest says one of the following prayers

Most gracious God, we give you thanks for your tender love in sending Jesus Christ to come among us, to be born of a human mother, and to make the way of the cross to be the way of life. We thank you, also, for consecrating the union of man and woman in his Name. By the power of your Holy Spirit, your out the abundance of your blessing upon this man and this woman. Defend them from every enemy. Lead them into all peace. Let their love for each other be a seal upon their hearts, a mantle about their shoulders, and a crown upon their foreheads. Bless them in their work and in their companionship; in their sleeping and in their waking; in their joys and in their sorrows; in their life and in their death. Finally, in your mercy, bring them to that table where your saints feast for ever in your heavenly home; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

or this

O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The husband and wife still kneeling, the Priest adds this blessing

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

The Peace

The Celebrant may say to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

The newly married couple then greet each other, after which greetings may be exchanged throughout the congregation.

When Communion is not to follow, the wedding party leaves the church. A hymn, psalm, or anthem may be sung, or instrumental music may be played.

At the Eucharist

The liturgy then continues with the Offertory, at which the newly married couple may present the offerings of bread and wine.

Preface of Marriage

At the Communion, it is appropriate that the newly married couple receive Communion first, after the ministers.

In place of the usual post communion prayer, the following is said

O God, the giver of all that is true and lovely and gracious:
We give you thanks for binding us together in these holy mysteries of the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Grant that by your Holy Spirit, *N. and N.*, now joined in Holy Matrimony, may become one in heart and soul, live in fidelity and peace, and obtain those eternal joys prepared for all who love you; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

As the wedding party leaves the church, a hymn, psalm, or anthem may be sung, or instrumental music may be played.

Old Testament Readings (RCL)

Genesis 1:26-28

God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

So God created humankind in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth."

Genesis 2:4-9, 15-24

These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

In the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up-- for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground-- then the LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the LORD God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die." Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the

field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said,

“This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
this one shall be called Woman,
for out of Man this one was taken.”

Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife,
and they become one flesh.

Song of Solomon 2:10-13; 8:6-7

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.

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

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.

Set me as a seal upon your heart,
as a seal upon your arm;
for love is strong as death,
passion fierce as the grave.

Its flashes are flashes of fire,
a raging flame.

Many waters cannot quench love,
neither can floods drown it.

If one offered for love
all the wealth of his house,
it would be utterly scorned.

Tobit 8:5b-8

Tobias began by saying,

‘Blessed are you, O God of our ancestors,
and blessed is your name in all generations for ever.

Let the heavens and the whole creation bless you for ever.

You made Adam, and for him you made his wife Eve
as a helper and support.

From the two of them the human race has sprung.

You said, “It is not good that the man should be alone;
let us make a helper for him like himself.”

I now am taking this kinswoman of mine,
not because of lust,
but with sincerity.

Grant that she and I may find mercy
and that we may grow old together.’

And they both said, ‘Amen, Amen.’ Then they went to sleep for the
night.

Psalms

Psalm 67 Page 675, BCP

Deus misereatur

1

May God be merciful to us and bless us, *
show us the light of his countenance and come to us.

2

Let your ways be known upon earth, *
your saving health among all nations.

3

Let the peoples praise you, O God; *
let all the peoples praise you.

4

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, *
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide all the nations upon earth.

5

Let the peoples praise you, O God; *
let all the peoples praise you.

6

The earth has brought forth her increase; *
may God, our own God, give us his blessing.

7

May God give us his blessing, *
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him.

Psalm 127 Page 675, BCP

Nisi Dominus

1

Unless the LORD builds the house, *
their labor is in vain who build it.

2

Unless the LORD watches over the city, *
in vain the watchman keeps his vigil.

3

It is in vain that you rise so early and go to bed so late; *
vain, too, to eat the bread of toil,
for he gives to his beloved sleep.

4

Children are a heritage from the LORD, *
and the fruit of the womb is a gift.

5

Like arrows in the hand of a warrior *
are the children of one's youth.

6

Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them! *
he shall not be put to shame
when he contends with his enemies in the gate.

Psalm 128 Page 783, BCP

Beati omnes

1

Happy are they all who fear the LORD, *
and who follow in his ways!

2

You shall eat the fruit of your labor; *
happiness and prosperity shall be yours.

3

Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine within your house, *
your children like olive shoots round about your table.

4

The man who fears the LORD *
shall thus indeed be blessed.

5

The LORD bless you from Zion, *
and may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your
life.

6

May you live to see your children's children; *
may peace be upon Israel.

New Testament Readings (RCL)

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

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. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Ephesians 3:14-19

I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 5:1-2, 21-33

Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Wives, be subject to your husbands as you are to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife just as Christ is the head of the church, the body of which he is the Savior. Just as the church is subject to Christ, so also wives ought to be, in everything, to their husbands.

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, in order to make her holy by cleansing her with the washing of water by the word, so as to present the church to himself in splendor, without a spot or wrinkle or anything of the kind-- yes, so that she may be holy and without blemish. In the same way, husbands should love their wives as they do their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hates his own body, but he nourishes and tenderly cares for it, just as Christ does for the church, because we are members of his body. "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." This is a great mystery, and I am applying it to Christ and the church. Each of you, however, should love his wife as himself, and a wife should respect her husband.

Colossians 3:12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above

all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

1 John 4:7-16

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

Gospels (RCL)

Matthew 5:1-10

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:13-16

Jesus said to the crowd, “You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 7:21,24-29

Jesus told the crowd, “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.

“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell-- and great was its fall!”

Now when Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.

Mark 10:6-9,13-16

Jesus said, “From the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

John 15:9-12

Jesus said to his disciples, “As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

Bride and Groom Information

Bride's Name _____
(Give Maiden name)

Phone Number _____
(Home)

Phone Number _____
(Cell)

Groom's Name _____

Phone Number _____
(Home)

Phone Number _____
(Cell)

Date of Wedding _____

Time of Wedding _____

Date of Rehearsal _____

Time of Rehearsal _____

Will there be a Eucharist? _____

Witness's Name _____

Witness's Name _____