

Weddings at Christ & St. Luke's Episcopal Church

2023

Holy Matrimony is a Sacrament of the Church. At Christ & St. Luke's it is open to all couples equally, including same-sex couples.



The wedding service in the Episcopal Church is called the Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage. The wedding is the occasion when the Christian community gathers to celebrate your commitment to one another and to ask God's blessing on your life together. We are pleased that you wish to celebrate your marriage at Christ & St. Luke's Episcopal Church. This pamphlet has been prepared to provide you with information concerning preparation for marriage and planning for the wedding ceremony. Since each marriage and each wedding is unique, you will have specific questions and concerns. *You are required to speak with the Clergy and the Music Director prior to reserving a date and time for your ceremony.*

Requirements for Marriage

Those who seek to be married in the Episcopal Church affirm that they intend a life-long commitment to one another. The couple are asked to sign a Declaration of Intention to enter into Christian marriage. Their vows are made in the presence of God and within the Christian community. Therefore, it is required that at least one, of the parties must be a baptized Christian, and is a member of Christ & St. Luke's, or their parents, or grandparents are pledging and contributing members of record of Christ & St. Luke's. Couple's living outside of Norfolk who are active, attending, and pledging members of another church parish will be considered upon request and will require an additional fee (Good Neighbor Wedding). That the ceremony be attested by at least two witnesses; and that the marriage conform to the laws of the Commonwealth and the canons of this Church. (The Book of Common Prayer, page 422)

If either person has been divorced, the couple must meet with the Clergy to decide if re-marriage is advisable. If the decision is made to proceed with the marriage, the Clergy must seek permission from the Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia. The priest submits forms, including information from the couple. The procedure for seeking permission for re-marriage takes 60 days, and the wedding should not be announced until the permission has been received. In discussing marriage with any couple,

whether re-marriage is involved or not, the priest may advise the couple against marriage and may decline to officiate at the wedding.

The couple will be responsible for securing a Virginia marriage license. A marriage license is valid for sixty days. It is necessary for the officiating priest to be in possession of the license at least 48 hours before the ceremony.

‘Good Neighbor’ Policy

As part of its Good Neighbor Policy, Christ & St. Luke’s will consider allowing use of its church building when a local Episcopal church is in a difficult situation related to space limitations.

Because the church at Christ & St. Luke’s is larger than many Episcopal churches in Norfolk, smaller Episcopal congregations expecting a large wedding may ask to use our church at times. In such cases, the request should be made by the Rector of such a parish to the Rector of Christ & St. Luke’s. This request must state that the couple is regular in worship and that they pledge to the financial support of the congregation involved. All the guidelines for weddings at Christ & St. Luke’s must be followed. A fee schedule is available for this type of service. The Church is not available for receptions following a “Good Neighbor” wedding.

Preparation for Marriage

The couple will meet for pre-marital counseling with the priest who will officiate at the wedding. This counseling allows the couple to consider and discuss both practical and spiritual aspects of marriage and to build a foundation for the promises they will make (and is required by the Canons). Planning the wedding ceremony is also included. Ordinarily, a minimum of three sessions is required. In exceptional circumstances, such as when the bride and groom live elsewhere, arrangements may be made for another priest to provide the pre-marital counseling. In addition to pre-marital counseling, you will be asked to meet with the Director of Music, if music will be a part of your wedding ceremony. The Clergy of Christ & St. Luke’s consider it a privilege to officiate at weddings held in this parish. The Rector determines which of the Christ & St. Luke’s Clergy will officiate; taking into account such factors as a particular pastoral relationship between the couple and one of the Clergy staff. Other Clergy, such as the parish priest of the bride or groom, or a relative or friend who is ordained (in the Episcopal Church or in another denomination) may be invited by the Rector to assist in the wedding service.



The Ceremony

The Book of Common Prayer of the Episcopal Church contains the service for The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage (pages 423 –432). Wedding ceremonies at Christ & St. Luke's Episcopal Church follow this service. You should read through the service carefully as you begin to think about your wedding. Many parts of the ceremony, including the vows, are specified by the Prayer Book. You may not write your own vows. Other aspects are variable, including Scripture lessons and customs such as giving away the bride. The wedding may or may not include a celebration of the Holy Eucharist. Family and friends may be invited to read Scripture lessons or prayers. The Officiant will guide you in making appropriate choices for your wedding service.

