

THE REDEEMED CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GOD
NORTH AMERICA



Order of Church Services

**Modified by
Doctrines & Training Center
RCCG North America**

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PREFACE

There are three bear witness in heaven, God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and the three are One. In the beginning, the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Holy Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. God the father spoke The Word and there was light; the three operated as One. Jesus Christ was at Jordan to be baptized, The Holy Spirit descended upon Him and God the Father spoke that “this is my beloved Son in whom I am well Pleased.” Unity cannot be over emphasized in the body of Christ.

It is in the light of the above that decided to bring together this Order of Service for the Redeemed Christian Church of God in North America. It is to have a uniform way of conducting our services and also to serve as a guide for all ministers as we officiate in our different offices and callings. It is therefore important that we adhere to the use of this manual as much as possible and also maintain the minimal time possible in all our services.

We pray that the Lord will continue to guide all of us in the use of this booklet.

ORDER OF SERVICE FOR MARRIAGE

1. Arrival of the Groom
2. Opening Prayer
3. Processional Hymn for Bridal Train and the Bride
4. Praise & Worship
5. Rounding off Prayer and Welcome
6. Bible Reading
7. Declaration
8. Joining & Blessing
9. Choir Special Number
10. Sermon
11. Signing of The Marriage Register
12. Blessing The Bride & Bridegroom
13. Announcements
14. Recessional Hymn(The newly wedded will move out first while the congregation will wait to share the grace)
15. Photographs

DECLARATION

BEFORE SEALING THE MARRIAGE, THE OFFICIATING PASTOR SHALL DECLARE:

Dearly beloved, we are gathered here today before God and His people to join
Brother _____ and
Sister _____ in Holy Matrimony.

Marriage is an honorable status ordained by God Himself before the fall of Man and it symbolizes the Union between Christ and the Church. That Christ sanctions Marriage is evidenced by the fact that He honored an invitation to a wedding in Canaan of Galilee and He performed His first Miracle there. Also, Apostle Paul pointed out that marriage is an honorable thing between a man and a woman and should be kept pure. Therefore, marriage should not be rushed into to satisfy the carnal lust. It has to be approached with dignity and the fear of the Lord.

Reason for Marriage:

- First, marriage is for mutual fellowship. This is an agreement that these two have reached as they are to be joined together.
- Secondly, Marriage is to check the sinful life of adultery so that those not gifted to be continent can marry and thus keep themselves holy as the body of Christ.
- Thirdly, marriage is ordained for the purpose of procreating and having children that will fear the Lord, abide with the teachings of His words and glorify His Holy name.

Therefore, if anyone has any reason(s) why these two should not be joined in holy matrimony, such a person should mention it now. If there is none, let everybody remain silent on this marriage forever.

The officiating priest question the couple-to-be

Now both of you should realize that you cannot be joined contrary to the will of God. Therefore, does anyone of you have reason(s) why you should not be jointed together in matrimony?the pastor paused for their answers).

The man's pledge to the officiating minister. The minister will ask thus:

Brother_____Do you take this woman in marriage? Will you love her, honor her; counsel her, as long as you both shall live? Will you leave other women and cleave to her alone as long as both of you shall live?

If a man agrees he should pledge thus: **Yes, I do**

Likewise the minister will seek the woman's pledge Thus:

Sister_____Do you take this man to be your husband so that both of you will live together according to the will of God concerning marriage? Will you love him, honor him, and cherish him throughout your life? Will you reject other men and cleave to him alone as long as you both shall live?

If the woman accepts she should pledge Thus: **Yes, I do**

After this the officiating minister should ask the congregation:

Who gave away this woman in marriage?

(The father or mother or any person chosen for the purpose comes forward to give the right hand of the lady to the officiating minister who in turn hands the lady over to the man.)

MAKING AGREEMENT

Holding the right hand of the woman, the man pledges thus, saying after the minister:

I, Brother_____Accept you Sister_____as my wife today to have and to hold, for better, in plenty, in health and in all circumstances. I will love you and cherish you according to the will of God, for the rest of my life, in the name of the father, son and the Holy Spirit.

After this the woman holds the man's right hand and declares, saying after the minister:

I, Sister_____today accept you_____

As my husband, to have and to hold, for better, in plenty, in health and in all circumstances. I will cherish and obey you according to the will of God, for the rest of my life, in the name of the Father, son and the Holy Spirit.

Then the man gives the woman a new copy of the Holy Bible and both hold it together during which the husband shall repeat the following after the minister.

With this Holy Bible, which is the word of God, I marry you. I surrender myself to you and I will cherish you with all my love and possessions in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit (Amen).

