

A
CUSTOMARY
FOR WEDDINGS
2019

“Christian marriage is a solemn and public covenant between a man and woman in the presence of God. In the Episcopal Church it is required that at least one of the parties must be a baptized Christian; that the ceremony be attested by at least two witnesses; and that the marriage conforms to the laws of the State and the Canons of the Church.”

—*Book of Common Prayer*



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL
MOBILE, ALABAMA

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Getting Started.....	2
Celebrating a Marriage.....	3
What you can expect of us.....	4
Our expectation of you.....	4
Guidelines.....	5
If one or both persons to be married have been divorced.....	5
How to get a Marriage License.....	6
Planning the Service.....	6
Invitations.....	7
The Wedding Bulletin.....	7
The Rehearsal.....	8
Music.....	8
Photography and Video.....	9
Flowers and Other Decorations.....	10
Dressing at the Cathedral.....	11
Security at the Cathedral.....	11
Preparing for the Service.....	11
Receptions.....	12
Offering and Fees.....	12
Small Weddings.....	12
A Word about Wedding Policies.....	13
Sample Wedding Bulletin.....	14
Wedding Readings.....	17



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL WEDDING POLICY

Weddings at Christ Church Cathedral are limited to members and their children. Any exception to this policy will be at the discretion of the Dean.

The most definitive membership at the Cathedral consists of being confirmed or received by an Episcopal Bishop and having your letter of membership here.

A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO GETTING MARRIED AT CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

This policy is consistent with that of other Cathedral Churches.

1. Read the material in this folder. If this meaning of marriage and this way of doing a wedding works with your faith and in your life, then...
2. Fill out the personal information sheet and return it to us. When we receive it, we arrange for you to...
3. Meet with one of our clergy persons. If all agree to continue forward after that...
4. We'll set the date for your wedding at Christ Church Cathedral.

We should begin with a word about our understanding of marriage. We believe that marriage is a lifelong spiritual commitment. We cannot say it better than the *Book of Common Prayer*:

“Marriage is intended by God for their mutual joy, for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity and, when it is God’s will, for the procreation of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of the Lord.” BCP 423

One of the most challenging and rewarding of human relationships, marriage is meant to be lived out in a community of faith where it can be supported and nurtured by others seeking to grow in love, forgiveness, justice, and compassion. By choosing to be married at Christ Church Cathedral, we invite you to be supported by and committed to this church community now and in the future. For those who have no intention of regular involvement in any Church, it might well be more appropriate to be married in a different context.

From our work with couples of all ages, couples planning large or small weddings, we understand that the wedding planning itself can, at times, eclipse the marriage at this stage of your inquiry. In reading this booklet, you are letting us help prepare you for both your wedding and your marriage.

We believe it is helpful at this stage to be both welcoming and clear about what we believe and practice, and what we can offer you in terms of where and how your wedding will be celebrated. In this booklet, in addition to this set of guidelines which describe our vision of how weddings work best at Christ Church Cathedral, we’ve included some information about our facilities, and a copy of the marriage service that is used in the Episcopal Church. As you read this booklet, it may be helpful for you to make written notes of questions.

GETTING STARTED

The best way to start is to read this booklet carefully.

If, after reading this booklet, you find that you’d like to continue talking about marriage and a wedding at Christ Church Cathedral, fill out and return the enclosed form to the attention of Carolyn Jeffers. As soon as we receive the form we will give it to one of our clergy, who will call to set up an initial meeting. *All plans must be made in consultation with the Dean.*

At this initial meeting, you can determine together with the priest whether this is the right setting for your wedding. After your first meeting with the clergy, we will set a tentative date and time for your wedding. The date for your wedding is not confirmed until all of the forms have been received in the Cathedral office.

Within two weeks of your clergy meeting, we ask that you read and return the Wedding Agreement. We ask that you refrain from announcing the place and time of your wedding until these forms have been returned to Christ Church Cathedral.

