Preparing For Your Wedding

Thank you for choosing to share your wedding with us at The Gap Uniting Church. This church is a symbol of God's presence with us, and we trust that in choosing to be married in a Church building it will help you feel His presence. Your wedding will take place within the act of Christian worship, where we acknowledge God's purpose for your life and ask for His help within your marriage and your relationship. This booklet is designed to assist you as you plan for your wedding.

Booking Your Wedding

1. Please confirm the availability of the Church and of our Minister by contacting the Church Office on 3300 2712 anytime from Monday to Friday 9:00 am – 12 noon.

2. You will need to arrange an appointment with the Minister and the "Notice of Intention of Marriage" form will need to be filled in, signed by you and witnessed by the Minister. This form is a legal requirement before a marriage can take place.

3. Please bring your Birth Certificates (or extracts) and, if relevant, any divorce papers for the Minister to sight at this appointment.

4. The purpose of this appointment is to:
   a. attend to all documentation
   b. become familiar with the marriage service
   c. choose hymns, readings, vows etc. for your marriage service
   d. fulfill the requirement of Preparation of Marriage

5. (**Please note**, you CANNOT be married unless you attend such an appointment, and it must be at least one full month prior to your wedding. This is a legal requirement.)

6. A Wedding Rehearsal is usually held on the evening prior to your wedding and a booking will need to be made in consultation with the Minister.

General Terms and Conditions

1. **Please Note:** Depending on the officiating Minister's insurance cover, proof of public liability insurance may be requested by the church before the use of their premises is permitted. Consequently, the following would apply:

   A Licence Agreement (provided by the Church) would need to be completed and returned to the church, together with a Certificate of Currency (proof of paid Public Liability Insurance). Confirmation of the use of the premises can only be confirmed once these documents are approved by the church's Synod office.

2. The use of alcohol on the church premises is not allowed.

3. The throwing of confetti and rice is contrary to the Litter Laws and is prohibited by the Brisbane City Council. Please ensure that your friends and relatives are aware of this.

4. Please leave the church premises in a clean manner.

5. You are very welcome to capture your important occasion on film or video.

Schedule of Costs

BASIC FEE **$1,380.00** ✓

The above fee includes:

Church Cost *(use of Auditorium with Basic Sound System and use of the Foyer)*	*$680.00*
Minister's Fee	*$375.00*
Comprehensive Clean	*$325.00*

ADDITIONAL SERVICES

The following are intended as a guide only. The Minister will confirm any additional services once you've had a Wedding meeting. He will then be able to determine your Wedding requirements.

• Organist/Pianist	$115.00	☐
• Computer Operator	$115.00	☐
• Sound Operator (necessary when vocalists or musicians are performing)	$115.00	☐
• Service Recording (dependent on the availability of an Operator)	$210.00	☐
• Service Live Streaming (dependent on the availability of an Operator)	$315.00	☐
• Use of Kitchen (area only – not use of crockery/ovens/ other equipment)	$140.00	☐

Flowers

Supply your own flowers, and/or:

• Opt to use the Church's silk flowers	No Charge	☐

The following information may be helpful to you as you plan your Wedding Ceremony

Outline of Service

The Gathering of the Community

1 Greeting
2 Sentences
3 Hymn/song
4 Prayer
5 ►Declaration of purpose

The Service of the Word

6 ►Scripture readings
7 ►Preaching of the Word

The Marriage

8 Declaration of intent
9 Affirmation by the families
10 Affirmation by the people
11 Prayer
12 ►The vows
13 Giving of the ring(s)
14 ►Proclamation of the marriage
15 ►The blessing of the marriage [Signing the registers]
16 Wedding candle
17 Prayers
The Lord's Prayer
18 Hymn/song
19 Blessing [Signing the registers] [Holy Communion]

Some Suggested Bible Readings

Old Testament:

Psalm 67	May God be merciful to us and bless us
Psalm 100	Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands
Psalm 128	Happy are they all who fear the Lord
Song of Solomon 2:10-13; 8:6-7	Many waters cannot quench love

Epistle:

1 Corinthians 13:1-13	Love is patient and kind
Ephesians 3:14-21	The Father, from whom every family is named
Colossians 3:12-17	Love which binds everything together
1 John 4:7-16	Let us love one another, for love is of God

Gospel:

Matthew 5:1-10	The Beatitudes
Matthew 5:13-16	You are the light... let your light shine
Matthew 7:21-29	Hearing and doing
Matthew 22:35-40	This is the greatest and first commandment
John 2:1-11	The marriage at Cana in Galilee
John 15:1-8	Abide in me, and I in you
John 15:9-17	This I command you, to love one another

Hymns

Hymns, songs and music should be chosen to express praise and thanksgiving to God, and to celebrate God's love for us, our love for God, our love for one another, or the intimate love of two people.

Appropriate hymns include (numbers refer to *Together in Song*):

All creatures of our God and King	100
All people that on earth do dwell	59
Brother, sister, let me serve you	650
Come down, O Love divine	398
Come, gracious Spirit, heavenly dove	402
Come, Holy Spirit, Lord of grace	403
Father, Lord of all creation	631
For the beauty of the earth	137
From all who dwell below the skies	72
God be in my head	549
In faith and hope and love	628
In heavenly love abiding	588
Joyful, joyful we adore you	152
Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us	580
Lord of all hopefulness	613
Love divine, all loves excelling	217
May the mind of Christ my Saviour	609
Now thank we all our God	106
O perfect Love, all human thought transcending	603
Our God, be gracious unto us	37
Praise, my soul, the king of heaven	134
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty	111
Son of God, eternal Saviour	606
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord	161
The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want	10
When love is found and hope comes home	654
Where wide sky rolls down and touches red sand	188
Your love, O God, has called us here	664

The Vows

(You should choose either A or B)

The couple face each other.

A *One takes their partner's hands and says:*

I, N, in the presence of God
take you, N, to be my marriage partner/husband/wife;
to have and to hold,
from this day forward,
for better, for worse,
for richer, for poorer,
in sickness and in health,
to love and to cherish,
as long as we both shall live.
This is my solemn vow.

They loose hands.

The taking and loosing of hands by each partner signifies their personal act of commitment.

The other takes their partner's hands and says:

I, N, in the presence of God
take you, N, to be my marriage partner/husband/wife;
to have and to hold,
from this day forward,
for better, for worse,
for richer, for poorer,
in sickness and in health,
to love and to cherish,
as long as we both shall live.
This is my solemn vow.

They loose hands.

or

B *One takes their partner's hands and says:*

I, N, in the presence of God,
take you, N, to be my marriage partner/husband/wife
All that I am I give to you,
and all that I have I share with you.
Whatever the future holds,
I will love you and stand by you as long
as we both shall live.
This is my solemn vow.

They loose hands.

The other takes their partner's hands and says:
I, N, in the presence of God,
take you, N, to be my marriage partner/husband/wife
All that I am I give to you,
and all that I have I share with you.
Whatever the future holds,
I will love you and stand by you
as long as we both shall live.
This is my solemn vow.

They loose hands.

Giving of the Ring(s)

The minister receives the ring(s) and may say:
God of steadfast love,
by your blessing,
let these rings (this ring) be to N and N
a symbol of the vows
that they have made today;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

As the giver places the ring on the ring-finger of the other's left hand, the following words may be said.
N, I give you this ring
as a sign of our marriage
and of the vows that we have made today.

If only one ring is given, the following words may be said by the receiver.
N, I receive this ring
as a sign of our marriage
and of the vows that we have made today.

In some cultures, gifts other
than a ring are customary.

Notes

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UNITING CHURCH

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