

**READINGS,  
PRAYERS  
AND HYMNS  
FOR WEDDINGS  
IN THE  
AVON VALLEY  
PARTNERSHIP**

*The Parishes of  
Fordingbridge  
(with Sandleheath and  
Godshill),  
Breamore, & Hale with the  
Charfords (including  
Woodgreen).*

**WELCOME**

**WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO  
WORKING WITH YOU AS YOU  
PREPARE FOR YOUR WEDDING**

**We would like your wedding to reflect  
your own thoughts and hopes as much as  
possible.**

**Each couple is unique, and the words used  
in the Service should reflect that.**

**PLEASE CHOOSE...**

**ONE OR TWO READINGS**  
- and think about who might read them  
for you.

There are nearly 50 suggestions below,  
but there are also lots of other readings  
you might like to think about.

**SOME PRAYERS**

See the suggestions in the prayer section

**TWO OR THREE HYMNS**

Again, suggestions are given below to  
help you, but there are lots of other  
hymns as well.

If you have any problems, or there is  
anything else with which we can help,  
either in preparation for the service or  
afterwards, do please contact us:

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## **READINGS**

**Choose one or two readings, perhaps one from the Bible and another one. Then choose people from family or friends to read them.**

**In the longer readings you may wish to have only part the reading used.**

**There are many other suitable readings from poetry and newspaper cuttings, to the words of pop songs, or words that you write yourselves.**

**If you want anything special, it can always be fitted in.**

## **FROM THE BIBLE**

### **1. 1 Corinthians 13:1-13**

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.

### **2. 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (R.S.V.)**

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not 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 have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends; as for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For our knowledge is imperfect, and our prophesy is imperfect; but when the perfect comes, the imperfect will pass away. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became a man I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall understand fully, even as I have been fully understood.

So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

### **3. Ephesians 3:14-21**

I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.

#### **4. *Philippians 4:4-9***

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

#### **5. *Colossians 3:12-17***

As God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

#### **6. *1 John 3:18-24***

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

#### **7. *1 John 4:7-12***

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.

#### **8. *Matthew 5:1-10***

1 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. 2 Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: 3 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. 5 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. 6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. 7 Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. 8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. 9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. 10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.'

#### **9. *John 2:1-11***

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.

#### **10. John 15:9-17**

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.'

#### **11. John 15:9-17 (Authorised version)**

As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.

If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

#### **12. Psalm 23 (Authorised version)**

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he

leadeth me beside the still waters.  
He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.  
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil: my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:

and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

#### **13. A Reading from the Song of Songs**

The Bride says:

My beloved lifts up his voice,

he says to me,

"Come then, my love,  
my lovely one, come.

For see, winter is past,  
the rains are over and gone.

The flowers appear on the earth.

The season of glad songs has come,  
the cooing of the turtledove is heard in our land."

My beloved is mine and I am his.

The Bridegroom says:

Set me like a seal on your heart,  
like a seal on your arm.

For love is strong as Death,  
jealously relentless as the underworld.

The flash of it is a flash of fire,  
a flame of the Lord himself.

Love no flood can quench,  
no torrents drown.

#### **13a. Ecclesiastes 4: 9-12**

<sup>9</sup>Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labour:

If either of them falls down, one can help the other up.

But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.

Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone?

Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves.

A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

## **OTHER READINGS**

**14.** You are mine, and I am yours, in love.  
I am I, and you are you, in thought.  
Independently, we share our lives, together.  
*Susan Polis Schutz*

**15.** *I am so happy with you.*

I am so happy with you.  
I can discuss all my thoughts, or  
I don't have to say anything  
You always understand.

I am so relaxed with you,  
I don't need to pretend,  
I don't need to look good,  
You accept me for what I am.

I am so strong with you,  
I depend on you for love,  
but I live my own life,  
You give me extra confidence to succeed.  
*Susan Polis Schutz*

**16.** I will support you in all that you do.  
I will share with you in all that you experience  
I will be your confidante in all that is on your mind  
I will help you in all that you need  
I will encourage you in all that you try  
I will grow with you in all that you achieve  
I will console you in all that you find troublesome  
I will plan with you in all that you experience  
I will be behind you in all that you attempt  
I will understand you in all that is in your heart  
I will be your friend in all that is in life  
I will love you in all that you are.  
*Susan Polis Schutz*

**17.** The Fountains mingle with the River  
And the Rivers with the Ocean,  
The winds of Heaven mix for ever  
With a sweet emotion;  
Nothing in the world is single;  
All things by a law divine  
In one spirit meet and mingle,  
Why not I with thine?

See the mountains kiss high Heaven  
And the waves clasp one another;  
No sister-flower would be forgiven  
If it disdained its brother.  
And the sunlight clasps the earth

And the moonbeams kiss the sea:  
What is all this sweet work worth  
If thou kiss not me?

**18.** How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.  
I love thee to the depth and breadth and height  
My soul can reach, when feeling out of sight  
For the end of Being and Ideal Grace.  
I love thee to the level of every day's  
Most quiet need, by sun and candlelight.  
I love thee freely, as men strive for Right;  
I love thee purely, as they turn from Praise,  
I love thee with the passion put to use  
In my old griefs, and with my childhood's faith.  
I love thee with a love I seemed to lose  
With my lost saints - I love thee with the breath,  
Smiles, tears, of all my life! - and, if God choose,  
I shall but love thee better after death.

*E B Browning*

**19.** *A Sonnet by William Shakespeare*

Let me not to the marriage of true minds  
Admit impediments. Love is not love  
Which alters when it alteration finds,  
Or bends with the remover to remove.  
O no! it is an ever-fixed mark  
That looks on tempests and is never shaken;  
It is the star to every wandering bark,  
Whose worth's unknown, although his height be  
taken.  
Love's not time's fool, though rosy lips and  
cheeks  
Within his bending sickle's compass come,  
Love alters not with his brief hours and weeks,  
But bears it out even to the edge of doom:  
If this be error and upon me proved,  
I never writ, nor no man ever loved.

**20.** No man is an island, entire of  
itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a  
part of the main; if a clod be washed away by the  
sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory  
were, as well as if a manor of thy friends or of  
thine were. Any man's death diminishes me,  
because I am involved in mankind. And therefore  
never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it  
tolls for thee.

