



Wedding Service Preparation Kit

St. Thomas' Anglican Church, Toowong

RECTOR: THE REV'D TOM SULLIVAN

Cnr High & Jephson Sts
Address: 3/96 Jephson Street
Toowong QLD 4066

Phone: 3870 1655
Website: www.stthomastoowong.org.au

Notes on Preparing an Order of Service for your Wedding

- It is good to have an Order of Service that includes the words of the service. Some couples only have a summary which consists of the main headings eg Introduction, The Wedding, Signing the Register, Prayers, Blessing. Others have no service sheet. This is a personal choice and depends whether you would like your guest to follow easily what is happening in the service
- If you have a hymn or hymns, the words need to be included, unless it is a hymn that is in the Church's Hymn Book, in which case the Number from the Hymn Book should be given. You need not include the words of a reading, or readings, in the Order of Service.
- In the outline provided there are some parts that are optional. They can be either left in or left out.
- If you are having a hymn or hymns - optional places for hymns are indicated. Normally, there would be no more than two or three hymns and they should be ones that are popular in the wider community. Some couples don't have hymns.
- Some suitable hymns are included. Remember some people will not be used to singing these hymns and it is best not to have too many verses. If you decide to include a hymn or hymns, discuss with the organist, Beverley Taylor.
- Some Bible reading options are attached. You could select one or two.
- Please put together what you would like as an *Order of Service* and bring it to the second meeting. It is important

that the priest has the opportunity to see and approve the draft before it is printed.

- You must include the following copyright statement;
 - *Copyright 1995, The Anglican Church of Australia Trust Corporation. From the text of 'A Prayer Book for Australia', published under the imprint Broughton Books by E.J. Dwyer (Australia) Pty Ltd. Reproduced with permission.*
- If you include Hymns the following additional copyright state must also appear;
 - *Hymns are used with permission from the Australian Hymn Book CAL Licence 26*

Basic Essentials of the Anglican Marriage Service

Bridal Procession

(appropriate music)

Greeting by Priest

Welcome to this very special occasion; X and Y's wedding.

Hymn

(optional)

Priest

We have come together in the presence of God to witness the marriage of X and Y and to ask God's blessing on them as we share their joy.

Marriage is a gift of God our creator. It is a symbol of God's unending love for his people and of the union between Christ and his Church. Christ loved his bride the Church and gave himself

for her. As he has called X and Y to marriage, so he draws their differing gifts and hopes into a unity of love and service. Scripture teaches that marriage is a lifelong partnership uniting a woman and a man in heart, mind and body.

In the joy of their union, husband and wife enrich and respond to each other, growing in tenderness and understanding. Through marriage a new family is formed, where children may be born and grow in secure and loving care. Marriage is therefore to be honoured by all.

No one should enter it lightly or selfishly but responsibly and joyfully, with mutual respect and the promise to be faithful.

So, let us pray with X and Y as they prepare to exchange their solemn vows.

Blessed are you loving God, your Spirit binds us together. Crown our lives with your goodness, sustain us all our days with your love. Bless X and Y with wisdom and pleasure.

Be a friend and companion in joy, their comfort in need and in sorrow. And when this life is ended welcome them into your presence, there with all your people to praise your holy name: Blessed be God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit, as in the beginning, so now and forever. Amen.

The congregation is seated for the reading of God's word.

Reading

(name of reader)

Eg. 1 John 4:7-12 (or see alternative readings)

Psalm (optional)

Hymn

(optional)

Readings

(name of reader)

John 2:1-11 (or see alternative readings)

Sermon

Hymn (optional)

The Wedding (*This title can be left in but all the detail below left out if you wish. The priest can take you through the promises without having to have it fully printed*)

Priest Y, will you give yourself to X, to be her husband, to live with her according to God's word? Will you love her, comfort her, honour her and protect her and, forsaking all others, be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

Y I will.

Priest X, will you give yourself to Y, to be his wife, to live with him according to God's word? Will you love him, comfort him, honour and protect him and, forsaking all others, be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?

X I will.

The congregation stands and the priest says

Priest Families and friends, you are witnesses to these vows. Will you do everything in your power to uphold X and Y in their marriage?

All We will.

The groom, taking the brides right hand in his, says,

Y I, Y, in the presence of God, take you, X, 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, so long as we both shall live. All this I vow and promise.

The bride taking the grooms right hand, says,

X I, X, in the presence of God, take you, Y, 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, so long as we both shall live. All this I vow and promise.