The minister then lays both hands on the new couple together and says:

For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife, and the two shall be one flesh, so they are no longer two but one flesh (Matthew 19:5-6). What therefore God hath joined together let no man put asunder.

As Brother _____ and Sister _____

Have agreed to be joined in Holy Matrimony even as they have confessed this before God and man and backed it up with the giving and receiving of the Holy Bible as an everlasting testament, I declared they should both live together as husband and wife as from today, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Suggested Hymns:

- 1. To God be the glory**
- 2. Blessed Assurance**
- 3. Christ is our Cornerstone**
- 4. The Solid Rock**
- 5. Praise my soul the King of Heaven**

(Hymns may be downloaded@www.cyberhymnal.net)

Notes:

1. This program should not take more than 60 min. The minister, bride and groom should arrive early to ensure a prompt start.
2. The minister should hold a rehearsal with the people within a week of the ceremony. If available and accessible prior to the ceremony, the venue of the ceremony should be made for the rehearsal.
3. Seating arrangements of the relations of the bride and groom and their guest should be concluded prior to ceremony. Consultations should be held with the head usher (if possible) to ensure proper seating. (Seat the families & friends of the bride and groom on opposite side of the sanctuary).
4. Location of the signing of the register should be so identified.
5. When photograph and video could be taken should be so predetermined and announced just before the ceremony starts.
6. Announcements should be brief. This ceremony is not a regular church service. If possible restrict item to issues pertaining to the event such as photographs, receptions etc.
7. Parent of the bride and groom should be given special seating
8. Groom enter the sanctuary before the bride, signifying that he is the covenant initiator.

ORDER OF SERVICE FOR NAMING CEREMONY

1. Opening Prayer
2. Praise & Worship
3. Hymn (Optional)
4. Bible Reading (see suggested), followed by exhortations.
5. Formal Naming of Baby
6. Praise & Testimony of Parent(s), if any.
7. Collection of Offering (as a gift for the baby)
8. Announcements
9. Hymn 2 (optional)
10. Closing Prayer & Benediction

Suggested Hymns:

1. **O, for a thousand tongues to sing**
2. **Praise Him, praise Him, Jesus our blessed Redeemer**
3. **All hail the power of Jesus name**
4. **Now we give thanks to our God**
5. **To God be the glory**
6. **Come thou fount of every blessing**

(Hymns may be downloaded@www.cyberhymnal.net)

Suggested Bible passages:

Psalm. 127, 128, Luke. 1:57-60, Luke. 21:40

Notes

- i. Maximum time recommended for conducting this service is 60 minutes and if less the better
- ii. The minister who officiates at this gathering should bear in mind that this is a momentous occasion, which presents an opportunity to celebrate our faith and the goodness of God. The minister (pastor deacon, deaconess, minister, etc.) should therefore be prepared spiritually and mentally.
- iii. It is recommended that the minister should go with a team (at least with one other person) that has been informed before this celebration so that each member of the team should be prepared as well. The habit of picking someone familiar at the venue to play a part e. g. to lead prayer or choruses should not be encouraged.
- iv. This program should be review with the family before the celebration so that there would be an understanding of what to expect by both parties. This consultation can be done over the telephone.
- v. This ceremony of naming is not a cultural event and should not be turned into one. The Minister must watch out for this and actually pray for wisdom to handle it. This is why prior consultation with the family is necessary. Any anticipated role of grandparents or aunts and uncles of the baby should be clarified. The Minister does not want the occasion to arise that the grandfather/grandmother of the child on the pretext of having something to say will launch into family praises and paganistic invocations.
- vi. Experience has shown that the hosting families are never ready on time. So it will help if the Minister arrives with his team at least 15 minutes before the appointed time. This will help the family to get ready and the programme can start at the scheduled time.

- vii. The announcements should be used to inform the guests about the ministry of the church, her location and time of service.

HOME GOING BURIAL SERVICE

1. Opening
2. Invocation (Jn.11:25-26, Job 19:25-27, Rom. 14:7-8, Rev. 14:13)
3. Hymn 1
4. Scripture Reading 1
5. Hymn 2
6. Scripture Reading 2
7. Hymn 3
8. Profile of the deceased
9. Testimonies of the Deceased
10. Choir Special
11. Short Exhortation/Prayer
12. Hymn/Special Number
13. Announcements/Thanksgiving/Final Words
14. Closing & Final Prayer
15. Recessional Hymn

NOTES

- i. Families should be involved in the whole service.
- ii. Viewing of the deceased should be done 1 hour before service starts.
- iii. If deceased is of age, then there should be a thanksgiving for living a good life and leaving children behind.