*John Donne*

**21.** In love, the gates of my soul spring open, allowing me to breathe a new air of freedom and forget my own petty self.

In love, my whole being streams forth out of the rigid confines of narrowness and self assertion, which make me a prisoner of my own poverty and emptiness.

*Karl Rahner*

**22.** US TWO - A.A. Milne

Wherever I am, there's always Pooh,  
There's always Pooh and Me.

Whatever I do, he wants to do,

"Where are you going today?" says Pooh:

"Well that's very odd 'cos I was too.

"Let's go together," says Pooh, says he.

"Let's go together," says Pooh.

"What's twice eleven?" I said to Pooh,

("Twice what?" said Pooh to Me.)

"I think it ought to be twenty-two."

"Just what I think myself." said Pooh.

"It wasn't an easy sum to do,

But that's what it is," said Pooh, said he.

"That's what it is," said Pooh.

"Let's look for dragons," I said to Pooh,

"Yes, let's," said Pooh to Me.

We crossed the river and found a few -

"Yes, those are dragons all right," said Pooh.

"As soon as I saw their beaks I knew.

"That's what they are," said Pooh, said he.

"That's what they are," said Pooh.

"Let's frighten the dragons," I said to Pooh.

"That's right," said Pooh to Me.

"I'm not afraid," I said to Pooh.

And I held his paw and I shouted "Shoo!

Silly old dragons!" and off they flew.

"I wasn't afraid," said Pooh said he,

"I'm never afraid with you."

So wherever I am, there's always Pooh,

There's always Pooh and Me.

"What would I do?" I said to Pooh,

"If it wasn't for you," and Pooh said: "True.

"It isn't much fun for One, but Two

"Can stick together," says Pooh, says he.

"That's how it is," says Pooh.

**23.** From 'Love' by Laurie Lee

a) Most of all love must be built on truth, not dreams, the knowledge of what we are, rather than what we think it is the fashion to be. For no pair of lovers was ever built to an identical programme. So beware of the norm, for no-one is normal. There is only one rule that demands what love should be - the dovetailing of oddities which love welcomes and combines.

b) All such is right, if love is right, and neither person is used simply as the other's victim, but as one whose needs should also be cherished. Love approved, allows and liberates, and is a warm-blooded acceptance of what one is.

c) The sum of love is that it should be a meeting place, an interlocking of nerves and senses, a series of constant surprises and renewals of each other's moods, a sharing of the gods of bliss and silence - best of all, a steady building from the inside out, from the cosy centre of love's indulgencies, to extend its regions to admit a larger world where children can live and breathe.

d) Love must be deeper to adapt to the shifting sands of the world; able to withstand disaffections and occasional betrayals; be sufficiently constant, in the centre of orgy and bedlam, to create its own area of sacred quiet; and also be strong enough to take marriage, its toughest test, and to sink the best of its virtues in it, so that its children may be heirs of its proper kingdom rather than the frail castaways of its self absorption.

**24.** If I truly love one person,  
I love all persons,  
I love the world,  
I love life.

If I can say to somebody else,  
'I love you'  
I must be able to say,  
I love in you everybody,  
I love through you the world.  
I love in you also myself.

*Erich Fromm*

**25.** What of marriage, Master?  
And the prophet answered saying  
You were born together, and together you shall  
be for evermore.  
You shall be together when the white wings of  
death scatter your days  
Aye, you shall be together even in the silent  
memory of God.  
But let there be spaces in your togetherness.  
And let the winds of the heavens dance between  
you.

Love one another, but make not a bond of love:  
Let it rather be a moving sea between the shores  
of your souls.  
Fill each other's cup but drink not from one cup.  
Give one another of your bread but eat not from  
the same loaf.  
Sing and dance together and be joyous, but let  
each of you be alone,  
Even as the strings of a lute are alone though they  
quiver with the same music.

Give your hearts, but not into each other's  
keeping.  
For only the hand of Life can contain your hearts.  
And stand together yet not too near together:  
For the pillars of the temple stand apart,  
And the oak tree and the cypress grow not in  
each other's shade.

*From 'The Prophet' by Kahil Gibran*

**26.**

a. With a great voice the Prophet said:-

When love beckons to you, follow him.  
Though his ways are hard and steep.  
And when his wings enfold you yield to him,  
Though the sword hidden among his pinions may  
wound you.  
And when he speaks to you believe in him,  
Though his voice may shatter your dreams as the  
north wind lays waste the garden.

b. For even as love crowns you, so shall he  
crucify you.  
even as he is your growth, he is for your pruning.  
Even as he ascends to your height and caresses  
your tenderest branches that quiver in the sun,  
So shall he descend to your roots and shake them  
in their clinging to the earth.

Like sheaves of corn he gathers you unto himself.  
He threshes you to make you naked.  
He sifts you to free you from your husks.  
He grinds you to whiteness.  
He kneads you until you are pliant;  
And then he assigns you to his sacred fire, that  
you may become sacred bread for God's sacred  
feast.  
All these things shall love do unto you that you  
may know the secrets of your heart, and in that  
knowledge become a fragment of Life's heart.

c. But if in your fear you would seek only love's  
peace and love's pleasure,  
Then it is better for you that you cover your  
nakedness and pass out of love's threshing-floor,  
Into the seasonless world where you shall laugh,  
but not all of your laughter, and weep, but not all  
of your tears.  
Love gives naught but itself and takes naught but  
from itself.  
Love possesses not, nor would it be possessed;  
For love is sufficient unto love.  
When you love, you should not say, "God is in  
my heart" but rather "I am in the heart of God".  
And think not you can direct the course of love,  
for love, if it finds you worthy, directs your  
course.

d. Love has no other desires but to fulfil 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 noonhour 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 upon your lips.  
*From 'The Prophet' by Kahil Gibran*

**27.** Marriage is the unity of two divinities that  
a third might be born on earth. It is the union of  
two souls in a strong love for the abolishment of  
separateness. It is that higher unity which fuses  
the separate unities within the two spirits. It is

the golden ring in a chain whose beginning is a glance, and whose ending is Eternity. It is the pure rain that falls from an unblemished sky to fructify and bless the fields of divine nature.