We will schedule two planning meetings, in addition to your premarital counseling. The first includes you, the clergy, your parent(s) if applicable, and the wedding consultant (if you have one) within three months of the wedding. The second will be within two weeks of the wedding and will include you, your parent(s) if applicable, clergy, music director, wedding consultant, and cathedral wedding director(s). The purpose of these meetings is to confirm that everyone understands all details of the wedding and rehearsal.

CELEBRATING A MARRIAGE

The marriage service is from the *Book of Common Prayer* (BCP) of the Episcopal Church, pages 423-432. The opening address, “Dearly beloved...” sets forth our belief that the marriage of a woman and a man is fundamental in creation. Christians see marriage as a sacrament or sign of the mystery of Christ’s living relationship to the Church. We welcome the opportunity to talk with you about the sacramental nature of this event. We also affirm the special purposes of marriage set forth in the second paragraph of the service. Please read and reflect on these opening paragraphs. We believe your wedding and marriage will be enriched by doing so. When Holy Communion is included in the ceremony, it is offered, ideally, to the entire congregation.

A wedding is has both a civil and an ecclesiastical rite. Because of these two dimensions, both church and civil requirements must be met.

The Episcopal Church requires at least one of the parties to the marriage be a baptized Christian, and the wedding ceremony must be attested by at least two witnesses. If either of the parties is divorced, a member of the clergy must see that several conditions are met. Those conditions are outlined in the Guidelines portions of this booklet.

The laws of the State of Alabama require a couple being married in Alabama to obtain an Alabama State Marriage License. The license must be brought to the Cathedral on the day of the rehearsal, at the latest. Without this license in-hand, the priest cannot solemnize the marriage.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT OF US

1. You will receive a warm welcome here. This is one of the most significant moments in your lives. We share with you a belief in its importance. We want to bring depth, meaning and joy to this occasion.
2. Once you have read this booklet, agreed to its terms, and initiated your first appointment, we will be prompt and clear in our responses to you.
3. As preparations proceed, anxiety and tensions inevitably mount. During this time, you will be lifted up by the prayers and support of this worship community.

Please know that we will help you keep the sacrament of your marriage relationship and your future together to the forefront, encouraging you to separate the arrangements from the sacred nature of this commitment.

OUR EXPECTATIONS OF YOU

1. If you are interested in marriage at Christ Church Cathedral, please notify us as soon as possible following your engagement and at least three months before the date you are considering for your wedding.
2. We will ask that you meet at least three times with the officiating priest for premarital counseling during this period of preparation. Marriage is described in the *Book of Common Prayer* as a solemn and public covenant. While great joy surrounds the event, it is not something to be taken lightly, so we take time to prepare.
3. We ask that you will plan to worship with us regularly on Sundays at Christ Church Cathedral, or in an Episcopal parish in the place you make your new home together. We believe that marriage is not just a ceremony in our building, it is a part of our faith community.
4. We ask that if you are not an Episcopalian that you consider joining an inquirer's class during the time of your marriage preparation. Your individual spiritual journeys, and your marriage journey, will be enriched by your participation.

GUIDELINES

PLANNING THE DATE AND TIME OF THE SERVICE

1. The date will be calendared after your initial conversation with a member of the clergy.
2. Weddings may be celebrated on weekdays or on Saturdays. Weddings are traditionally not performed in Advent, Christmastide, or Lent. Weddings will not be scheduled for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, New Year's Day, Holy Week, Memorial Day weekend, Independence Day, Labor Day weekend, or Thanksgiving weekend. Throughout the year, priority always goes to scheduled worship services.
3. Weddings may be held in the Cathedral or in the Chapel.
4. Rehearsals usually take place the day before your wedding.
5. Both the wedding and the rehearsal times are scheduled by the Cathedral staff.
6. We ask that Saturday evening weddings be scheduled no later than 6:30 p.m. As you plan, please be aware that *you may arrive no sooner than two hours before the service* (see section on photography) and stay only up to 30 minutes after the wedding.
7. We ask that you take responsibility for seeing that both rehearsal and wedding start times are adhered to. We reserve the right to cancel if you are not timely.

