

Service of Worship for Uniting in Marriage
From Macedonia Service, written in Old Church Slavonic
as translated by John Boswell
Adapted by Rev. Don Stroud

Minister and Couple stand before a small table on which is placed a Bible opened to the Gospel of John; (Couple place right hands on the open Bible and hold in their left hands two small crosses); the Minister begins as follows:*

In peace we pray to you, O Lord.

For heavenly peace, we pray to you, O Lord.
For the peace of the entire world, we pray to you, O Lord.
For this holy time and place, we pray to you, O Lord.

That these your servants, N. and N., be sanctified with your spiritual benediction, we pray to you, O Lord.

That they be united in perfect love and inseparable life, we pray to you, O Lord.

That they be granted holy wisdom and sincere love, we pray to you, O Lord.

That they and I be granted all things necessary for salvation, we pray to you, O Lord.

That they and I be preserved from all suffering, danger and need: Protect and save us, Most Holy, Most Pure.

Let us pray.

O Lord, our God, who grant us what we ask for salvation, who commands us to love one another and to pardon each other our transgressions, bless, Lord, giver of all good things, lover of all humanity, these your servants N. and N. who love one another with a love of your Holy Spirit and have come into your presence wishing to receive your sanctification and benediction; grant them unabashed faithfulness and sincere love, and just as you gave your holy disciples and apostles your peace and love, grant your peace and love also to N. and N., Christ our God, giving them all those things necessary for salvation and eternal life.

For you are the Light of the World, of Truth and of Eternal Life, and to you we give glory and praise, (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit)*. Amen.

Let us hear the wisdom of the Holy Gospel of John and the Testimony of your Apostle Paul regarding your love.

Readings from John 15: 9-14; 17: 1a; 18-26 and I Corinthians 13: 1-13

The Minister shall continue with the following prayers.

Lord God omnipotent, who did fashion humankind after your image and likeness and gave unto them life eternal, whom it has pleased that your holy and glorious Apostles Peter and Paul, and Philip and Bartholomew, be joined together not by the bond of blood but of fidelity and love, bless also these your servants N. and N., joined together not by birth, but of faith and love. Grant to them to love

one another, let them continue without envy and without temptation to abide in anything other than your love all the days of their lives, through the power of your Holy Spirit and the prayers of your Church and all your Holy Ones, living and dead, who have pleased you throughout the ages, now, and forevermore.

For to you belong the power and the kingdom, the strength and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

Peace to all.
Let us love one another,
Let us pray.

O Lord our God, you are the author of love, the master of peace, and the savior of all, vouchsafe to us your love, the fulfillment of the law, and grant unto us to think on that which is of Jesus, your Son, our God. Vouchsafe us to receive one another with love, as your Son did receive us, and grant unto us to serve one another in love and most heartily to fulfill the commandment of your Christ: Love one another as I have loved you.

And grant unto us, O Lord, earnestly to serve you, as we pray the prayer Christ teaches us:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, they will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Now, O God, lead N. and N. in your truth.

God of hosts, look upon them, behold and visit the place of the vineyard that your right has planted in Christ who proclaims: "I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit."

Lord, Lord, surround N. and N. with your blessing.

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep.

Behold, how good and pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity.

Vows: N. and N join hands and repeat as follows:

N., as God is in Christ and Christ is in God and I am grafted into them, I now declare to You and before this witness: I am in You and You are in Me, one person, now and forever. In the name of (the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit). Amen.*

N., as God is in Christ and Christ is in God and I am grafted into them, I now declare to You and before this witness: I am in You and You are in Me, one person, now and forever. In the name of (the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit). Amen.*

Exchange of Rings: *Giving and Receiving of Rings*

Bless, O Lord, this ring to be a sign of the love that binds N. and N. together. Amen.

N., I give you this ring as a symbol of my love; and with all that I am and all that I have, I honor you. Amen.

Bless, O Lord, this ring to be a sign of the love that binds N and N together. Amen.

N., I give you this ring as a symbol of my love; and with all that I am and all that I have, I honor you. Amen.

As an ordained Minister of the Word and Sacrament and by the power invested in me by the state of Maryland, I pronounce that N and N are now joined to one another in marriage.

Glory be to (the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit)*. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Go to love one another and may the peace and love of Christ descend upon you and rest upon you, now and forever. Amen.

*Optional actions or wordings; In adapting this order of worship, I have chosen to retain as closely as possible the most ancient liturgical text and rubrics.

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