

# Wedding Hymns

## As Man and Woman We Were Made

As man and woman we were made  
that love be found and life begun;  
so praise the Lord who made us two  
and praise the Lord when two are one:  
praise for the love that comes to life  
through child or parent, husband, wife.

Now Jesus lived and gave his love  
to make our life and loving new;  
so celebrate with him today  
and drink the joy he offers you  
that makes the simple moments shine  
and changes water into wine.

And Jesus died to live again;  
so praise the love that, come what may,  
can bring the dawn and clear the skies,  
and waits to wipe all tears away  
and let us hope for what shall be,  
believing where we cannot see.

Then spread the table, clear the hall  
and celebrate till day is done;  
let peace go deep between us all  
and joy be shared by everyone:  
laugh and make merry with your friends  
and praise the love that never ends.

## Bless, Lord, This Bride

Bless, Lord, this Bride; O, hold her in Thy keeping.  
Bless, Lord, this man and shield him safe from ill.  
Grant that their lives in love and gladness reaping,  
may lie in sunshine, with Thy peace be still.

Teach them O God, the nobleness of duty.  
Give them the crown unselfishness may win.  
Light in their hearts Thy fires of glowing beauty,  
loyalty and truth; and keep their ways from sin.

Link Thou their lives, that death alone can sever,  
trace for their feet the brave and steadfast way.  
Guide Thou their hands in works of good endeavour.  
Be Thou, their friend, their guardian and their stay.

Blend them as one, in love that hath no ending,  
love that no trial, no time or death can sway.  
And in this love, Lord, lead their steps ascending,  
ever to Thee, and life's eternal day.

## Come down, O Love divine

Come down, O Love divine,  
seek now this soul of mine,  
and visit it with your own ardour glowing;  
O Comforter, draw near,  
within my heart appear  
and kindle it,  
your holy flame bestowing.

There let it freely burn,  
till earthly passions turn  
to dust and ashes, in its heat consuming;  
and let your glorious light  
shine ever on my sight  
and clothe me round,  
the while my path illuming.

Let holy charity  
my outer garment be,  
and lowliness become my inner clothing:  
true lowliness of heart,  
which takes the humbler part  
and for its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

And so the yearning strong  
with which the soul will long  
shall far outpass the power of human telling;  
for none can guess its grace  
till we become the place  
in which the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.

## God beyond glory

God beyond glory,  
gracious and holy,  
in whose rare image each life is made,  
love is the treasure,  
love is the measure  
of all your Son on earth displayed.

Binding each other,  
father to mother,  
parents to children and friend to friend,  
love, in its sharing,  
love, in its caring  
dares to begin what none dare end.

Here, in your presence,  
love is the essence  
sealing the vows shared by husband and wife.  
This love confessing,  
send them your blessing  
to guard and guide their chosen life.

When joys are deepest,  
where paths are steepest,  
whatever figures in years to come,  
let love in duty  
and love in beauty  
embrace their hearts, their hopes, their home.

### God in the planning and purpose of life

God, in the planning and purpose of life,  
hallowed the union of husband and wife:  
this we embody where love is displayed,  
rings are presented and promises made.

Jesus was found, at a similar feast,  
taking the roles of both waiter and priest,  
turning the worldly towards the divine,  
tears into laughter and water to wine.

Therefore we pray that his spirit preside  
over the wedding of bridegroom and bride,  
fulfilling all that they've hoped will come true,  
lighting with love all they dream of and do.

Praise then the Maker, the Spirit, the Son,  
source of the love through which two are made one.  
God's is the glory, the goodness and grace  
Seen in this marriage and known in this place.

### God of All Living, Father, We Praise You

God of all living, Father, we praise you,  
full of thanksgiving, for so much love:  
now in this wedding, come down among us,  
pour out your blessing,  
Heavenly Dove.

Perfect Companion God's gift in marriage,  
one true communion, help on life's ways,  
may we be mindful in need and plenty,  
may we be faithful  
every new day.

With love's true splendour Father, delight us,  
each giving honour, with faithfulness;  
and may the sharing, of this sweet union,  
deepen our caring,  
with tenderness.

May there be children, fruit of our loving,  
true men and women, with faith beside;  
grant us your keeping in all our future,  
your love caressing,  
bridegroom and bride.

## Gracious Lord We Ask Your Blessing

Gracious Lord we ask your blessing,  
on these two who stand today.  
As they make a new beginning,  
in a fresh and loving way.  
We who love them bless and thank you  
for the memories we hold dear.  
For your love which planned their union,  
for your Grace which brought them here.

May they have the benediction  
of your presence as they go –  
comforting, sustaining, giving,  
quicken hearts that burn and grow.  
And may gracious deep devotion  
fill their lives with fragrance rare,  
telling needy hearts around them  
of a love which all can share.

May their hopes and dreams and longings  
be transformed their whole life through  
into memories they will treasure  
bound with love undimmed and true.  
We would wish them all the gladness  
that this life can hold in store.  
Faith and hope, and joyful service,  
we would ask for them and more.