IF ONE OR BOTH PERSONS TO BE MARRIED HAVE BEEN DIVORCED:

In the Episcopal Church, we observe the following procedure if you are seeking to be remarried. Clergy, in consultation with the couple, are asked to determine: that there is evidence that the prior marriage has been annulled or dissolved by a final judgment or decree of a civil court of competent jurisdiction; that continuing concern is being shown for the well-being of the former spouse and of any children; and that the Bishop of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast gives written consent to the proposed solemnization of marriage. Please understand that this process may take several months to complete.

HOW TO GET A MARRIAGE LICENSE:

To obtain a license, both of you will need proof of identification: a certified birth certificate, a valid driver's license or military identification card, and proof of both of your social security numbers.

The license must be paid for in the form of cash, credit card, money order, or bank cashier's check. The cost is \$73.00.

There is no waiting period before the license becomes valid.

The license is valid for 30 days from the date it is issued.

License Office hours are 8:00 a.m.-4:45 p.m., Monday through Friday. You should arrive no later than 4:30 p.m., as the licensing process takes approximately 15 minutes.

The address is: Mobile County Government Center Annex Building
1st Floor
151 Government Street
Mobile, Alabama 36602

The web address is:
<http://probate.mobilecountyal.gov/marriage.asp>

PLANNING THE SERVICE

1. The clergy look forward to working with you to shape your service. The service will follow the content and format of "The Consecration and Blessing of a Marriage" from *The Book of Common Prayer*. The wedding program will also be based on this format (see pages 14-16 in this booklet) The bulletin will be submitted for approval by the officiating clergy no later than one month prior to the wedding.
2. Give some thought to the Biblical readings suggested for the service. We encourage the participation of friends and family members in the reading of lessons and offering of prayers (found on page 429 of the *Book of Common Prayer* or on pages 17-24 in this booklet). The celebration of the Eucharist is a wonderful way to start your life together. Our custom is to include all baptized Christians, whatever their denominational background, in the invitation to receive Holy Communion.
3. Clergy of other parishes or traditions are welcome to assist in the services, but the invitation should come from, and after consultation with, the Dean.

We will ring the bell by the front steps during the recessional as soon as the bride and groom arrive at the Cathedral door if you request it.

You may schedule a crucifer and/or acolytes if you wish. You will need to

issue the invitation to acolytes known to you. Training and vesting needs for the acolytes are scheduled at an earlier time than the rehearsal. Trained acolytes from other churches are welcome. Visiting acolytes must attend the rehearsal.

The seating capacity of Christ Church Cathedral is approximately 450 downstairs and 64 in the balcony. The seating for the Chapel is 50.

Throwing of rice, birdseed, or any other material is prohibited.

No alcoholic beverages are allowed before the wedding or on the day of the rehearsal.

INVITATIONS

1. Christ Church Cathedral reserves the right to limit the use of our copyrighted seal and fire cross.
2. In the wording of your invitation, use only *Christ Church Cathedral* as our name.

THE WEDDING BULLETIN

1. Your wedding bulletin will be printed in accordance with the order of the “Celebration and the Blessing of a Marriage” as found in *The Book of Common Prayer*, pages 423 to 432, or on pages 14-16 in this booklet.
2. A proof of your wedding bulletin must be provided to the Cathedral office at least one month before the rehearsal.
3. No changes may be made to the bulletin after approval has been given.
4. Programs may be printed only after the Cathedral office has approved the style. Unapproved programs will not be allowed.
5. Christ Church Cathedral reserves the right to limit the use of our copyrighted seal and fire cross.

THE REHEARSAL

The Cathedral wedding director(s) are responsible for assisting the priest in all of the mechanical arrangements for a wedding. Cathedral wedding director(s) are competent and happy to advise you on matters pertaining to weddings, especially as they relate to the customs and rules of Christ Church Cathedral.

1. Rehearsals are usually set for 5:30 p.m. on the evening prior to the

ceremony and will last no more than one hour.

