



YOUR CEREMONY PLANNER

Draft wedding service for the marriage of **Suzanne Elizabeth Gray** and **Jonathan David Fryer** at **St John's**

This draft of your wedding ceremony will help you discuss your choices with your Vicar, who will want to help you create a service that is special and unique to you.

To make sure everything runs smoothly and on time, the Vicar may suggest changes to the order of the service. After your meetings with the vicar, your final outline may look a little different, but this draft should be a good starting point for the three of you.

Wishing you a wonderful wedding day!

The Marriage Service

You chose [Arrival of the Queen of Sheba, from 'Solomon', Handel](#), as your entry music, and [Toccata from Widor's 5th Symphony in F](#), as your music to leave the church by. This is just a guide. You might like to discuss other choices with your Vicar.

The Welcome

The minister welcomes the people using these or other appropriate words:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you
All: and also with you.

This sentence may be used

God is love, and those who live in love live in God and God lives in them. 1 John(4.16)

This prayer may be said

All:

God of wonder and of joy:
grace comes from you,
and you alone are the source of life and love.
Without you, we cannot please you;
without your love, our deeds are worth nothing.
Send your Holy Spirit,
and pour into our hearts
that most excellent gift of love,
that we may worship you now
with thankful hearts

YOUR CHURCH
WEDDING

YOUR CEREMONY PLANNER

and serve you always with willing minds;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

You have chosen the hymn [Praise My Soul The King Of Heaven](#). The Planner has placed it here, but your vicar may suggest it is sung in another part of the service.

Preface

These words or alternative wording are used

In the presence of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
we have come together
to witness the marriage of [Suzanne](#) and [Jonathan](#),
to pray for God's blessing on them,
to share their joy
and to celebrate their love.

Marriage is a gift of God in creation
through which husband and wife may know the grace of God.
It is given
that as man and woman grow together in love and trust,
they shall be united with one another in heart, body and mind,
as Christ is united with his bride, the Church.

The gift of marriage brings husband and wife together
in the delight and tenderness of sexual union
and joyful commitment to the end of their lives.
It is given as the foundation of family life
in which children are [born and] nurtured
and in which each member of the family, in good times and in bad,
may find strength, companionship and comfort,
and grow to maturity in love.

Marriage is a way of life made holy by God,
and blessed by the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ
with those celebrating a wedding at Cana in Galilee.
Marriage is a sign of unity and loyalty
which all should uphold and honour.
It enriches society and strengthens community.

YOUR CHURCH
WEDDING

YOUR CEREMONY PLANNER

No one should enter into it lightly or selfishly
but reverently and responsibly in the sight of almighty God.
Suzanne and **Jonathan** are now to enter this way of life.
They will each give their consent to the other
and make solemn vows,

The Declarations

The minister says to the congregation

First, I am. required to ask anyone present who knows a reason why these persons may not lawfully marry, to declare it now.

The minister says to the couple

The vows you are about to take are to be made in the presence of God,
who is judge of all and knows all the secrets of our hearts;
therefore if either of you knows a reason why you may not lawfully marry,
you must declare it now.

The minister says to the bridegroom

Jonathan, will you take **Suzanne** to be your wife?
Will you love her, comfort her, honour and protect her,
and, forsaking all others,
be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

He answers

I will.

The minister says to the bride

Suzanne, will you take **Jonathan** to be your husband?
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?

She answers

I will

The minister says to the congregation

YOUR CHURCH
WEDDING

YOUR CEREMONY PLANNER

Will you, the families and friends of [Suzanne](#) and [Jonathan](#), support and uphold them in their marriage now and in the years to come?

All: We will.

The Collect

The minister invites the people to pray, silence is kept and the minister says the Collect

God our Father,
from the beginning
you have blessed creation with abundant life.
Pour out your blessings upon [Suzanne](#) and [Jonathan](#),
that they may be joined in mutual love and companionship,
in holiness and commitment to each other.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All: Amen.

The Reading(s)

You chose
[1 Corinthians, Chapter 13](#), read by [Andrew Smith](#),
[To be at one with each other: George Eliot \(1819-1880\)](#), read by [Thomas Johnson](#).

The Sermon

You have chosen the hymn [Great Is Thy Faithfulness](#). The Planner has placed it here, but your vicar may suggest it is sung in another part of the service.

The marriage

The couple stand before the minister.

The Vows

The minister introduces the vows in these or similar words

[Suzanne](#) and [Jonathan](#), I now invite you to join hands and make your vows, in the presence of God and his people.

YOUR CHURCH
WEDDING

YOUR CEREMONY PLANNER

The bride and bridegroom face each other.