When can weddings take place?

Weddings may be scheduled on Saturdays between 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. To ensure that each ceremony is as beautiful and memorable as you hope it to be, only one wedding may be scheduled on any day.

Music

The Christ & St. Luke's Organist plays for all weddings held in the church and chapel. If he/she is unavailable for a wedding, he/she will secure a suitable substitute. Both instrumental music and hymns can be a significant and beautiful part of the wedding service. The Director of Music will guide you in the selection of music. You may discuss any requests you may have. The Director of Music must approve all music for weddings at Christ & St. Luke's. Other instrumentalists and vocalists may participate, if you wish and must be coordinated and approved by the Director of Music. Please take some time to familiarize yourself with the musical options listed at the end of this document.

Order of Service: Service Bulletins

Christ & St. Luke's will provide service bulletins for the wedding ceremony or, if you prefer, you may create your own with approval from the church's Wedding Director. The bulletin is a worship leaflet and, while it makes a nice memento of the occasion, its purpose is to help your guests participate in the service. The bride and groom are responsible for providing the information for the program, such as the names of the bridal party, as well as proofing it. Finished copies of the order of service will be available at the time of the rehearsal.

Flowers, Candles, and other decorations

Flowers set the stage for the wedding ceremony, and under the direction of the church's Flower Guild, every wedding service is resplendent with floral arrangements that provide a beautiful frame for the wedding couple and guests.

1. A pair of flower arrangements can be placed on either side of the high altar. The Flower Guild of Christ and St. Luke's will provide these altar flowers. Flowers on the altar are your gift to the church and remain for Sunday services. Following Sunday services, the Flower Guild will take the flowers to members of the congregation who are ill. This practice of taking the Altar flowers to "shut-ins" brings the joy of your wedding to many people who are not able to attend Church. If additional flowers are requested, the Flower Guild will assist in those arrangements for an additional 400.00.



2. If aisle candles are used, modest decorations may be attached to the wrought-iron candle stands. The wedding party is responsible for providing, attaching and removing the decorations from the candle stands after the ceremony.
3. No flowers, ferns, greens, balloons or any other decoration will be placed in or on any other part of the church, including pews. Nothing should be taped to the pews or any other part of the church.
4. No wreaths, petals nor balloons are allowed outside the church.
5. No “unity” candles and/or other symbols are used.
6. No aisle runners are used in the church.
7. The throwing of rice, birdseed, confetti, flower petals, etc. on the church premises is not permitted.

Photography

Photographs and videos provide meaningful keepsakes of your wedding day. However, the wedding experience can be irreparably diminished by photographers or videographers who are obtrusive and intrusive. To avoid this problem, Christ & St. Luke’s Episcopal Church has strict rules about wedding photography and videography. **It is your responsibility to inform your photographer or videographer of the following rules.**

1. Photographs and videos may be taken freely outside the church before and after the service.
2. Photographs may be taken in the church before the service. The church will be open for photographers two hours before the service and photographers must be finished 30 minutes before the service is scheduled to start.
3. No church property may be moved by the photographer/videographer.
4. During weddings at Christ & St. Luke’s, from the beginning of the bridal march until the recessional, no photographs are permitted, except those taken from the side chapel using available light. **No photographs may be taken in the center aisle and no flash photography is allowed during the service.** Wedding guests are expected to follow these rules as well.
5. Video cameras are allowed, only if placed unobtrusively at a stationary location in the back of the church prior to the ceremony, and set to tape the ceremony. The videographer may not walk around during the ceremony.
6. It is expected that cameras and video equipment will be quiet with no distractions during the service.
7. The bridal party and guests must complete all post-wedding photographs, greetings, etc., no later than 30 minutes after the conclusion of the ceremony.

The reason for the time limit is because both the Altar Guild and staff are limited by time in preparing for the Sunday services which follow on the next day. It should be remembered that the Altar Guild consists of volunteers and every effort should be made to avoid keeping them waiting an inordinate amount of time.