The giving and receiving of rings

Priest God of steadfast love, by your blessing, let these rings be for X and Y, a symbol of their love and faithfulness, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen

Groom and bride will say as the rings are exchanged

Y X, I give you this ring as a symbol of our Marriage. With all that I am and all that I have, I honour you: in the name of God.

All Amen

X Y, I receive this ring as a symbol of your love and faithfulness to the end of our days.

X Y, I give you this ring as a symbol of our marriage. With all that I am and all that I have I honour you; in the name of God.

All Amen.

Y X, I receive this ring as a symbol of your love and faithfulness to the end of our days.

Priest Before God and in the presence of us all, X and Y have joined hands and made their solemn vows, promising life-long faithfulness to each other. In the name of God, I declare them to be husband and wife. What God has joined together, let no one separate.

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, and through change.
Bless our home, our partings and our meetings.
Make us worthy of one another's best,
and tender with one another's dreams. Amen.**

Priest God the Father lovingly enfold you,
God the Son grace your home and table,
God the Holy Spirit crown you with joy and
peace.
The Lord bless you and keep you in eternal
life. Amen.

Signing the Register
(appropriate music)

The Prayers Prayers said by Priest.

**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 for ever. Amen**

Blessing

Procession of the Bride and Groom

(appropriate music)

HYMN SUGGESTIONS	
<p>MORNING HAS BROKEN</p> <p>1 Morning has broken Like the first morning Blackbird has spoken Like the first bird. Praise for the singing Praise for the morning. Praise for them, springing Fresh from the word.</p> <p>2 Sweet the rain's new fall Sunlit from heaven, Like the first dewfall On the first grass.</p>	<p>AMAZING GRACE</p> <p>1 Amazing grace (how sweet the sound) that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.</p> <p>2 As grace first taught my heart to fear so grace my fears relieve; how precious did that appear the hour I first believed.</p>

<p>Praise for the sweetness Of the wet garden, Sprung from completeness Where his feet pass.</p> <p>3 Mine is the sunlight; Mine is the morning Born of the one light Eden saw play. Praise with elation, Praise every morning, God's recreation Of the new day</p>	<p>3 Through many dangers, toils and snares I have already come: God's grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.</p> <p>4 The Lord has promised good to me, his word my hope secures; he will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.</p>
<p>PRAISE MY SOUL THE KING OF HEAVEN</p> <p>1 Praise, my soul, the king of heaven; to his feet thy tribute bring ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven who like me his praise should sing? Praise him, praise him, hallelujah, praise the everlasting King!</p> <p>2 Praise him for his grace and favour to our fathers in distress; praise him still the same for ever, slow to chide, and swift to bless: praise him, praise him,</p>	<p>THE LORD'S MY SHEPHERD</p> <p>1 The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want. He makes me down to lie in pastures green he leadeth me the quiet waters by.</p> <p>2 My soul he does restore again; and me to walk doth make within the paths of righteousness ev'n for his own name's sake</p> <p>3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear no ill: for thou art with me; and thy rod and staff me comfort still.</p>

<p>hallelujah, glorious in his faithfulness!</p> <p>3 Father-like he tends and spares us; well our feeble frame he knows; in his hands he gently bears, rescues us from all our foes: praise him, praise him, hallelujah widely as his mercy flows.</p> <p>4 Frail as summer's flower we flourish, blows the wind and it is gone; but while mortals rise and perish God endures unchanging on. praise him, praise him, hallelujah, praise the high eternal one</p> <p>5 Angels help us to adore him, ye behold him face to face; sun and moon, bow down before him, dwellers all in time and space; praise him, praise him, hallelujah, praise with us the God of grace!</p>	<p>4 My table thou has furnished in presence of my foes; my head thou dost with oil anoint, and my cup overflows.</p> <p>5 Goodness and mercy all my life shall surely follow me: and in God's house, for ever more my dwelling place shall be.</p>
<p>WHEN THE LIGHT</p> <p>1 When the light of first creation</p>	<p>NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD</p>