*Kahil Gibran*

**28.** *A Description of Love*

Now what is love? I pray thee, tell.  
It is that fountain and that well,  
Where pleasure and repentance dwell.  
It is perhaps that saucing bell,  
That tolls all into heaven or hell:  
And this is love, as I hear tell.

Yet what is love? I pray thee say.  
It is a work on holy-day;  
It is December matched with May;  
When lusty bloods, in fresh array,  
Hear ten months after of the play:  
And this is love, as I hear say.

Yet what is love? I pray thee say.  
It is a sunshine mixed with rain;  
It is a toothe-ache, or like pain;  
It is a game where none doth gain;  
The lass saith no, and would full fain:  
And this is love, as I hear say.

Yet what is love? I pray thee say.  
It is a yes, it is a nay,  
A pretty kind of sporting fray;  
It is a thing will soon away;  
Then take the vantage while you may:  
And this is love, as I hear say.

Yet what is love? I pray thee show.  
A thing that creeps, it cannot go;  
A prize that passeth to and fro;  
A thing for one, a thing for mo;  
And he that proved must find it so:  
And this is love, sweet friend, I trow.

*Sir Walter Raleigh*

**29.** My true love hath my heart, and I have his,  
By just exchange one for another given.  
I hold his dear, and mine he cannot miss:  
There never was a better bargain driven  
My true love hath my heart and I have his.

His heart in me, keeps him and me in one,  
My heart in him, his thoughts and senses guides:  
He loves my heart, for once it was his own:  
I cherish his, because in me it bides.

My true love hath my heart and I have his.

*Sir Philip Sidney*

**30.** *DESIDERATA*

a) Go placidly amid the noise and haste and remember what peace there may be in silence. As far as possible without surrender be on good terms with all persons. Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even to the dull and ignorant; they too have their story.

b) Avoid loud and aggressive persons; they are vexations to the spirit. If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain and bitter; for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself. Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans.

c) Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time. Exercise caution in your business affairs; for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals; and everywhere life is full of heroism.

d) Be yourself. Especially, do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in face of all aridity and disenchantment it is perennial as the grass.

e) Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth. Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness. Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself.

f) You are a child of the universe, no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here. And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.

g) Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive of Him to be, and whatever your labours and inspirations, in the noisy confusion of life keep peace with your soul.

h) With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be careful. Strive to be happy.



**31.** And a youth said, speak to us of Friendship.  
And he answered saying:  
Your friend is your needs answered.  
He is your field which you sow with love and reap  
with thanksgiving.  
And he is your board and your fireside.  
For you come to him with your hunger, and you  
seek him for peace.  
And let your best be for your friend.  
If he must know the ebb of your tide, let him  
know its flood also.  
For what is your friend that you should seek him  
with hours to kill?  
Seek him always with hours to live.  
For it is his to fill your need, but not your  
emptiness.  
And in the sweetness of friendship let there be  
laughter, and sharing of pleasures.  
For in the dew of little things the heart finds its  
morning and is refreshed.

*The Prophet Kahil Gibran*

**32. From This Day Forward**

Sharing and caring  
Giving and forgiving  
Loving and being loved  
Walking hand in hand  
Talking heart to heart  
Seeing through each other's eyes  
Laughing together  
Weeping together  
Praying together  
And always trusting  
And believing  
And thanking God  
For each other.

*Helen Steiner Rice.*

**33. The Earth Man**

So simple is the earth we tread  
So quick with love and life her frame:  
Ten thousand years have dawned and fled,  
And still her magic is the same.

A little love, a little trust  
A soft impulse, a sudden dream-  
And life as dry as desert dust  
Is fresher than a mountain stream.

So simple is the heart of man,  
So ready for new hope and joy;  
Ten thousand years since it began  
Have left it younger than a boy.

*Stopford Augustus Brooke.*

**34. I Love You**

I love you,  
Not only for what you are,  
But for what I am  
When I am with you.

I love you,  
Not only for what  
You have made of yourself,  
But for what you are making of me.

I love you,  
For the part of me  
That you bring out.  
I love you  
For putting your hand  
Into my heaped up heart,  
And passing over  
All the foolish, weak things  
That you can't help  
Dimly seeing there;  
And for drawing out into the light  
All the beautiful belongings  
That no-one else had looked  
Quite far enough to find.

I love you because you are  
Helping me to make of the lumber of my life  
Not a tavern, but a temple;  
Out of works of my everyday  
Not a reproach, but a song.

I love you,  
Because you have done  
More than any creed  
Could have done  
To make me good,  
And more than any fate  
Could have done  
To make me happy.

You have done it,  
Without a touch,  
Without a word,  
Without a sign,

You have done it,  
By being yourself.  
Perhaps that is what  
Being a friend (and lover) means  
After all.

Rod McKewan

### 35. Anniversary

Love, like friendship  
Must be about something  
Besides itself.  
I love you, not for the sake of loving,  
Nor for the sake of being loved,  
But for the sake of the truths we share,  
The joy of walking on the same secret road.

I love you, not out of my need for love,  
But because of our common vision.  
Our travels on the same quest.  
We are collaborators, companions, allies,  
Face to face, and side by side.

I love you, not because love has survival value,  
But because you are helping give value to survival.  
I love you because you stand for yourself  
And I for myself  
And we are the sovereign princes of independent  
states,  
On neutral ground,  
Free of context and naked of surroundings.  
No shadow of necessity, no burdensome duty  
Oversees our love, nor constraint without  
reason.  
We are free and equal as we had met an hour  
ago,  
While the affection and tenderness of years  
Enfolds us.

I love you, because in making this journey with  
you,  
I have seen you a thousand times,  
In fear, in anger, in sickness and in tears,  
And still you ring true.

I love you, and you love me,  
Because we bring out of each others depths  
All that is best, and wisest, and funniest,  
And most exquisite.  
Among all the spirits that roam our planet  
We have found each other,  
And we are lucky beyond measure and

description  
To be in such company.

Susan De Vore

### 36. IMAGINE by John Lennon

Imagine there's no heaven,  
It's easy if you try;  
No hell below us,  
Above us only sky.  
Imagine all the people  
Living for today.

Imagine there's no countries -  
It isn't hard to do;  
Nothing to kill or die for,  
And no religion too.  
Imagine all the people  
Living life in peace.