2. It is imperative for you to be timely. If the wedding party is over 30 minutes late, the rehearsal will not take place.
3. It is necessary that all members of the wedding party attend the rehearsal.
4. Visiting acolytes must attend the rehearsal.
5. The bride is a full and active participant in the rehearsal. There are no stand-in brides.
6. Outside wedding consultants are under the direction of the Cathedral wedding director(s).
7. Consuming alcoholic beverages prior to the rehearsal is inappropriate for all members of the wedding party.
8. Cathedral wedding director(s) will be assigned by the clergy.

MUSIC

OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR IS CHRISTOPHER POWELL.

1. If you and the Dean agree to go forward with the ceremony, we will ask you to schedule an appointment with the Cathedral Music Director to discuss musical options and to begin planning. You make this appointment by leaving a message for him at the Cathedral office at 251-438-1822.
2. Because of the sacred nature of the marriage rite, music outside the sacred repertoire is not appropriate and is best used at your reception.
3. If a musician or soloist is desired, arrangements will be made by the Cathedral Music Director. The Christ Church Cathedral Music Director must be consulted and will issue invitations if other musicians are to be invited. The fees noted for soloists and musicians are for a rehearsal and the wedding only. Additional rehearsals for soloists and musicians will be billed at their hourly rates.
4. All musical selections, soloists, and instrumentalists must be booked and finalized two months prior to the wedding.
5. The Cathedral Music Director has right of refusal on all weddings at Christ Church Cathedral. If another organist is to be used, he or she must be invited by the Music Director.

Please read the next two sections carefully to be sure to avoid unnecessary misunderstandings or conflicts. We require you to have your photographer and florist read, sign, and return the

enclosed agreements.

PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEO

1. We work to maintain a joyful and worshipful atmosphere in the wedding service. Good professional photographers understand this, and they will agree to minimize distractions and respect the sacred nature of the liturgy and the building.
2. The best way to photograph wedding participants is before or after the service. If you and your photographer desire this, we will schedule a suitable time period. Once this schedule is set, it must be adhered to.
3. When pictures are taken prior to the service, all shooting must be completed and equipment removed **at least one hour before the service**. When pictures are taken after the service, the photographer must wait until everyone in the congregation has left the church. When pictures are taken after the ceremony, all shooting must be completed and the wedding party should depart **within 30 minutes after the ceremony**.
4. NO FLASH photography may be taken during the service. Time-exposures or available light photographs may be taken from the rear of the church or the balcony. At the conclusion of the ceremony, as the bride and groom draw near to the door at the rear of the church, flash photographs may be made.
5. Videotaping is permitted during the service, with available light only, with the videographer remaining in the balcony. If the videographer has not seen the Cathedral, he or she must attend the rehearsal.
6. Please order a photograph to send to us for our archive of brides.

FLOWERS AND OTHER DECORATIONS

Several local florists are familiar with Christ Church Cathedral's traditions, requirements, and worship spaces. It is desired that flowers be kept as simple as possible since elaborate decorations detract from the natural architectural beauty of Christ Church Cathedral. Floral designers will be required to complete and sign a Florist Information and Agreement form before being allowed onto the campus.

1. If you choose a florist who has not worked at the Cathedral before, they must make an appointment to meet with a member of the staff, who will take them through the space and explain the conditions and restrictions regarding floral decorations.
2. Altar flowers may be up to 26 inches wide and 38 inches tall.

3. The flowers on the altar will remain in the church for Sunday in thanksgiving for your wedding. Please provide us with the appropriate names for Sunday prayers.
4. All other flowers and greens must be removed within two hours of your wedding. The bride is responsible for having other flowers and greens removed. Any costs to remove flowers will be billed to the bride. The florist will be liable for any damage to appointments, furnishings, or the structure of Christ Church Cathedral.
5. Altar flowers may be arranged in the Cathedral's containers, with prior approval.
6. Having made prior arrangements, containers may be picked up from the Cathedral office during office hours. If the Cathedral containers are not used, the staff must approve the containers.
7. Flowers may be delivered at 9:00 a.m. on the day of the wedding. *No matter the time, a delivery fee will be assessed for opening, if no one is already scheduled to be at the Cathedral.*
8. Ten aisle tapers are available for a fee. No additional candles may be used.
9. Only fresh flowers and greenery may be used.
10. Aisle runners and unity candles are not allowed at Christ Church Cathedral.
11. The Cathedral staff reserves the right to alter flowers if they are not in keeping with the sacramental nature of the church.

