

The Prayers of the People in the Marriage Liturgy

Three alternatives are here.

Prayers (alternative 1, from the Book of Common Prayer of the Anglican Church of New Zealand)

Leader Gracious God we pray for **Bride** and **Groom** and give thanks that you have brought them together in marriage.

We thank you for the love and care that, through their **(parents/families)**, has guided **Groom** and **Bride** through the years and prepared them for this commitment.

Help them to be wise and loving to those closest to them and to grow together in faithfulness and honesty, in mutual support and patience.

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

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

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

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

Spirit of God bless this marriage.

All *Amen.*

Prayers (alternative 2, from Common Worship, the Church of England)

Leader Faithful God, holy and eternal, source of life and wellspring of love, we thank and praise you for bringing **Bride** and **Groom** to this day, and we pray for them.

May their marriage be life-giving and life-long, enriched by your presence and strengthened by your grace; may they bring comfort and confidence to each other in faithfulness and trust.

May the hospitality of their home bring refreshment and joy to all around them; may their love overflow to neighbors in need and embrace those in distress.

May they discern in your word order and purpose for their lives; and may the power of your Holy Spirit lead them in truth and defend them in adversity.

May they nurture their family with devotion, see their **children** grow in body, mind and spirit and come at last to the end of their lives with hearts content and in joyful anticipation of your nearer presence.

Creator of all, you open to us the treasures of your undying compassion and unending abundance; guide us by your Holy Spirit that we may receive your redeeming grace and reflect the perfect unity of your love, for you live and reign, one God, now and for ever.

All *Amen.*

Prayers (alternative 3, from The Book of Common Prayer, USA)

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.

All 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.

All 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.

All Amen.

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

All 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.

All 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.

All Amen.

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

All Amen.

Grant that all who live in committed relationships who have witnessed these vows may find their lives strengthened and their loyalties confirmed.

All 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.

All Amen.