

**GUIDELINES FOR  
MARRIAGES  
At Trinity Memorial  
Church**



*This set of guidelines is for couples who wish to be married at Trinity Memorial Church, Binghamton, New York.*

Congratulations on your engagement! May God richly bless you and your families as you prepare for your wedding day and for many years of marriage to come. The clergy and people of Trinity Memorial Church support you with their prayers.

We make every effort to ensure your day is uniquely special. However, there remain certain guidelines that are not negotiable. Trinity Memorial is an Episcopal church and is therefore bound by Episcopal canons (laws and rules) as well as guidelines adopted by this parish.

**According to the canons of the Episcopal Church:**

- At least one of you must be a baptized Christian;
- At least two witnesses besides the officiating clergy must be present;
- The marriage must conform to the laws of Broome County, the State of New York **and** the canons of the Episcopal Church, which require
  - both parties must understand that Holy Matrimony is a sacramental, lifelong covenant, and sign a document to this effect (*the Declaration of Intention*);
  - both parties must be acting freely without fraud, coercion or mental reservation;
  - the clergy must have at least 30 days notice before the service is to take place (a longer period will be necessary if one of the parties has been divorced);
  - the clergy shall conduct pre-marital instruction with both of you, or else make sure that another qualified person has done so;

- if one of you have been divorced, permission from the bishop is required to conduct the wedding, with a form to be filled out by both of you and a recommendation by the clergy;
- the clergy can at any time decline to perform the wedding.

**Regarding the bride and groom:**

- You both need to complete a simple factual application. A copy is attached.
- If a prenuptial agreement is in effect or contemplated, the clergy needs to be aware of its details at the time of application.

**Regarding the date of the wedding:**

- You both must meet the clergy and sign the Declaration of Consent before a date can be set. Thirty days is the minimum notice; more may be necessary. If one of you is divorced, more time will be required.
- The time for premarital counseling needs to be scheduled early in the application process. We require at least for (4) sessions of one hour each; more may be necessary.
- If one of you has been divorced, the bishop's permission to perform the marriage must be secured before the date becomes final.

**Regarding the ceremony:**

- The wedding will normally take place in the church.
- The parish clergy will perform the service. Arrangements to include other clergy in the service must be made through the parish clergy.

- ***The parish clergy are in charge*** of the service. Any wedding consultant needs to be able to take directions from them.
- ***The marriage license and checks*** should be presented to the office a WEEK in advance of the ceremony.
- A wedding is a ***public event***, and parishioners are understood to be welcome to attend the service (though the reception may require an invitation).
- ***Communion for the congregation*** is appropriate if both of you are baptized and planning to receive communion. Anyone who perceives God's call to receive Communion is welcome at the altar. Communion will not be performed for only a select few.
- ***Music***: The parish organist will play for the service and make any arrangements for other musicians to participate. Final decisions about appropriate music rest with the clergy and organist.
- ***Flowers***: The clergy will guide you in the use of flowers and any other decorations. The florist should be in touch with the main office to determine when the church will be available for decorations. If a runner is to be used for the processional, it should be provided by the florist, and the clergy should be informed at the latest, at the rehearsal.
- ***Unity Candles***: If you desire to light a Unity Candle during the ceremony, please notify the clergy before the rehearsal. You must provide your own. Please, purchase high quality beeswax candles. Candelabras are available as are pew candles. There is an extra charge to have these installed and removed. You remain responsible for the candles, for either the pews and/or the candelabra.
- ***Photography/Videography***: The photographer/videographer needs to call the parish office as soon as they know they will be handling the wedding. The office will send them detailed instructions (a copy is attached) and the clergy will work closely with them to ensure that you get the pictures you want without disturbing the participants or violating the sanctity of the occasion. Members of the congregation will not be allowed to take any flash photos during the service.

