

Statement on the Gift of Marriage

Option #1

We are gathered in the presence of God
to give thanks for the gift of marriage,
to witness the joining together of Name and Name,
to surround them with our prayers,
and to ask God's blessing upon them,
so that they may be strengthened for their life together
and nurtured in their love for God.

God created us in his image
and gave us marriage
so two people may help and comfort each other,
living faithfully together in plenty and in want,
in joy and in sorrow,
in sickness and in health,
throughout all their days.

God gave us marriage
for the well-being of human society,
for the ordering of family life,
for the birth and nurture of children.

We rejoice that marriage is given by God,
blessed by our Lord Jesus Christ,
and sustained by the Holy Spirit.

Therefore, let marriage be held in honor by all of us.

Option #2

As a community of friends and family,
we are gathered in the presence of God
to give thanks for the gift of marriage,
to witness the joining together of Name and Name
to surround them with our prayers,
and to ask God's blessing upon them,
so that they may be strengthened for their life together
and nurtured in their love for God.

God created us in his image
and gave us marriage
so two people may help and comfort each other,
living faithfully together in plenty and in want,
in joy and in sorrow,
in sickness and in health,
throughout all their days.

God gave us marriage
to share the joy of caring and receiving care from one person
to embrace family from having children to having in-laws
to challenge each other toward growth shown in gentle ways
to give and accept truth and friendship wrapped in deep love

We rejoice that marriage is given by God,
blessed by our Lord Jesus Christ,
and sustained by the Holy Spirit.

Therefore, let marriage be held in honor by all of us.

-adapted from *PC(USA) Book of Common Worship*

Option #3

We are gathered here on this beautiful day to witness the union of Name and Name in marriage. This is a day of great celebration, for a married life - a shared life - is a great blessing. As name and name embark on this journey together, they will be able to nurture a love that makes them better versions of themselves. Marriage is a garden we sow with love, and harvest in personal growth.

Name and Name, on your journey together, keep your spouse in the space of highest priority in your heart. The love that you share must be guarded and cherished forever, for it is your most valuable treasure. Always remember these words; Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

-from Laura and Andrew's wedding day