<p>pierced the lonely darkness through, earth became life's habitation, tree and seed and creature grew. Man and woman were created as the crown of all the earth; God's own image deep within them brought the gift of love to birth.</p> <p>2 Joyful day of celebration now, as when the world began, day when God, with love and blessing, joins a woman and a man. Happy day of new beginnings, promises enfold the two; each to give, in joy and sorrow, faithful love, the journey through.</p> <p>3 Praise the Father, Love eternal, Ever ready to forgive; praise the Son and Holy Spirit, giving faith and hope to live: gifts of love to guard their union, guide their venture all life long. Lord inspire them with your vision; fill their living with your song.</p>	<p>1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices, who wondrous things hath done, in whom the world rejoices; who from our mother's arms hath blest us on our way with countless gifts of love and still is ours today.</p> <p>2 O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us, with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us; and keep us in his grace and guide us when perplexed, and free us from all ills in this world and the next</p> <p>3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given, the Son and Holy Ghost, one Lord in highest heaven: the one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore; for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.</p>
<p>ODE TO JOY</p>	<p>THE KING OF LOVE MY SHEPHERD IS</p>

Joyful, joyful, we adore you,
God of glory, God of love;
hearts unfold like flowers
before you
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and
sadness,
drive the dark of doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.

All your works with joy surround
you,
earth and heav'n reflect your
rays,
stars and angels sing around
you,
centre of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and
mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
singing bird and flowing
fountain
call to praise you joyfully.

You are giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
well-spring of the joy of living,
ocean-depth of happy rest.
You our Father, Christ our
brother,
all are yours who live in love;
teach us how to love each
other,
lift us to your joy above.

1 The king of love my shepherd
is,
whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his
and he is mine forever.

2 Where streams of living water
flow
my ransomed soul he leadeth,
and where the verdant pastures
grow
with food celestial feedeth.

3 Perverse and foolish oft I
strayed,
but yet in love he sought me,
and on his shoulder gently laid,
and home rejoicing brought me.

4 In death's dark vale I fear no
ill
with thee dear Lord beside me;
thy rod and staff my comfort
still,
thy cross before to guide me.

6 And so through all the length
of days
thy goodness faileth never:
good Shepherd may I sing thy
praise
within thy house forever.

LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVES EXCELLING

1 Love divine, all loves
excelling,
joy of heaven to earth come
down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown:
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter ever trembling heart.

2 Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
never more thy temples leave:
thee we would be always
blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray and praise thee, without
ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

3 Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be,
let us see thy great salvation,
perfectly restored in thee:
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before
thee,
lost in wonder, love and praise.

ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL

Chorus

*All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful -
the Lord God made them all.*

1 The wildflowers in their
beauty,
the mountain ranges tall,
the billabongs and rivers,
and friendly birds that call,
All things bright...

2 The cold wind in the winter,
the bright life-giving sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden -
he made them Everyone..
All things bright.....

3 The coloured wall of gorges,
the gum trees green and tall,
the rocks, and pools and palm
trees,
the sparkling waterfall,
All things bright...

4 The many-coloured corals,
the creatures of the sea,
of bushland, field or desert,
on farms, or roaming free,
All things bright...

5 He gave us eyes to see them,

	and lips that we might tell how great is God Almighty who has made all things well. <i>All things bright...</i>
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Bible readings to choose from

The 1st Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians Chapter 13, verses 4-7

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.

The Letter of St Paul to the Colossians Chapter 3: verses 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 Xrything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The Gospel of St John Chapter 2: verses 1-11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her,

“Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.” His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, “Now draw some out and take it to the chief steward.” So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it had come from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, “everyone serves the good wine first and the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now. Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee and revealed his glory and his disciples believed in him.

The Gospel of St Matthew Chapter 5, verses 1-9

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 that 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.

The Gospel of St Matthew Chapter 22, verses 35 - 40

And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: “You shall love your neighbour as yourself.” On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Song of Solomon Chapter 2, verses 8-14

The voice of my beloved! Look, he comes, upon the mountains, bounding over the hills. 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. 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. Oh my dove, in the clefts of the rock, in the covert of the cliff, let me see your face, let me hear your voice; for your voice is sweet, and your face is lovely.

The First Letter of John, Chapter 4, verses 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 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 Saviour 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.

Choose a Psalm ONLY if you are having 2 readings. Alternatively, choose one of the above readings.

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;

He leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff - they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my
life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

Psalm 37, verses 3 - 6

Trust in the Lord, and do good;
so you will live in the land and enjoy security.
Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your
heart.
Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will act.
He will make your vindication shine like the light,
and the justice of your cause like the noonday.

Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.
Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with
singing.
Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise.
Give thanks to him, bless his name.
For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.

Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills - from where will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot to be moved; he who keeps you will not
slumber.
He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is your keeper; The Lord is your shade at your right hand.

The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in, from this time on and forevermore.