## **Fees and Honoraria:**

- All fees and honoraria should be given to the clergy for distribution to the appropriate people.
- A member of the church is never required to pay for the use of the church for a sacramental service.
- It is customary to make an offering to the Rector's Discretionary Fund in thanksgiving for the clergy's services. This donation will be used to meet needs in the parish or community.
- The organist's fee is \$200.00 and is payable at the rehearsal.
- The sexton should be paid \$125.00 is payable at the rehearsal. If extra work is incurred by the strewing of birdseed or petals or pew candles or candelabra are requested then \$20 extra should be added.
- Clergy from another church or parish whom you wish to participate in the service should be given a minimal honorarium of \$75 to \$100 and their travel expenses.
- There is a charge of \$50.00 for the church office to produce a basic service bulletin.

*All correspondence or question should be directed to the church office at 44 Main St., Binghamton, NY 13905 (607) 723-3593 or < [trinity@trinitymemorial.org](mailto:trinity@trinitymemorial.org) >*

**A FORM FOR  
PLANNING A  
MARRIAGE**  
at Trinity Memorial  
Church



**The Rite of Consent**

Selection(s): Organ, Instrumental, or Vocal Prelude(s) before the Service:

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Opening Procession (Choose one of the following options or you may discuss other options with the clergy)

- Single procession for clergy, bride's party, and groom's party  
 Separate processions for (1) clergy and groom's party and (2) ushers and bridal party  
 Separate processions for (1) clergy and groom's party and (2) bridal party

Hymn(s), anthem(s), and /or instrumental selections for the processions:

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Exhortation to the congregation and charge to the couple

Declaration of consent by the couple

Promise by the congregation

Presentation of Couple for Marriage of Blessing of the Families  
(Choose one option)

- Presentation of the bride and groom by parents  
 Blessing of the Families (form below)  
 Presentation of the bride  
     By the father                       By both parents  
 Omit presentation/blessing

N.,N.,N., and N. [Names of the members of the bride and groom's families], do you give your blessing to N. and N. and promise to do everything in your power to uphold them in their marriage?

*The families answer*

We give our blessing and promise our loving support.

Hymn, psalm, anthem or instrumental music:

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### The Ministry of the Word

Wedding party \_\_\_ seated or \_\_\_ standing for the Ministry of the Word?

**First lesson** (Choose one of the following) Reader: \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_ Genesis 1:26-28 *Male and female he created them.*
- \_\_\_ Genesis 2:4-9, 15-24 *A man cleaves to his wife and they become one flesh.*
- \_\_\_ Song of Solomon 2:1-13, 8:6-7 *Many waters cannot quench love.*
- \_\_\_ Tobit 8:5b-8 *Then she and I may grow old together.*
- \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

After the First Lesson (Choose one of the following)

- \_\_\_ Hymn or anthem \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ Psalm 67 *God be merciful to us and bless us.*
- \_\_\_ Psalm 127 *Children are a heritage from the Lord.*
- \_\_\_ Psalm 128 *The blessing of the family that fears the Lord.*
- Psalm \_\_\_ said or \_\_\_ sung?
- \_\_\_ Second Lesson follows first without interval.

**Second Lesson** (Choose one of the following) Reader: \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_ 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 *Love is patient and kind.*
- \_\_\_ Ephesians 3:14-19 *The Father from whom every family is named.*  
(not recommended because of subjection of wife to husband)
- \_\_\_ Colossians 3:12-17 *Love which binds everything together in harmony.*
- \_\_\_ 1 John 4:7-16 *Let us love one another, for love is of God.*
- \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

After the Second Lesson (Choose one of the following)

- \_\_\_ Hymn or anthem \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ Gospel follows Second Lesson without interval.

**Gospel** (Choose one of the following)

- Matthew 5:1-10 *The Beatitudes*
  - Matthew 5:13-16 *You are the light....Let your light so shine.*
  - Matthew 7:21, 24-29 *Like a wise man who built his house upon the rock.*
  - Mark 10:6-9, 13-16 *They are no longer two but one.*
  - John 15:9-12 *Love one another as I have loved you.*
  - Other Gospel \_\_\_\_\_
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**The Homily** (The theme should be to give thanks to God.)