Suggested Hymns:

- Jesus Lives! Thy Terrors Now
- Who are These Like Stars Appearing?
- Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me
- I know my Redeemer Liveth
- Christ is our Cornerstone
- Jerusalem on High
- Shall we gather at the river
- I have found a friend in Jesus

(Hymns may be downloaded@www.cyberhymnal.net)

Suggested Bible passages:

Rev 7:9-17; Rom.14:7-9; Thes. 4:13-18; Rev. 14:13-20

INTERMENT AT GRAVE SIDE

Opening Prayer

We shall read these words at the Grave side: (before the deceased is interred)

1. Man that is born of a woman is of few days on Earth, and full of trouble. He grows and is hewed down as the flower of grass. He passes away like a shadow, without staying in a place.
2. In the mix of life, we stay in death. From whom shall we seek help but from you our Lord who is justified to be annoyed because of our sins?
3. Lord God Most High, Almighty God, Holy Savior and the most merciful, do not put us in painful agony of everlasting death.
4. Lord, you know the secret of our hearts. Do not be deaf unto our prayers. Most Holy God, Almighty God, Holy Savior and most merciful God, spare us. You are the most righteous Judge. Do not allow us to fall away from you because of death.

We shall also read these words:

1. As it has pleased the Almighty God, in His mercy to receive the soul of this dear brother/sister who had left this place and of a fact, without doubting the hope of resurrection into life everlasting through our Lord Jesus Christ, who shall transform our poor bodies into His own likeness which is glorious, according to the mighty works by which He could subdue all principalities by Himself
2. And I heard a voice from Heaven saying unto me, "Write, Blesses are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth; yea saith the Spirit that they may rest from their labors.

Hymn: (see Home going order of service)

Bible Scripture Reading: (see Home going order of service)

A fervent prayer should be said for the family of the deceased and for the congregation.

ORDER OF SERVICE FOR WAKE-KEEPING SERVICE **OF SONGS PROGRAM**

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Opening Prayer | 12. Choir Special 2 |
| 2. Praise & Worship | 13. Scripture Reading 4 |
| 3. Hymn 1 | 14. Hymn 5 |
| 4. Scripture Reading 1 | 15. Presentation by family |
| 5. Hymn 2 | 16. Scripture Reading 5 |
| 6. Scripture Reading 2 | 17. Hymn 6 |
| 7. Hymn 3 | 18. Prayers |
| 8. Choir Special 1 | 19. Hymn 7 |
| 9. Scripture Reading 3 | 20. Announcements |
| 10. Hymn 5 | 21. Closing Hymn |
| 11. Exhortation | 22. Closing Prayer & Benediction |

Suggested Hymn:

- 1. Christ is our Corner Stone**
- 2. Jerusalem on High**
- 3. Shall We Gather at the River**
- 4. I have found a friend in Jesus**
- 5. O God Our Help in Ages Past**
- 6. When Peace Like a River, Attendeth My Way**
- 7. What a friend We Have in Jesus**
- 8. Blessed Assurance**

(Hymns may be [downloaded@www.cyberhymnal.net](http://www.cyberhymnal.net)):

Suggested Bible passages:

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Thes. 4:13-18 | 10. Mat. 13:45-52 |
| 2. Rev. 7:9-17 | 11. Rom. 14:1-7 |
| 3. Mat. 25:13 | 12. John 14:1-7 |
| 4. Rev. 19:6-9 | 13. 1 Cor. 15:1-26 |
| 5. Rev. 20:7-15 | 14. 1 Cor. 15:40-58 |
| 6. Rev. 20:7-15 | 15. 1 Thes. 5:1-11 |
| 7. Mat. 13:24-30 | 16. Rev. 21:1-8 |
| 8. Mat. 13:45-52 | 17. Rev 22:1-15 |
| 9. 2 Pet. 3:3-14 | 18. Rev. 21:18-27 |

ORDER OF SERVICE FOR HOLY COMMUNION

1. Opening Prayer
2. Praise & Worship
3. Opening Hymn
4. Scripture Reading
5. Short Exhortation
6. Prayer for Sanctification of Bread & Wine
7. Breaking, Serving & Eating Bread
8. Breaking, Serving & Drinking of Wine
9. Personal time for Prayer & Reflection
10. Celebrating with Praise & Worship
11. Taking of Love Offering
12. Announcements
13. Closing hymn
14. Closing Prayer & Benediction

Suggested Hymns:

- 1. When I behold the Wondrous Cross**
- 2. At the Cross**
- 3. O Happy Day**
- 4. Praise Him, Praise Him, Jesus our Blessed Redeemer**
- 5. All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name**
- 6. And Can it Be that I should Gain**
- 7. I am Thine O Lord**
- 8. Take My Life and Let It Be**
- 9. The Old Rugged Cross**
- 10. What Can Take Away My Sin?**
- 11. World Wide Revival**

(Hymns may be [downloaded@www.cyberhymnal.net](http://www.cyberhymnal.net)):

Suggested Bible passages: John 6:31-58; 1Cor. 11:24-34

Notes:

- i. The maximum time recommended for conducting this service is 60 minutes and if for any reason it is longer, it should be because of a large number of communicants to be served. It must not be an occasion for a long sermon. It should be a very reflective and sober but nonetheless joyous occasion. The communion is the ultimate celebration of our faith. Adequate preparation should help to minimize the serving time.
- ii. Sufficient notice of this event should be given through placement in church bulletins and announcements during church services.
- iii. It is held in the evening
- iv. The minister (pastors, elders, deacons) should be involved in serving the bread and wine.
- v. Adequate caution before and during the ceremony should be issued so that no one eats his or her condemnation.
- vi. When the Bread and Wine is being served, there should be an accompanying hymn going on.
- vii. The wine should not be drunk until all communicants have been served. Then the entire congregation will drink together.
- viii. It is recommended that anyone who will play a role (lead songs and hymns, prayer, serve) should be informed beforehand. Adequate spiritual and mental preparation is absolutely necessary.

ORDER OF SERVICE FOR LAYING FOUNDATION OF CHURCH BUILDING

1. Prayer
2. Hymn
3. Scripture Reading
4. Short Words of Exhortation
5. Laying the Stone in the Four Corner
6. Prayer
7. Hymn

Suggested Hymns:

1. We love the place, oh God
2. Spirit Divine, Attend our prayers
3. Oh, for a thousand tongues
4. Let us with a gladsome heart

(Hymns may be [downloaded@www.cyberhymnal.net](http://www.cyberhymnal.net)):

Suggested Bible passages:

Ps. 23, 87, & 127

Notes:

- i. There should be three stone for each corner. For the fourth corner the branch name of the church written on a piece of paper and placed in a small Bible.
- ii. If many ministers are present, the others may stay in each of the corners, while the senior pastors with the Bible will be in the fourth.
- iii. The minister officiating should read the words written on the piece of paper in the Bible while the laying of the stone is going on.

ORDER OF SERVICE FOR DEDICATING A CHURCH

1. Prayer
2. Choruses
3. Hymn 1
4. Scriptures Reading
5. Short Exhortation
6. Prayer of Dedication
7. Hymn 2
8. Announcements
9. Benedictions

Suggested Hymns:

(Hymns may be [downloaded@www.cyberhymnal.net](http://www.cyberhymnal.net)):

1. **We love the place, O God**
2. **Spirit Divine, Attend our Prayer**
3. **Oh, for a thousand tongues**
4. **Let us with a gladsome heart**

Bible reading: Ps. 24, Ps.87 & 127, 147, 148, 149

ORDER OF SERVICE FOR LAYING FOUNDATION FOR A PRIVATE HOUSE

1. Prayer
2. Choruses
3. Psalm Reading
4. Short Talk on the Building
5. Laying the Foundation Stone
6. Prayer
7. Hymn
8. Prayer

Suggested Hymns:

1. **We love the place, O God**
2. **Spirit Divine, Attend our Prayer**
3. **Oh, for a thousand tongues**
4. **Let us with a gladsome heart**

Bible reading: Ps. 24, 87 & 127, 147, 148, 149

Notes

- i. The Officiating minister shall lay stones in the four corner of the building.
- ii. If there are no stones, the officiating pastor should pray at the sight of the building.

ORDER OF SERVICE FOR DEDICATING A PRIVATE HOUSE

1. Prayer
2. Choruses
3. Hymn
4. Scripture Reading
5. Prayer

Suggested Hymns:

1. We love the place, O God
2. Spirit Divine, Attend our Prayer
3. Oh, for a thousand tongues
4. Let us with a gladsome heart

(Hymns may be [downloaded@www.cyberhymnal.net](http://www.cyberhymnal.net)):

Bible reading: Ps. 24, 87 & 127, 147, 148, 149

ORDER OF SERVICE FOR SUNDAY SERVICE

1. Prayer
2. Praise
3. Pastoral Prayer
4. Welcome of guest
5. Congregational Hymn
6. Special Number
7. The Word
8. Altar Call
9. Tithes & Offering
10. Announcements
11. Prayer for Children/Pregnant Women
12. Benediction