

You can choose some parts of the wedding service*.

- (A) One Bible Reading
- (B) Some Prayers
- (C) 2 hymns (*discuss with the organist*)
- (D) A non-Biblical reading

*subject to the vicar's approval



(A) Bible Readings. (Choose one)

1 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him. (John 2:1-11.)

2 If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love. (1 Corinthians 13)

3 Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. (1 John 4:7-12)

4 Jesus said to his disciples: 'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.' (John 15: 9-17)

5 Other readings are suitable

<http://www.cofe.anglican.org/worship/liturgy/commonworship/texts/marriage/readingspsalms.html>

(B) Prayers (*select the ones you like*)

1a Heavenly Father, maker of all things, you enable us to share in your work of creation. Bless this couple in the gift and care of children, that their home may be a place of love, security and trust, and their children grow up to know and love you in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

1b Heavenly Father, maker of all things, you enable us to share in your work of creation, we thank you for blessing N and N with the gift and care of N may their home be a place of love, security and trust, and their children grow up to know and love you in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

2 Almighty God, you send your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of all your people. Open the hearts of these your servants to the riches of his grace, that they may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in love and joy and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

3 Eternal God, true and loving Father, in holy matrimony you make your servants one. May their life together witness to your love in this troubles world; may unity overcome division, forgiveness heal injury, and joy triumph over sorrow, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

4 Loving God, you are merciful and forgiving. Grant that those who are suffering the hurts of the past may experience your generous love. Heal their memories, comfort them, and send them all from here renewed and hopeful; in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

5 God our creator, we thank you for your gift of sexual love by which husband and wife may delight in each other and share with you the joy of creating new life. By your grace may N and N remain lovers, rejoicing in your goodness all their days. Amen

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

(C) Suggested Hymns.

All Creatures Of Our God And King
All People That On Earth Do Dwell
All Things Bright And Beautiful
Amazing Grace
At The Name Of Jesus
Dear Lord And Father Of Mankind
Immortal Invisible God Only Wise
Lead Us Heavenly Father Lead Us
Love Divine All Love Excelling
Morning has broken
O Jesus I Have Promised
The Lord of the Dance
The 23rd Psalm to the tune Crimmond
Give me joy in my heart

Seasonal carols, or harvest hymns are suitable in that season.

Hymns that can be chosen but need a choir to help sing them:

Jerusalem
And Did Those Feet In Ancient Times
How Great Thou Art
I Vow To Thee My Country

For the words see the church hymn book or the internet:

<http://www.oremus.org/hymnal/>

The verses of the hymns that you wish to sing should be printed in the order of service, or the hymns should be as printed in the Church hymn books, or carol sheets.

(D) Non-biblical readings.

It is possible to have non-Biblical readings in the wedding service, subject to the vicar's approval. These are some examples of suitable readings.

1 Irish Blessing

May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
The rains fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of his hand.

May God be with you and bless you;
May you see your children's children.
May you be poor in misfortune,
Rich in blessings,
May you know nothing but happiness
From this day forward.

May the road rise to meet you
May the wind be always at your back
May the warm rays of sun fall upon your home
And may the hand of a friend always be near.

May green be the grass you walk on,
May blue be the skies above you,
May pure be the joys that surround you,
May true be the hearts that love you.

2 From the Prophet by Kahlil Gibrab

Love has no other desire but to fulfill itself. But if you love and must needs have desires, let these be your desires: To melt and be like a running brook that sings its melody to the night. To know the pain of too much tenderness.
To be wounded by your own understanding of love;
And to bleed willingly and joyfully.
To wake at dawn with a winged heart and give thanks for another day of loving;
To rest at the noon hour and meditate love's ecstasy;
To return home at eventide with gratitude;
And then to sleep with a prayer for the beloved in your heart and a song of praise on your lips.

NB Many other readings and poems are available on the internet.