- A response to the Lessons by participating clergy
- A hymn or anthem \_\_\_\_\_
- A friend's message (Name of friend) \_\_\_\_\_
- Couple may address each other

**The Marriage**

Psalm, hymn, anthem, or instrumental music during procession before the vows:

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**The Vows**

**The Blessing of the rings(s)**

**The Exchange of the Ring(s)**

**The Declaration of Marriage**

**The Lord's Prayer** (if the Eucharist does not follow)

- traditional form
- contemporary form

**The Prayers**

Leader: \_\_\_\_\_

- Prayer on page 430 *Most gracious God, we give you thanks...*
- Prayer on page 431 *O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage...*

**The Peace**

**The Eucharist**

- No celebration
- Rite I
- Rite II
- Other (Supplemental Text)

**Preparation of the Bread and Wine for the Eucharist**

\_\_\_ Organ Music \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Hymn or anthem \_\_\_\_\_

The bride and groom present the bread and wine (a table can be placed close to the altar with the bread and wine during the earlier part of the ceremony).

**Eucharistic Prayer**

- \_\_\_ Eucharistic Prayer I
- \_\_\_ Eucharistic Prayer A
- \_\_\_ Eucharistic Prayer C

- \_\_\_ Eucharistic Prayer II
- \_\_\_ Eucharistic Prayer B
- \_\_\_ Eucharistic Prayer D

**Holy, holy, holy**

\_\_\_ said

\_\_\_ Hymnal, S \_\_\_\_\_

Hymns or anthems during communion: \_\_\_\_\_

Prayer after communion \_\_\_\_\_

Blessing and Dismissal \_\_\_\_\_

Hymn, anthem, or instrumental selection for final procession: \_\_\_\_\_

**Preparation of Service Bulletin**

\_\_\_ Service written out

\_\_\_ Outline of Service

\_\_\_ Trinity Staff prepares bulletin (\$50)

\_\_\_ Participants prepare bulletin

<p style="text-align: center;">Trinity Memorial Church  44 Main Street  Binghamton, NY 13905-3181  (607) 723-3593 Fax: 607 724-6945  trinity@trinitymemorial.org</p>
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**PARTICIPANTS**

**Bride** \_\_\_\_\_

**Maid/Matron of Honor** \_\_\_\_\_

**Groom** \_\_\_\_\_

**Best Man** \_\_\_\_\_

**Bridesmaids** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Groomsmen** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Officiant** \_\_\_\_\_

**Assisting Clergy** \_\_\_\_\_

**Organist** \_\_\_\_\_

**Other Musicians** \_\_\_\_\_

**Readers** \_\_\_\_\_

**Leader for Prayers** \_\_\_\_\_

**Eucharistic Ministers** \_\_\_\_\_

## LIST OF SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WEDDINGS

*The following list suggests hymns which seem especially suitable, but other hymns may be suitable as well. If "favorite" hymns are chosen, care should be taken that their themes are appropriate for a wedding. Unless there is a choir, care should be taken to choose hymns that the congregation at the wedding will be able to sing without difficulty.*

### **Hymns designated in the Hymnal for Weddings**

- 352 O God, to those who here profess  
353 Your love, O God, has called us here

### **General Hymns**

- 364 O God we praise you and confess  
365 Holy God, we praise thy Name  
373 Praise the Lord, ye heavens adore him  
375 Give praise and glory unto God  
376 Joyful, joyful, we adore thee  
390 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty  
396/397 Now thank we all our God  
398 I sing the almighty power of God  
399 To God with gladness sing  
400 All creatures of our God and King  
401 The God of Abraham praise  
408 Sing praise to God who reigns above  
409 The spacious firmament on high  
410 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven  
414 God, my King, thy might confessing  
415 For the beauty of the earth  
421 All glory be to God on high  
422 Immortal, invisible, God only wise  
432 O praise ye the Lord: Praise him in the height  
518 Christ is made the sure foundation  
593 Lord, make us servants of your peace  
709 O God of Bethel, by whose hand

### **Hymns for Use at the Offertory or Communion (A Selection)**

- 302/303      Father, we thank thee, who has joined  
304            I come with joy to meet my Lord  
307            Lord, enthroned in heavenly glory  
308/309      O food to pilgrims given  
312            Strengthen for service, Lord (at or after communion)  
315            Thou, who at thy first eucharist didst pray  
336            Come with us, O blessed Jesus (at or after communion)  
340/341      For the bread, which you have broken

*Revised 11/13/08*

***MARRIAGE NOTES***