## Jerusalem

And did those feet in ancient time  
Walk upon England's mountains green?  
And was the holy Lamb of God  
On England's pleasant pastures seen?  
And did the countenance divine  
Shine forth upon our clouded hills?  
And was Jerusalem builded here  
Amongst these dark satanic mills?

Bring me my bow of burning gold  
Bring me my arrows of desire  
Bring me my spear: o clouds unfold!  
Bring me my chariot of fire.  
I will not cease from mental fight  
Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand  
Till we have built Jerusalem  
In England's green and pleasant land.

## Joyful, joyful, we adore You

Joyful, joyful, we adore You,  
God of glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before You,  
Op'ning to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;  
Drive the dark of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness,  
Fill us with the light of day!

All Your works with joy surround You,  
Earth and heav'n reflect Your rays,  
Stars and angels sing around You,  
Center of unbroken praise;  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird and flowing fountain  
Call to praise You joyfully!

You are giving and forgiving,  
Ever blessing, ever blest,  
Well-spring of the joy of living,  
Ocean-depth of happy rest!  
You our Father, Christ our Brother,  
All are Yours who live in love;  
Teach us how to love each other,  
Lift us to Your joy above.

Mortals, join the mighty chorus,  
Which the morning stars began;  
God's own love is reigning o'er us,  
Joining people hand in hand.  
Ever singing, march we onward,  
Victors in the midst of strife;  
Joyful music leads us sunward  
In the triumph song of life.

## Let's praise the Creator

Let's praise the Creator who gave us each other  
in friendship and kinship to celebrate life  
let's sing our delight in this man and this woman,  
the promise of joy as a husband and wife.  
The love that we wish them, the love that we pray for  
is stronger than storms and more gentle than breath,  
endures every trouble, is selfless and faithful,  
more precious than life and more lasting than death.

Let's praise the Creator who gave us each other  
in friendship and kinship to celebrate life  
let's sing our delight in this man and this woman,

the promise of joy as a husband and wife.  
In vows that are honoured, in kissing and blessing  
may happiness shine like the gold of a ring,  
in passionate joy and compassionate caring  
may theirs be the gifts that true loving can bring.

### Lord and lover of creation

Lord and lover of creation,  
bless the marriage witnessed now:  
sign of lives no longer separate,  
sealed by symbol, bound by vow,  
celebrating love's commitment  
made to live and last and grow.

Praise and gratitude we offer  
for the past which shaped today:  
words which stirred and deepened conscience,  
family life, good company,  
friends who touched and summoned talent,  
nourished all words can't convey.

On your children, wed and welcome,  
here among us, we request  
health in home and hearts, and humour  
through which heaven and earth are blessed;  
open doors and human pleasure,  
time for touch and trust and rest.

Take them hence that, in each other,  
love fulfilling love shall find  
much to share and more to treasure,  
such that none shall dare unbind  
those your name has joined together,  
one in body, heart, and mind.

### Lord of all hopefulness

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,  
Whose trust, ever childlike, no cares can destroy,  
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,  
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,  
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,  
Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,  
Your strength in our hearts, Lord at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,  
Your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,  
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,  
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,  
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,  
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,  
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

### Love divine, all loves excelling

Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heaven, to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown:

Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
pure unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation,  
enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver,  
let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return, and never,  
never more thy temples leave:

thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation,  
pure and spotless let us be,  
let us see thy great salvation,  
perfectly restored in thee:

changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love and praise.

### Made to be human, formed in God's image

Made to be human, formed in God's image,  
as man and woman, born from above,  
we seek, in union of flesh and spirit,  
holy communion, measureless love.

Christ, as the essence of love that bore us  
here let your presence still be the sign,  
making love's yearning rich with your blessing,  
wedding guest turning water to wine.

Spirit inspire us, keep us together,  
let your love fire us, body and soul;  
your passion take us through joy and sorrow;  
your mercy make us perfect and whole.

Trinity, dwelling in flesh and spirit,  
too deep for telling, too high for praise:  
your grace has found us, your truth will keep us,  
your joy surround us, through all life's ways.

Your love will hold us, your strength empower us,  
your peace enfold us: lover and friend.  
your purpose bind us close to each other,  
Your promise find us true to the end.

## Morning has broken

Morning has broken  
like the first morning;  
blackbird has spoken  
like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing,  
praise for the morning,  
praise for them, springing  
fresh from the word.

Sweet the rain's new fall  
sunlit from heaven,  
like the first dewfall  
on the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness  
of the wet garden,  
sprung from completeness  
where his feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight;  
mine is the morning  
born of the one light  
Eden saw play.  
Praise with elation,  
praise every morning,  
God's recreation of the new day.

## Now thank we all our God

Now thank we all our God,  
with hearts and hands and voices,  
who wondrous things hath done,  
in whom his world rejoices;  
who from our mothers' arms  
hath blest us on our way  
with countless gifts of love,  
and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God  
through all our life be near us,  
with ever joyful hearts



and blessed peace to cheer us;  
and keep us in his grace,  
and guide us when perplexed,  
and free us from all ills  
in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God  
the Father now be given,  
the Son, and Holy Ghost,  
one Lord in highest heaven:  
the one eternal God,  
whom earth and heaven adore;  
for thus it was, is now,  
and shall be evermore.