You may say I'm a dreamer,  
But I'm not the only one;  
I hope some day you'll join us,  
And the world will be one.

Imagine no possessions -  
I wonder if you can;  
No need for greed or hunger,  
A brotherhood of man.  
Imagine all the people  
Sharing all the world.

You may say I'm a dreamer,  
But I'm not the only one;  
I hope some day you'll join us  
And the world will live as one.

### 37. THE ROSE

Some say love it is a river that drowns the tender  
reeds,  
Some say love it is a razor that leaves your soul  
to bleed,  
Some say love it is a hunger, an endless aching  
need.  
I say love it is a flower and you its only seed.

It's the heart afraid of breaking that never learns  
to dance,  
It's the dream afraid of waking that never takes  
the chance,

It's the one who won't be taken who cannot seem to give,  
And the soul afraid of dying that never learns to live.

When the night has been too lonely and the road has been too long  
And you think that love is only for the lucky and the strong,  
Just remember in the Winter, far beneath the bitter snow  
Lies the seed that with the sun's love in the Spring becomes the Rose.

### 38. THE ART OF MARRIAGE

A good marriage must be created.  
In the marriage, the little things are the big things...  
It is never being too old to hold hands.  
It is remembering to say 'I love you' at least once each day.  
It is never going to sleep angry.  
It is having a mutual sense of values and common objectives.  
It is standing together and facing the world.  
It is forming a circle of love that gathers in the whole family.  
It is speaking words of appreciation and demonstrating gratitude in thoughtful ways.  
It is having the capacity to forgive and forget.  
It is giving each other an atmosphere in which each can grow.  
It is a common search for the good and the beautiful.  
It is not only marrying the right person,  
It is being the right partner.

### 39. MARRIAGE

Marriage can be a wonderful experience,  
Full of romantic nights and loving days.  
But no matter how much in love you are  
There will be times when that love is put to the test.  
These are the learning times,  
Learning to be patient with one another,  
Learning to listen to one another,  
Learning to be tolerant of one another,  
And learning to share one another's hopes and fears.  
For learning to grow together  
Will make the bond between you that much

stronger,  
And although you are on this your wedding day very much in love,  
As the coming days pass by,  
And the weeks turn to months,  
And the months into years,  
You will see with each passing day  
Just how much deeper your love will grow.  
You're two very special people,  
Sharing an extra special love,  
And you are being sent  
A wished for happiness beyond compare.

*Carmen*

### 40. CAPTAIN CORELLI'S MANDOLIN, *Louis de Bernieres, p. 281*

*Dr Iannis, is talking to his daughter, Pelagia, who is betrothed to Mandras, but falling in love with Captain Corelli.*

And another thing. Love is a temporary madness, it erupts like volcanoes and then subsides. And when it subsides you have to make a decision. You have to work out whether your roots have so entwined together that it is inconceivable that you should ever part. Because this is what love is. Love is not breathlessness, it is not excitement, it is not the promulgation of promises of eternal passion... That is just being 'in love', which any fool can do. Love itself is what is over when being in love has burned away, and this is both an art and a fortunate accident. Your mother and I had it, we had roots that grew towards each other underground, and when all the pretty blossom had fallen from our branches we found that we were one tree and not two.

### 41. I rely on you

I rely on you  
like a Skoda needs suspension  
like the aged need a pension  
like a trampoline needs tension  
like a bungee jump needs apprehension

I rely on you  
like a camera needs a shutter  
like a gambler needs a flutter  
like a golfer needs a putter  
like a buttered scone involves some butter

I rely on you  
like an acrobat needs ice cool nerve  
like a hairpin needs a drastic curve  
like an HGV needs endless derv  
like an outside left needs a body swerve

I rely on you  
like a handyman needs pliers  
like an auctioneer needs buyers  
like a laundromat needs driers  
like The Good Life needed Richard Briers

I rely on you  
like a water vole needs water  
like a brick outhouse needs mortar  
like a lemming to the slaughter  
Ryan's just Ryan without his daughter  
I rely on you

© Hovis Presley, 1994

#### 42. On Your Wedding Day - Anon

Today is a day you will always remember,  
The greatest in anyone's life.  
You'll start off the day just two people in love  
And end it as Husband and Wife.

It's a brand new beginning, the start of a journey,  
With moments to cherish and treasure;  
And although there'll be times when you both disagree  
These will surely be outweighed by pleasure.

You'll have heard many words of advice in the past  
When the secrets of marriage were spoken,  
But you know that the answers lie hidden inside,  
Where the bonds of true love lies unbroken.

So live happy forever as lovers and friends.  
It's the dawn of a new life for you  
As you stand there together with love in your eyes  
From the moment you whisper 'I do'.

And with luck, all your hopes, and your dreams  
can be real,  
May success find its way to your hearts.  
Tomorrow can bring you the greatest of joys,  
But today is the day it all starts.

#### 43. BLESSING OF THE HANDS

These are the hands of your best friend, young and strong and full of love for you, that are holding yours on your wedding day, as you promise to love each other today, tomorrow, and forever. These are the hands that will work alongside yours, as together you build your future. These are the hands that will passionately love you and cherish you through the years, and with the slightest touch, will comfort you like no other. These are the hands that will hold you when fear or grief fills your mind. These are the hands that will countless times wipe the tears from your eyes; tears of sorrow, and tears of joy. These are the hands that will tenderly hold your children. These are the hands that will help you to hold your family as one. These are the hands that will give you strength when you need it. And lastly, these are the hands that even when wrinkled and aged, will still be reaching for yours, still giving you the same unspoken tenderness with just a touch.

Anon

#### 44. Blessing For a Marriage - James Dillet Freeman

May your marriage bring you all the exquisite excitements a marriage should bring, and may life grant you also patience, tolerance, and understanding. May you always need one another -- not so much to fill your emptiness as to help you to know your fullness. A mountain needs a valley to be complete. The valley does not make the mountain less, but more. And the valley is more a valley because it has a mountain towering over it. So let it be with you and you.

May you need one another, but not out of weakness. May you want one another, but not out of lack. May you entice one another, but not compel one another. May you embrace one another, but not out encircle one another.

May you succeed in all-important ways with one another, and not fail in the little graces. May you look for things to praise, often say, "I love you!" and take no notice of small faults.