8. It is expected that photographers and videographers will dress in a conservative manner suitable for a church service.

Photographers must be unobtrusive and cooperate with these regulations.

The Wedding Rehearsal

A wedding rehearsal is essential. Participants in the ceremony need preparation for the various roles they must carry out. A rehearsal helps make the participants more comfortable, and ensures that the ceremony will proceed smoothly and with dignity. The rehearsal normally takes place at 5 p.m. the evening before the wedding. Every effort should be made to have all the participants arrive on time for the rehearsal and remain until dismissed by the priest.

CSL provides each couple with extra help from its Wedding Director, who assists at both the rehearsal and the wedding. An outside wedding coordinator may attend and participates at the direction of the Christ and St. Luke's Wedding Director.

The bridal party may arrive up to two hours prior to the ceremony for the purpose of last-minute preparations, pre-wedding photographs, etc. A room will be made available for the bride, her attendants, and her immediate family. The women of the bridal party may dress at the church.

While this is a glorious day of celebration, please wait until the reception to enjoy alcoholic beverages. Consumption of alcohol (such as champagne and other spirits) is not permitted in the dressing rooms or on church property.

Please remember the church is not responsible for items left in Bride's room or Groom's room during the wedding.

Note: Theme weddings (i.e. Medieval, Elizabethan, Antebellum, etc.) and/or costumes are not permitted to be worn by anyone participating in the wedding service under any circumstances.

Flower Girls and Ring Bearers

Flower girls and ring bearers are required to be **at least 4 years of age**. If you would like to have a child younger than 4 years of age in your wedding, special permission must be given by the Wedding Director.

Nursery for Guests

Christ & St. Luke's is not able to provide a staffed nursery for weddings. Due to insurance liability, we are also not able to provide space for a nursery.

Note: If you wish the Clergy and other church staff to attend the rehearsal dinner and/or wedding reception, please extend an invitation, as they do not attend wedding functions unless they are invited.

After the Ceremony

Will all of you witnessing these promises do all in your power to uphold these two persons in their marriage? We will.
— The Book of Common Prayer, page 425

The Christian community promises to support you in your marriage. We hope that your relationship to Christ & St. Luke's Episcopal Church will continue and that you will find spiritual growth and sustenance within this parish family. Please remember that Clergy are available for "post-marital" counseling as well, to help you live out the vows that you make on your wedding day.



Wedding Fees

A fee of \$2,000 for active members or children of active members, payable to Christ & St. Luke's Episcopal Church, includes:

- Premarital counseling, the rehearsal and wedding with the Officiant
- The services of the Wedding Director
- Consultation, services of the Organist
(This fee does not include the cost for any additional musicians.)
- Altar Guild services, altar flower (two altar arrangements) and other sanctuary expenses. *(This fee does not include special flower requests.)*
- Service Bulletins
- Setup, security and cleanup by a sexton
- A contribution to the clergy discretionary fund

****For those wishing to use Christ & St. Luke's as a wedding venue, but who are non-members, there will be an additional fee of \$2,000.**

Additional/Optional Fees

-Good Neighbor Weddings	\$3,000
-Additional Instrumentalist or soloist (subject to approval)	\$200
-Additional 10 candelabras lining the nave of the church (total of 98 candles):	\$150

The Sexton is present at the rehearsal and on the day of the wedding to open and close the church, set up candelabra, ring the bell, and provide other forms of assistance. The Sexton will open the doors two hours before the start time of the ceremony.

A 50% deposit is due before your wedding date is secured on the church calendar. Payment in full is due two weeks before the ceremony. **No wedding rehearsal may take place until all fees have been paid.**