The bridegroom takes the bride's right hand in his.

These words, or alternative, are used

I, **Jonathan**, take you, **Suzanne**,
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 law.
In the presence of God I make this vow.

They loose hands.

The bride takes the bridegroom's right hand in hers, and says

I, **Suzanne**, take you, **Jonathan**,
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 law.
In the presence of God I make this vow.

They loose hands.

The Giving of Rings

The minister receives the ring(s), and says this prayer or an alternative prayer.

Heavenly Father, by your blessing
let these rings be to **Suzanne** and **Jonathan**
a symbol of unending love and faithfulness
to remind them of the vow and covenant

YOUR CHURCH
WEDDING

YOUR CEREMONY PLANNER

which they have made this day;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The bridegroom places the ring on the fourth finger of the bride's left hand and, holding it there, says

Suzanne, I give you this ring
as a sign of our marriage.
With my body I honour you,
all that I am I give to you,
and all that I have I share with you,
within the love of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

If rings are exchanged, they loose hands and the bride places a ring on the fourth finger of the bridegroom's left hand and, holding it there, says

Jonathan, I give you this ring
as a sign of our marriage.
With my body I honour you,
all that I am I give to you,
and all that I have I share with you,
within the love of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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

Jonathan, I receive this ring
as a sign of our marriage.
With my body I honour you,
all that I am I give to you,
and all that I have I share with you,
within the love of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Proclamation

The minister addresses the people

In the presence of God, and before this congregation
Suzanne and **Jonathan** have given their consent

YOUR CHURCH
WEDDING


YOUR CEREMONY PLANNER

and made their marriage vows to each other.
They have declared their marriage by the joining of hands
and by the giving and receiving of rings.
I therefore proclaim that they are husband and wife.

The minister joins their right hands together and says

Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder.

The Blessing of the Marriage

The husband and wife kneel. The minister may use the following blessing or an alternative one

Blessed are you, O Lord our God,
for you have created joy and gladness,
pleasure and delight, love, peace and fellowship.
Pour out the abundance of your blessing
upon Suzanne and Jonathan in their new life together.
Let their love for each other be a seal upon their hearts
and a crown upon their heads.
Bless them in their work and in their companionship;
awake and asleep,
in joy and in sorrow,
in life and in death.
Finally, in your mercy, bring them to that banquet
where your saints feast for ever in your heavenly home.
We ask this through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All: Amen.

The minister says to the couple

God the Father,
God the Son,
God the Holy Spirit,
bless, preserve and keep you;
the Lord mercifully grant you the riches of his grace,
that you may please him both in body and soul,
and, living together in faith and love,
may receive the blessings of eternal life.



YOUR CEREMONY PLANNER

All: Amen.

Registration of the Marriage

This is the part of the service when you sign the register and music is often played here, or a hymn is sung.

You have not indicated whether you'd like any music to be played while you sign the register. Ask your vicar about what may be suitable.

You have chosen [Andrew Jones and Angela Jackson](#) to be your witnesses when signing the register.

Prayers

You chose the following prayers:

Prayer No. 1

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;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
All: Amen

Read by [Thomas Johnson](#)

Prayer No. 2

Faithful God,
giver of all good things,
give N and N wisdom and devotion
in the ordering of their life together.
May they dwell together in love and peace
all the days of their life,
seeking one another's welfare,
bearing one another's burdens

YOUR CHURCH
WEDDING

YOUR CEREMONY PLANNER

and sharing one another's joys;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
All: Amen

Read by [Angela Baker](#)

The prayers conclude with the Lord's Prayer.

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

All:

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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.

(or)

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

All:

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.



YOUR CEREMONY PLANNER

For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

You chose not to have a hymn here. If you want to move hymns around, or put another hymn here that is not available through the Ceremony Planner, please talk it through with your Vicar who can advise on your choices and the order of the service.

You have chosen the hymn [The Lord's My Shepherd](#). The Planner has placed it here, but your vicar may suggest it is sung in another part of the service.

The Dismissal

The minister says

God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love,
defend you on every side, and guide you in truth and peace;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All: Amen.

To the Vicar

Thank you for taking the time to look through this Ceremony Planner, which can be generated on www.yourchurchwedding.org, a site launched and maintained through the work of the Archbishop's Council. The website and the Planner have recently been revised to include more of the choices available in a church wedding. The Planner helps you get an idea of the couple's preferences, but still emphasizes that you are best-placed to advise them on their unique ceremony. To find out more, visit churchsupporthub.org/article/yourchurchwedding-org-is-changing.

Some material included in this service is taken from Common Worship:
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