If you have quarrels that push you apart, may both of you hope to have good sense enough to take the first step back. May you enter into the mystery that is the awareness of one another's

presence -- no more physical than spiritual, warm and near when you are side by side, and warm and near when you are in separate rooms or even distant cities.

May you have happiness, and may you find it making one another happy. May you have love, and may you find it loving one another.

#### **45. Marriage Advice from 1886 - Jane Wells**

Never go to bed angry.

Let your love be stronger than your hate or anger.

Learn the wisdom of compromise, for it is easier to bend a little than to break.

Believe the best rather than the worst.

People have a way of living up or down to your opinion of them.

Remember that true friendship is the basis for any lasting relationship.

The person you choose to marry is deserving of the courtesies and kindness you bestow on your friends.

Please pass this on to your children and their children's children.

#### **46. From 'This Sunrise of Wonder' Michael Mayne**

There is the mystery of the relationship between two persons: what the marriage service in the Prayer Book calls 'the mystery of one flesh', a man and a woman who, through growing together by the daily unspoken giving and receiving of love in small ways, find that over the years each has been invaded and shaped by the reality of the other, in a way that does not diminish, but rather enhances, each of them.

*(Pages 17-18)*

#### **47. Adapted from 'This Sunrise of Wonder' Michael Mayne**

Falling in love (*is a cause for wonder*), especially when that leads to a deep and lifelong commitment; and to give yourself without reserve to that particular mystery is to trust that you are able to be lifted out of the narrowness of self in the give-and-take of love, and in so transcending yourself become more, not less, what you truly are.

*(Page 52)*

#### **48. 'What is Real?', from 'The Velveteen Rabbit', Margery Williams**

*The Velveteen Rabbit lives in the Boy's nursery, and is talking to the Skin Horse.*

"What is REAL?" asked the Rabbit one day, when they were lying side by side near the nursery fender, before Nana came to tidy the room. "Does it mean having things that buzz inside you and a stick-out handle?"

"Real isn't how you are made," said the Skin Horse. "It's a thing that happens to you. When a child loves you for a long, long time, not just to play with, but REALLY loves you, then you become Real."

"Does it hurt?" asked the Rabbit.

"Sometimes," said the Skin Horse, for he was always truthful. "When you are Real you don't mind being hurt."

"Does it happen all at once, like being wound up," he asked, "or bit by bit?"

"It doesn't happen all at once," said the Skin Horse. "You become. It takes a long time. That's why it doesn't happen often to people who break easily, or have sharp edges, or who have to be carefully kept. Generally, by the time you are Real, most of your hair has been loved off, and your eyes drop out and you get loose in the joints and very shabby. But these things don't matter at all, because once you are Real you can't be ugly, except to people who don't understand."

"I suppose you are real?" said the Rabbit. And then he wished he had not said it, for he thought the Skin Horse might be sensitive. But the Skin Horse only smiled.

#### **49. Why Marriage? by Mari Nichols**

Because to the depths of me, I long to love one person,  
With all my heart, my soul, my mind, my body...  
Because I need a forever friend to trust with the intimacies of me,  
Who won't hold them against me,

Who loves me when I'm unlikable,  
Who sees the small child in me, and  
Who looks for the divine potential of me...  
Because I need to cuddle in the warmth of the  
night  
With someone who thanks God for me,  
With someone I feel blessed to hold...  
Because marriage means opportunity  
To grow in love in friendship...  
Because marriage is a discipline  
To be added to a list of achievements...  
Because marriages do not fail, people fail  
When they enter into marriage  
Expecting another to make them whole...

Because, knowing this,  
I promise myself to take full responsibility  
For my spiritual, mental and physical wholeness  
I create me,  
I take half of the responsibility for my marriage  
Together we create our marriage...

Because with this understanding  
The possibilities are limitless.

#### **50. Union by Robert Fulghum**

You have known each other from the first glance of acquaintance to this point of commitment. At some point, you decided to marry. From that moment of yes, to this moment of yes, indeed, you have been making commitments in an informal way. All of those conversations that were held in a car, or over a meal, or during long walks – all those conversations that began with, ‘When we’re married’, and continued with ‘I will’ and ‘You will’ and ‘We will’ – all those late night talks that included ‘someday’ and ‘somehow’ and ‘maybe’ – and all those promises that are unspoken matters of the heart. All these common things, and more, are the real process of a wedding.

The symbolic vows that you are about to make are a way of saying to one another, ‘You know all those things that we’ve promised, and hoped, and dreamed – well, I meant it all, every word.’ Look at one another and remember this moment in time. Before this moment you have been many things to one another – acquaintance, friend, companion, lover, dancing partner, even teacher,

for you have learned much from one another these past few years. Shortly you shall say a few words that will take you across a threshold of life, and things between you will never quite be the same.

For after today you shall say to the world –  
This is my husband. This is my wife.

*From: My Twin Cities Wedding.*

#### **51. Marriage – Anon**

A marriage is a promise  
That two hearts gladly make;  
A promise to be tender  
To help, to give and take.  
A marriage is a promise  
To be kind and understanding;  
To be thoughtful and considerate  
Fair and undemanding.  
A marriage is a promise  
To share one life together;  
A love-filled promise meant to be  
Kept lovingly forever.

#### **52. Wild Awake – Hilary T. Smith**

People are like cities: We all have alleys and gardens and secret rooftops and places where daisies sprout between the sidewalk cracks, but most of the time all we let each other see is a postcard glimpse of a skyline or a polished square. Love lets you find those hidden places in another person, even the ones they didn't know were there, even the ones they wouldn't have thought to call beautiful themselves.

