



Weddings at Christ Church

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The union of two persons in heart, body, and mind is intended by God for their mutual joy; for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity...

Blessings, and congratulations on your upcoming marriage!

Marriage is one of the most important turning points in our lives. It is a vocation in which two come together as one, giving themselves to the other as an unconditional gift. As rings are exchanged, the two partners promise, “with all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you.”

We welcome your desire to enter into this covenant at Christ Church. Our church is a beautiful space, and we thank you for your interest.

If you would like for the parish clergy to officiate at your ceremony, you will be required to participate in four pre-marital counseling sessions with the clergy. If you would prefer to have a justice of the peace or another minister officiate, the church may be rented out for the afternoon and you are free to structure your service as you wish. The information below applies if you would like to have our clergy as your Officiant.

The Wedding

You may choose to have any Biblical readings at your ceremony, but you will find a few relevant passages listed below. Psalms, hymns, anthems, solos or instrumental music may be used between the lessons. If you would like a non-Biblical reading to be read, it should be approved by your Officiant.

Hebrew Scriptures

Genesis 1:26-28 (Male and female: he created them)

Genesis 2:4-9, 15-24 (Man cleaves to his wife and they become one flesh)

Song of Solomon 2:10-13; 8:6-7 (Many waters cannot quench love)

Epistles

I Corinthians 13:1-13 (Love is patient and kind)

Ephesians 3:14-19 (The Father from whom every family is named)

Ephesians 5:1-2,21-33 (Walk in love, as Christ loved us)

Colossians 3:12-17 (Love, which binds everything together in harmony)

I John 4:7-16 (Let us love one another for love is of God)

Gospels

Matthew 5:1-10 (The Beatitudes)

Matthew 5:13-16 (You are the light/Let your light shine)

Matthew 7:21, 24-29 (Like the wise man who builds his house upon the rock)

Mark 10:6-9, 13-16 (They are no longer two but one)

John 15:12 (Love one another as I have loved you)

Suggested psalms include Psalm 67, 127, and 128.

What about music?

The parish organist may be available. If you would like to have guest musicians, the music should be selected in consultation with your Officiant.

What if my partner and I are of different faiths?

What if neither of us is Episcopalian?

Our only requirement is that, in order to get married at Christ Church by our clergy, one partner is a baptized Christian (in any denomination). If you and your spouse-to be are of different faiths, our clergy are happy to work together with your rabbi, imam, or other minister to craft a service that reflects each of your beliefs. If someone else is to officiate, there are no requirements.

How will the church be decorated?

Flowers may be provided by a florist, or by the parish Flower Guild. Consultation for parish provided flowers must be made at least one month prior to the date of the wedding. The flowers may be left on the altar for Sunday services, as a thank-offering for the marriage or a memorial to a loved one. Of course, you can also take them to the reception.

The Candles used on the altar are the candles ordinarily used for worship. Special pew candles may be arranged. If you would like to have other decorations, such as bows on the pews, these arrangements must first be cleared with the church. Nothing may be attached with wires or tape.

Can we have a photographer?

Photography is discouraged during our services, and only *non flash* photos may be taken from the side. Videotaping is permissible, but the camera must be on a stationary tripod. We encourage posed pictures to be taken before the service, so you can join your wedding guests as soon as possible after the ceremony. After the wedding is over, we ask that the sanctuary be vacated within thirty minutes so we can prepare for the following Sunday's service.

We got married by a justice of the peace already.

Can we still have a church wedding?

Our prayer book has a special service for the blessing of a civil marriage, which might be appropriate. It is very similar to the rite for marriage.

Can we have our reception at the church?

If you would like to have your reception in the parish hall, arrangements can be made with the parish office and the sexton. An additional fee will be charged.

Who can we call to answer our questions?

Using the space is arranged through the parish office. In addition to speaking with the officiant (whether our clergy or someone else), we ask that you arrange the details for the ceremony with our wedding coordinator, who has worked with many, many couples on their weddings, and she can help you with decorations, flowers, etc. She will also be present at the service and rehearsal to let you into the church.

Fees

Church Use \$500 (approx. 2 hours for wedding and 1 hour for rehearsal)

Sexton: \$75 (for cleaning)

Wedding Coordinator \$100

Organist (if desired) \$200

Parish Clergy (if desired) \$500

A non refundable deposit of 100.00 is due in advance to reserve the space.

9/2/2008