

**Texts which may be used in private and public worship
on the occasion of the wedding of
His Royal Highness Prince William of Wales
& Miss Catherine Middleton**

Pastoral Introduction to Marriage

A wedding is one of life's great moments, a time of solemn commitment as well as good wishes, feasting and joy. St John tells us how Jesus shared in such an occasion at Cana, and gave there a sign of new beginnings as he turned water into wine. Marriage is intended by God to be a creative relationship, as his blessing enables husband and wife to love and support each other in good times and in bad, and to share in the care and upbringing of children. For Christians, marriage is also an invitation to share life together in the spirit of Jesus Christ. It is based upon a solemn, public and life-long covenant between a man and a woman, declared and celebrated in the presence of God and before witnesses. On the wedding day of Prince William and Miss Catherine Middleton, as at every Christian wedding, the bride and bridegroom face each other, make their promises and receive God's blessing. We express our support by our prayers. Our support does not end today: the couple will value continued encouragement in the days and years ahead of them.

Prayers in Contemporary Language

We pray for all who are preparing for or celebrating their marriage. In particular we pray for Prince William of Wales and Miss Catherine Middleton. As they embark on married life together, we hold them and their families before God and ask for his grace and blessing.

God of all grace,
friend and companion,
look in favour on William and Catherine
and all who are made one in marriage.
In your love deepen their love
and strengthen their wills
to keep the promises they will make,
that they may continue
in life-long faithfulness to each other;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Common Worship

God our Father,
you have taught us through your Son
that love is the fulfilling of the law;
grant to your servants William and Catherine
that, loving one another,
they may continue in your love until their lives' end;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Common Worship

Heavenly Father,
tender and compassionate,
create in William and Catherine a love deep and true,
that in this broken world they may be a sign of unity.
May they nurture, support and inspire the children
with whom you may entrust them
to enjoy your blessing and to serve your world;
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

New Zealand (adapted)

The following prayer may be said at public worship only after the Royal Wedding has taken place.

Almighty and merciful Father,
the strength of all who put their trust in you,
we pray that,
as you have brought William and Catherine together,
you will so enrich them by your grace
that they may truly and faithfully keep those vows
which they have made to one another in your sight;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Alternative Services: Series One (adapted)

Prayers in Traditional Language

Heavenly Father,
we thank thee that in our earthly lives
thou dost speak unto us of life everlasting:
we pray thee that through their marriage
William and Catherine may know thee more clearly,
love thee more dearly,
and follow thee more nearly,
day by day;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Common Worship (adapted)

The following prayer may be said at public worship only after the Royal Wedding has taken place.

O Eternal God,
Creator and Preserver of all mankind,
giver of all spiritual grace,
the author of everlasting life;
Send thy blessing upon thy servants William and Catherine
that living faithfully together,
they may surely perform and keep
the vow and covenant betwixt them made
and that they may ever remain in perfect love and peace together,
and live according to thy laws;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Alternative Services: Series One

Additional Prayers

A prayer for the Royal Wedding, which may be used by children (for example in school assembly or in a children's Church group)

Dear Jesus,
we pray for Prince William and Catherine Middleton
as they get ready for their wedding day.
Keep them safe,
make them happy
and help them
to look after each other always.

Amen.

Christopher Woods

A prayer for the gift of children

Heavenly Father,
maker of all things,
you enable us to share in your work of creation.
Bless William and Catherine in the gift and care of children,
that their home may be a place of love, security and truth,
and their children grow up to know and love you
in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Common Worship

A Prayer for the families of Prince William and Miss Catherine Middleton

Gracious Lord,
bless the families of William and Catherine
that they may grow in love and friendship.
Grant that, as they witness the marriage vows,
they may find their lives enriched and strengthened
and their loyalties confirmed;
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Common Worship

A prayer for all who are preparing for marriage

Faithful God,
giver of all good things,
give to all who prepare for marriage
wisdom and devotion in the ordering of their lives together.
May they dwell together in the love and peace of the risen Christ.
May they always
seek one another's welfare,
bear one another's burdens
and share one another's joys;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Common Worship (adapted)