## **PRAYERS**

***Please choose up to 4 of these prayers.***

***One from 1 or 2 - Thanksgiving***

***One from 3 to 9 - For Spiritual Grace***

***One from 10 to 13 - For faithfulness***

***One from 14 to 18 - For children, families  
and friends.***

***If you wish, you can also write a prayer of  
your own, expressing what you would like to  
be said on your wedding day - we can help  
you write it if you would like.***

### **Prayers of Thanksgiving**

***1. For faithfulness:***

Father of all,  
in Jesus Christ you open to us  
the treasures of your kingdom;  
guide us by your Holy Spirit  
that we may receive your redeeming grace  
and reflect the perfect unity of your love,  
for you live and reign  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
**AMEN.**

***2. God of love,***  
we thank you for the gift of marriage and for  
the joys it brings.  
Bless us as we share in this wedding.  
We thank you for the love  
which has brought N and N to each other  
and for their desire to share that love for the  
rest of their lives;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**AMEN.**

### **Prayers for Spiritual Grace**

***3. For the home:***

Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly  
home:  
reign in the home of these your servants as  
Lord and King;  
give them grace to minister to others as you  
have ministered to them,  
and grant that by deed and word  
they may be witnesses of your saving love  
to those among whom they live;  
for the sake of your holy name.  
**AMEN.**

***4. For the Holy Spirit:***

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.**

***5. For grace to live well:***

Faithful God,  
giver of all good things,  
give N and N wisdom and devotion  
in the ordering of their life together.  
May they dwell together in love and peace  
all the days of their life,  
seeking one another's welfare,  
bearing one another's burdens,  
and sharing one another's joys;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**AMEN.**

***6. For discipleship:***

Eternal God,  
without your grace nothing is strong, nothing is  
sure.  
Strengthen N and N with patience, kindness,  
gentleness,  
and all other gifts of the Holy Spirit,  
so that they may fulfil the vows they have made.  
Keep them faithful to each other and to you.  
Fill them with such love and joy  
that they may build a home of peace and  
welcome.  
Make their life together a sign of Christ's love

in this broken world,  
that unity may overcome estrangement,  
forgiveness heal guilt, and joy conquer despair;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

**7. For a glimpse of eternal love:**

Eternal God, our maker and redeemer,  
as you once enriched the wedding at Cana  
when your Son turned water into wine,  
so by his presence now bring your joy to this  
day.

May we drink deeply from your boundless love  
and know in our hearts the delights of your  
Holy Spirit.

As we honour the union of a man and a woman,  
let the love we celebrate today be a sign of your  
eternal love,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**AMEN.**

**8. For the gift of love and joy:**

Lord, the source of all true love,  
we pray for *N* and *N*.

Grant to them

joy of heart,

seriousness of mind

and reverence of spirit,

that as they enter into the oneness of marriage  
they may be strengthened and guided by you,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**AMEN.**

**9. For marriage as a sign to the world:**

Almighty God, in whom we live and move and  
have our being,  
look graciously upon the world which you have  
made

and for which your Son gave his life,  
and especially on all whom you make to be one  
flesh in holy marriage.

May their lives together be a sign of your love  
to this broken world,  
so that unity may overcome estrangement,  
forgiveness heal guilt,  
and joy overcome despair;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**AMEN.**

## **Prayers for Faithfulness**

**10. For faithfulness:**

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.**

**11. For faithfulness:**

Gracious God,  
as you have brought *N* and *N* together in love,  
enable them through the power of your Holy  
Spirit  
to make and keep the solemn promises of  
marriage;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**AMEN.**

**12. For faithfulness and peace:**

O God of love,  
look mercifully upon *N* and *N* in the new life  
which they begin together this day.  
Unite them evermore in your love.  
Keep them faithful to the vows they have made  
one to the other.  
Strengthen them with every good gift.  
And let your peace be with them,  
now and always;  
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**AMEN.**

**13. For daily following of Christ:**

Heavenly Father,  
we thank you that in our earthly lives  
you speak to us of your eternal life:  
we pray that through their marriage  
*N* and *N* may know you more clearly,  
love you more dearly,  
and follow you more nearly  
day by day;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**AMEN.**



## **Prayers for Children**

**14.** *For children and home:*

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 truth,  
and their children grow up to know and love  
you in your Son  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

**AMEN.**

**15.** *For children and family:*

Lord of life,  
you shape us in your image,  
and by your gracious gift  
the human family is increased.  
Grant to N and N the blessing of children.  
Fill them with wisdom and love  
as they care for their family,  
so that they and their children  
may know and love you;  
through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

**AMEN.**

**16.** *Where there are already children:*

God of all grace and goodness,  
we thank you for this new family,  
and for everything parents and children have to  
share;  
by your Spirit of peace draw them together  
and help them to be true friends to one  
another.  
Let your love surround them  
and your care protect them,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**AMEN.**

## **Closing Prayers**

**17.** *For the support of friends:*

Holy Spirit of God,  
you know our strength  
and have compassion on our frailty.  
Be with N and N  
in all they undertake.  
And grant that we their friends,  
with all who become their friends,  
may sense and understand their needs;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**AMEN.**

**18.** *A Blessing*

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.

**AMEN.**

*A Gaelic Wedding Blessing*

## **HYMNS**

*You can choose any hymns you like, although you will probably want something that is quite well known, and that people will be able to join in with and sing.*

*There are various suggestions below, to help you to choose. There are usually 2 or 3 hymns during the service.*

### **1. PRAISE, MY SOUL, THE KING OF HEAVEN**

1. Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,  
To his feet thy tribute bring;  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
Who like me his praise should sing,  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the everlasting King.
2. Praise him for his grace and favour  
To our fathers in distress;  
Praise him still the same as ever,  
Slow to chide and swift to bless:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Glorious in his faithfulness.
3. 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:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Widely as his mercy flows.
4. 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:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace.

### **2. CRIMOND**

1. The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;  
He makes me down to lie  
In pastures green; he leadeth me  
The quiet waters by.
2. My soul he doth restore again,  
And me to walk doth make  
Within the paths of righteousness,  
E'en for his own name's sake.
3. Yea, though I walk through death's dark vale,  
Yet will I fear none ill;  
For thou art with me, and thy rod  
And staff me comfort still.

4. My table thou hast furnished  
In presence of my foes;  
My head thou dost with oil anoint,  
And my cup overflows.
5. Goodness and mercy all my life  
Shall surely follow me;  
And in God's house for evermore  
My dwelling-place shall be.

### **3. LOVE DIVINE**

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heaven to earth come down,  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
All thy faithful mercies crown.
2. Jesu, thou art all compassion,  
Pure unbounded love thou art;  
Visit us with thy salvation,  
Enter every trembling heart.
3. Come, almighty to deliver,  
Let us all thy grace receive;  
Suddenly return, and never,  
Never more thy temples leave.
4. Thee we would be always blessing,  
Serve thee as thy hosts above;  
Pray, and praise thee without ceasing,  
Glory in thy perfect love.
5. Finish then thy new creation:  
Pure and spotless let us be;  
Let us see thy great salvation,  
Perfectly restored in thee;
6. 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.