Wedding Music at Christ and St. Luke's

Date & Time of Wedding: _____ Couple: _____

From the following list, please select two pieces for the Processional and one for the Recessional:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Air (from Suite No. 3 in D) | Johann Sebastian Bach |
| 2. Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring | Johann Sebastian Bach |
| 3. Ave Maria | Johann Sebastian Bach/Charles Gounod |
| 4. Ode to Joy | Ludwig van Beethoven |
| 5. Prélude (from Te Deum) | Marc-Antoine Charpentier |
| 6. Prince of Denmark's March (Trumpet Voluntary) | Jeremiah Clarke |
| 7. Panis Angelicus | Cesar Franck |
| 8. Air (from Water Music) | Georg Frideric Handel |
| 9. Hornpipe (from Water Music) | Georg Frideric Handel |
| 10. Minuet (from Berenice) | Georg Frideric Handel |
| 11. Aria (from Concerto Grosso No. 12) | Georg Frideric Handel |
| 12. Wedding March (from A Midsummer Night's Dream) | Felix Mendelssohn |
| 13. Rondeau in D major | Jean-Joseph Mouret |
| 14. Canon in D | Johann Pachelbel |
| 15. Trumpet Tune | Henry Purcell |
| 16. Ave Maria | Franz Schubert |
| 17. Trumpet Tune | John Stanley |
| 18. Toccata (from Symphonie No. 5) | Charles-Marie Widor |
| 19. Rhosymedre | Ralph Vaughan Williams |

Bridesmaids Procession: _____

Bridal Procession: _____

Recessional: _____

Other (optional): _____

Hymns - It is not necessary to have a hymn at a wedding service; in fact it is more common not to have them. If you desire a hymn, it must come from *The 1982 Hymnal*, and be approved by the Priest and Music Director. A hymn is generally sung between the lessons.

Appropriate Hymns for a Wedding Service:

- | | |
|-----|-----------------------------------|
| 376 | Joyful, joyful we adore thee |
| 390 | Praise to the Lord, the Almighty |
| 397 | Now thank we all our God |
| 400 | All creatures of our God and King |
| 657 | Love divine, all loves excelling |
| 671 | Amazing grace |

Suggested Scripture Readings For the Celebration and blessing of a Marriage

The service for the Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage can be found on page 423 of the *Book of Common Prayer*. The clergy will be happy to discuss how family members may be involved in the liturgy.

Old Testament Readings NRSV

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 2:10-13, 8:6-7 (*Many waters cannot quench love*)

Tobit 8:5b-8 (*That she and I may grow old together*)

New Testament Readings (Epistles) NRSV

1 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*)

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

New Testament Readings (Gospels) NRSA

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 a 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*)

John 2:1-12 (*Wedding at Cana*)

All scripture readings come from the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) of the Bible. If other readings are preferred, the clergy must approve them.

Application for Marriage

Partner/Groom's Last Name: _____ Partner/Bride's Last Name: _____

Date of Application: _____ Date of Wedding: _____ Time: _____

Partner/Groom's Information

Partner/Groom's Full Name: _____

Current Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Email address: _____

Occupation: _____ Education Completed: _____

Current Marital Status: Single Married Widowed Divorced (No. of Times Married Previously: _____)

Member of Christ and Saint Luke's Church? Yes No

If not, member of what church? _____

Baptized? Yes No Denomination: _____

Confirmed? Yes No Denomination: _____

Date of birth: _____ Age: _____ Place of Birth: _____

Father's Full Name: _____

Mother's Full Name: _____

Mother's Maiden Name: _____

Partner/Bride's Information

Partner/Bride's Full Name: _____

Current Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Email address: _____

Occupation: _____ Education Completed: _____

Current Marital Status: Single Married Widowed Divorced (Number of Times Married Previously: _____)

Member of Christ and Saint Luke's Church? Yes No

If not, member of what church? _____

Baptized? Yes No Denomination: _____

Confirmed? Yes No Denomination: _____

Date of birth: _____ Age: _____ Place of Birth: _____

Father's Full Name: _____

Mother's Full Name: _____

Mother's Maiden Name: _____

I have read this whole booklet and agree to the terms and rules regarding the wedding policies of Christ and St. Luke's Episcopal Church.

I acknowledge the fees and agree to pay them by their respective due dates.

I agree to inform my photographer/videographer concerning the rules for taking photos and videos during the wedding ceremony.

Signature of Partner/Groom

Date

Signature of Partner/Bride

Date



560 West Olney Road • Norfolk, Virginia 23507-2135
Phone 757-627-5665 • www.christandstlukes.org