### O God of all new visions

O God of all new visions  
of hope and tenderness,  
the source and inspiration  
of love and friendliness,  
enable these two people  
each other to affirm  
and find within their marriage  
the love for which they yearn.

Lord Jesus, with great gladness  
you lived life to the full;  
You shared our joys and sorrows,  
gave self-esteem to all:  
May all our celebrations  
reflect your life on earth  
and lead us to discover  
each person's inner worth.

O Spirit of true union  
Who makes two hearts as one  
without destroying freedom,  
creativity or fun;  
Increase our sense of wonder  
that we may keep alive  
the sharing and acceptance  
by which our love will thrive.

Unless there is commitment  
a wedding is in vain;  
unless there is true caring  
romance will turn to pain:  
but love will keep on growing  
despite advancing years  
when deep respect and kindness  
bring hope and banish fears.

## O God from whom we all derive our name

O God from whom we all derive our name,  
whose covenant of grace remains the same,  
be with these two who now before you wait;  
enlarge the love they come to consecrate.

May through their union other lives be blessed;  
their door be wide to stranger and to guest.  
Give them the understanding that is kind,  
grant them the blessing of an open mind.

Preserve their days from inwardness of heart:  
to each the gift of truthfulness impart.  
Their bond be strong against all strain and strife  
amid the changes of this earthly life.

From stage to stage on life's unfolding way  
bring to their mind the vows they make this day,  
your spirit be their guide in every move;  
their faith in Christ the basis of their love.

Lord, bless us all to whom this day brings joy,  
let no events our unity destroy, and help us,  
till all sense of time is lost,  
to live in love and not to count the cost.

## O Perfect Love

O perfect Love, all human thought transcending,  
Lowly we kneel in prayer before Thy throne,  
that theirs may be the love which knows no ending,  
whom Thou forevermore dost join in one.

O perfect Life, be Thou their full assurance,  
of tender charity and steadfast faith,  
of patient hope and quiet, brave endurance,  
With childlike trust that fears nor pain nor death.

Grant them the joy which brightens earthly sorrow;  
grant them the peace which calms all earthly strife,  
and to life's day the glorious unknown morrow  
that dawns upon eternal love and life.

## Praise, my soul, the king of heaven

Praise, my soul, the king of heaven;  
to his feet thy tribute bring;  
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
who like me his praise should sing?  
Praise him, praise him, hallelujah,  
praise the everlasting King!

Praise him for his grace and favour  
to our fathers in distress;  
praise him still the same forever,  
slow to chide, and swift to bless:  
praise him, praise him, hallelujah,  
glorious in his faithfulness!

Father-like he tends and spares us;  
well our feeble frame he knows;  
in his hands he gently bears us,  
rescues us from all our foes:  
praise him, praise him, hallelujah,  
widely as his mercy flows!

Angels, help us to adore him,  
ye behold him face to face;  
sun and moon, bow down before him,  
dwellers all in time and space:  
praise him, praise him, hallelujah,  
praise with us the God of grace!

### Praise to the Lord

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;  
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation;  
all ye who hear, brothers and sisters draw near,  
praise him in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,  
shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth:  
hast thou not seen how thy heart's longings have been  
granted in what he ordaineth

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee  
surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee:  
ponder anew what the Almighty can do  
who with his love doth befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord, who when darkness of sin is abounding,  
who, when the godless do triumph, all virtue confounding,  
sheddeth his light, chaseth the horrors of night,  
saints with his mercy surrounding.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!  
all that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!  
let the amen sound from his people again:  
gladly for ay we adore him.

## The Wedding Song

He is now to be among you at the calling of your hearts  
Rest assured this troubadour is acting on His part  
The union of your spirits, here, has caused Him to remain  
For whenever two or more of you are gathered in His name  
There is love, there is love

A man shall leave his mother and a woman leave her home  
And they shall travel on to where the two shall be as one  
As it was in the beginning is now and 'til the end  
Woman draws her life from man and gives it back again  
And there is Love, there is love

Well then what's to be the reason for becoming man and wife?  
Is it love that brings you here or love that brings you life?  
And if loving is the answer then who's the giving for?  
Do you believe in something that you've never seen before?  
Oh there's love, there is love

Oh, the marriage of your spirits here has caused Him to remain  
For whenever two or more of you are gathered in His name  
There is love, there is love.

## When Love is Found

When love is found and hope comes home,  
sing and be glad that two are one.  
When love explodes and fills the sky,  
praise God and share our Maker's joy,

When love has flower'd in trust and care,  
build both each day, that love may dare  
to reach beyond home's warmth and light,  
to serve and strive for truth and right.

When love is tried as loved-ones change,  
hold still to hope, though all seems strange,  
till ease returns, and love grows wise  
through listening ears and opened eyes.

When love is torn, and trust betrayed,  
pray strength to love till torments fade,  
till lovers keep no score of wrong,  
but hear through pain love's Easter song.

Praise God for love, praise God for life,  
in age or youth, in calm or strife.  
Lift up your hearts! Let love be fed  
through death and life in broken bread.