### **4. MORNING HAS BROKEN**

1. 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.
2. Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven,  
Like the first dew fall on the first grass:  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,  
Sprung in completeness where his feet pass.

3. 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!

### **5. LORD OF ALL HOPEFULNESS**

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

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

3. 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.

4. 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.

### **6. THE KING OF LOVE MY SHEPHERD IS**

1. The King of love my shepherd is,  
Whose goodness faileth never;  
I nothing lack if I am his  
And he is mine for ever.

2. Where streams of living water flow  
My ransomed soul he leadeth,  
And where the verdant pastures grow  
With food celestial feedeth.

3. Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,  
But yet in love he sought me,  
And on his shoulder gently laid,  
And home rejoicing brought me.

4. In death's dark vale I fear no ill  
With thee, dear Lord, beside me;  
Thy rod and staff my comfort still,  
Thy Cross before to guide me.

5. Thou spread'st a table in my sight;  
Thy unction grace bestoweth;  
And O what transport of delight  
From thy pure chalice floweth!

6. And so through all the length of days  
Thy goodness faileth never:  
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
Within thy house for ever.

### **7. O JESUS I HAVE PROMISED**

1. O Jesus I have promised  
To serve thee to the end;  
Be thou for ever near me,  
My master and my friend.  
I shall not fear the battle  
If thou art by my side,  
Nor wander from the pathway  
If thou wilt be my guide.

2. O let me hear thee speaking  
In accents clear and still,  
Above the storms of passion,  
The murmurs of self will;  
O speak to reassure me,  
To hasten or control;  
O speak, and make me listen,  
Thou guardian of my soul.

3. O Jesus, thou hast promised  
To all who follow thee,  
That where thou art in glory  
There shall thy servant be;  
And, Jesus, I have promised  
To serve thee to the end:  
O give me grace to follow,  
My Master and my Friend.

### **8. PRAISE THE LORD! YE HEAVENS ADORE HIM**

1. Praise the Lord! Ye heavens adore him;  
Praise him, angels in the height;  
Sun and moon, rejoice before him,  
Praise him, all ye stars and light.  
Praise the Lord! for he has spoken;  
Worlds his mighty voice obeyed;

Laws, which never can be broken,  
For their guidance he hath made.

2. Praise the Lord! For he is glorious;  
Never shall his promise fail;  
God hath made his saints victorious;  
Sin and death shall not prevail.  
Praise the God of our salvation;  
Hosts on high, his power proclaim;  
Heaven and earth and all creation,  
Laud and magnify his name!

## **9. LEAD US, HEAVENLY FATHER, LEAD US**

1. Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us  
O'er the world's tempestuous sea;  
Guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,  
For we have no help but thee;  
Yet possessing every blessing,  
If our God our Father be.
2. Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us:  
All our weakness thou dost know;  
Thou didst tread this earth before us,  
Thou didst feel its keenest woe;  
Lone and dreary, faint and weary,  
Through the desert thou didst go.
3. Spirit of our God, descending,  
Fill our hearts with heavenly joy,  
Love with every passion blending,  
Pleasure that can never cloy:  
Thus provided, pardoned, guided,  
Nothing can our peace destroy.

## **10. ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL**

*Chorus:* All things bright and beautiful,  
All creatures great and small.  
All things wise and wonderful,  
The Lord God made them all.

2. Each little flower that opens,  
Each little bird that sings,  
He made their glowing colours,  
He made their tiny wings.
3. The cold wind in the winter,  
The pleasant summer sun,  
The ripe fruits in the garden,  
He made them every one.

4. He gave us eyes to see them,  
And lips that we might tell  
How great is God Almighty,  
Who has made all things well.

## **11. PRAISE TO THE LORD**

1. 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,  
Now to his temple draw near,  
Joining in glad adoration.
2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so  
Wondrously reigneth,  
Shieldeth thee gently from harm, or when  
Fainting sustaineth:  
Hast thou not seen  
How thy heart's wishes have been  
Granted in what he ordaineth.
3. Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper  
Thy work and defend thee;  
Surely his goodness and mercy shall daily  
Attend thee:  
Ponder anew  
What the Almighty can do,  
If to the end he befriend thee.
4. 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.

## **12. LORD OF THE DANCE**

1. I danced in the morning when the world was  
begun,  
And I danced in the moon and the stars and the  
sun,  
And I came down from heaven and I danced on  
the earth;  
At Bethlehem I had my birth.

*Chorus:* Dance then wherever you may be;  
I am the Lord of the dance, said he,  
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,  
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

2. I danced for the scribe and pharisee,  
But they would not dance and they wouldn't  
follow me;  
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;  
They came with me and the dance went on:
3. I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the  
lame:  
The holy people said it was a shame.  
They whipped and stripped and they hung me  
high,  
And they left me there on a cross to die:
4. I danced on a Friday when the sky turned  
black;  
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back.  
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone;  
But I am the dance and I still go on:
5. They cut me down and I leap up high;  
I am the life that'll never, never die;  
I'll live in you if you'll live in me:  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he:

### **13. SING HOSANNA**

1. Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning,  
Give me oil in my lamp, I pray.  
Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning,  
Keep me burning till the break of day.

Chorus: Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,  
Sing hosanna to the King of Kings,  
Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,  
Sing hosanna to the King!

2. Give me joy in my heart, keep me singing,  
Give me joy in my heart, I pray.  
Give me joy in my heart, keep me singing,  
Keep me singing till the break of day.
3. Give me love in my heart, keep me serving,  
Give me love in my heart, I pray.  
Give me love in my heart, keep me serving,  
Keep me serving till the break of day.

### **14. GRACIOUS SPIRIT, HOLY GHOST**

1. Gracious Spirit, Holy Ghost,  
Taught by thee, we covet most,  
Of thy gifts at Pentecost,  
Holy, heavenly love.

2. Love is kind, and suffers long,  
Love is meek and thinks no wrong,  
Love than death itself more strong;  
Therefore give us love.
3. Prophecy will fade away,  
Melting in the light of day;  
Love will ever with us stay;  
Therefore give us love.
4. Faith will vanish into sight;  
Hope be emptied in delight;  
Love in heaven will shine more bright;  
Therefore give us love.
5. Faith and hope and love we see  
Joining hand in hand agree;  
But the greatest of the three,  
And the best, is love.
6. From the overshadowing  
Of thy gold and silver wing  
Shed on us, who to thee sing,  
Holy, heavenly, love.

### **15. JERUSALEM**

1. 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  
Among those dark satanic mills?
2. 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.

### **16. BE THOU MY VISION**

1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,  
Be all else but naught to me, save that thou art;  
Be thou my best thought in the day and the  
night,  
Both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.

2. Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,  
Be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord;  
Be thou my great Father, and I thy true heir;  
Be thou in me dwelling, and I in thy care.

3. Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the  
fight;

Be thou my whole armour, be thou my true  
might;

Be thou my soul's shelter, be thou my strong  
tower:

O raise thou me heavenward, great Power of  
my power.

4. Riches I heed not, nor all the world's praise:

Be thou mine inheritance now and always;

Be thou and thou only the first in my heart:

O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.

5. High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright  
Sun,

O grant me its joys after victory is won;

Great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,

Still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

### **17. LORD, JESUS CHRIST**

Lord Jesus Christ,

You have come to us,

You are one with us, Mary's Son;

Cleansing our souls from all their sin,

Pouring your love and goodness in;

Jesus, our love for you we sing, living Lord.

2. Lord Jesus Christ,

Now and every day

Teach us how to pray, Son of God.

You have commanded us to do

This in remembrance, Lord, of you:

Into our lives your power breaks through, living  
Lord.

3. Lord Jesus Christ,

You have come to us,

Born as one of us, Mary's Son.

Led out to die on Calvary,

risen from death to set us free,

Living Lord Jesus, help us see you are Lord.

4. Lord Jesus Christ,

I would come to you,

Live my life for you, Son of God.

All your commands I know are true,

Your many gifts will make me new,

Into my life your power breaks through, living  
Lord.

### **18. PRAISE & THANKSGIVING**

1. Praise and thanksgiving,

Father, we offer,

for all things living

Thou madest good;

Harvest of sown fields,

Fruits of the orchard,

Hay from the mown fields,

Blossom and wood.

2. Bless thou the labour

We bring to serve thee,

That with our neighbour

We may be fed.

Sowing or tilling,

We would work with thee;

Harvesting, milling,

For daily bread.

3. Father, providing

Food for thy children,

Thy wisdom guiding

Teaches us share

One with another,

So that rejoicing

With us, our brother

May know thy care.

4. Then will thy blessing

Reach every people;

All men confessing

Thy gracious hand.

Where thy will reigneth

No man will hunger:

Thy love sustaineth;

fruitful the land.

### **19. TELL OUT, MY SOUL**

1. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord:

Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;

Tender to me the promise of his word;

In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

2. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name:

Make known his might, the deeds his arm has  
done;

His mercy sure from, age to age the same;

His holy name, the Lord, the Mighty One.

3. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might:  
Powers and dominions lay their glory by;  
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,  
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

4. Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word:  
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.  
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
To children's children and for evermore.

## **20. THINE BE THE GLORY**

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,  
Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won;  
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,  
Kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.

*Chorus:* Thine be the glory, risen, conquering  
Son,  
Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won;

2. Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;  
Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;  
Let the Church with gladness hymns of triumph  
sing,  
For her Lord now liveth, death hast lost its  
sting.

3. No more we doubt thee glorious Prince of  
Life;  
Life is nought without thee: aid us in our strife;  
Make us more than conquerors through the  
deathless love;  
Bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above:

## **21. LET LOVE BE REAL**

1. Let love be real, in giving and receiving,  
Without the need to manage and to own;  
A haven free from posing and pretending,  
Where every weakness may be safely known.  
Give me your hand, along the desert pathway,  
Give me your love wherever we may go:  
As God loves us, so let us love each other,  
With no demands, just open hands and space to  
grow.

2. Let love be real, not grasping or confining,  
That strange embrace that holds yet sets us  
free;  
That helps us face the risk of truly living,  
And makes us brave to be what we might be.  
Give me your strength when all my words are  
weakness,  
Give me your love in spite of all you know:  
As God loves us, so let us love each other,  
With no demands, just open hands and space to  
grow.

3. Let love be real, with no manipulation,  
No secret wish to harness or control;  
Let us accept each other's incompleteness,  
And share the joy of learning to be whole.  
Give me your hope through dreams and  
disappointments,  
Give me your trust when all my failings show:  
As God loves us, so let us love each other,  
With no demands, just open hands and space to  
grow.

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## **22. WE PLEDGE TO ONE ANOTHER** ***(Tune: I vow to thee, my country)***

1. We pledge to one another,  
before the Lord above,  
entire and whole and perfect,  
this union of our love —  
a love that will be patient,  
a love that will be wise,  
that will not twist with envy,  
nor lose itself in lies;  
a love that will not falter,  
a love to hold us fast,  
and bind us to each other  
as long as life shall last.

2. We pray that God will guide us  
through all the years to be,  
our lives be shaped by courage,  
hope and serenity.  
Through joy and celebration,  
through loneliness and pain,  
may loyalty, compassion  
and tenderness remain,  
that those who share the blessing

of love that cannot cease  
may walk the paths of gentleness  
into the place of peace.

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### **23. COME TO A WEDDING** **(Tune: *Morning has broken*)**

1. Come to a wedding,  
Come to a blessing,  
Come on a day when happiness sings!  
Come rain or sun,  
Come winter or summer,  
Celebrate love and all that it brings.

2. Thanks for the love,  
That holds us together,  
Parent and child, and lover and friend;  
Thanks to the God,  
Whose love is our centre,  
Source of compassion, knowing no end.

3. Love is the gift,  
And love is the giver,  
Love is the gold that  
Makes the day shine;  
Love forgets self to care for the other,  
Love changes life from water to wine.

4. Come to this wedding,  
Asking a blessing,  
For all the years that living will prove;  
Health of the body,  
Health of the spirit,  
Now to you both we offer our love.

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