SECURITY AT THE CATHEDRAL

All rehearsals and wedding ceremonies at the Cathedral must use security officers hired by the Cathedral. At least one officer for rehearsals and two for weddings. Fees for security will be included in all billing.

2

3 PREPARING FOR THE SERVICE

All members of the wedding party should arrive at the Cathedral not more than two hours before the service nor less than one hour before the scheduled time for the wedding.

1. The ushers will gather in the Chapter House one hour before the service begins. A wedding director will escort them to the back of the church to begin seating guests.

1. The bride's parents, the parents of the groom, the grandparents and other special guests will be seated in the reserved pews at the back of the church 30 minutes before the service.
2. The bride and her bridesmaids will be on site 30 minutes before the service.
3. The groom and the best man will be on site one hour before the service.
4. Smoking is not allowed on the Cathedral campus.
5. Consuming alcoholic beverages prior to the wedding is inappropriate for all members of the wedding party. No alcoholic beverages will be allowed on Cathedral property.
6. Children participating in the wedding must be supervised at all times. The Cathedral assumes no responsibility for their care, and expenses resulting from any damage resulting from their behavior will be passed along to the responsible party.

RECEPTIONS

The Cathedral does not host any wedding receptions or after rehearsal parties.

THE OFFERING AND FEES

When most of us plan our weddings, we make careful lists of the costs: reception site, food, and drinks; florists and photographers; clothing and transportation. Where is the Church on that list? We ask, simply and directly: what value do you put on having your marriage blessed in and by the Church? On that basis, for members who do not regularly pledge, we ask that you make a donation to the Cathedral. An honorarium at your discretion is appropriate for the clergy.

There are fees for Cathedral services for your wedding. Full payment of all applicable fees will be due one month prior to the wedding. Because each wedding is unique—varying in season, time of day, size, staffing, and complexity—fees for these services will vary. An invoice detailing the expenses applicable to your wedding will be reviewed with you as a part of your initial wedding planning.

THE SMALL WEDDING

Small weddings, defined as a wedding party under five people, and under 50 guests, may be held in either the Chapel or the Church. If there is no rehearsal, music, pre-wedding photography, etc. there will not be a fee for the wedding.

A WORD ABOUT WEDDING POLICIES

This booklet is a living document. Your wedding will be like no other: it will have its own personality and tone, and its own special needs. Likewise, the Church is a living, changing body, with its own gifts and challenges that vary over time. This booklet is meant to be a starting point for our work together in planning your wedding. Please regard it as a blueprint or a roadmap. For safety, liability, and fair employment reasons some particular things are subject to our best judgment in working together.

We wish you joy in beginning this part of your life's journey, and we are delighted and honored to join with you in this special day.

SAMPLE WEDDING BULLETIN

The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage Bride's Full Name and Groom's Full Name

Date

Prelude

List Music

Composer's Name

Seating of the Mothers and Grandmothers

List Music

Composer's Name

Processional

List Music

Composer's Name

Bride's Processional

List Music

Composer's Name

Opening Sentences

Book of Common Prayer BCP 423

The Declaration of Consent BCP 424

The Ministry of the Word

The Collect for Marriage BCP 425

The Lessons

Old Testament Reading Name

Psalm Number

New Testament Reading Name

Gospel Reading Name

The Homily

The Marriage BCP 427
The Prayers BCP 428

The Blessing of the Marriage

The Holy Communion BCP 361
The Breaking of Bread BCP 364
Communion Music Composer's Name
Post Communion Prayer BCP 432

Dismissal

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.

Recessional

List Music Composer's Name

The flowers on the altar are given to
the glory of God and
in thanksgiving for the marriage of
Bride's Full Name and Groom's Full Name

WEDDING SERVICE BULLETIN

Back Page

Parents of the Bride

Full Names

Parents of the Groom

Full Names

Acolytes

Full Names

Musicians

List Full Names and Instruments

Officiant

Title and Full Name

Maid/Matron of Honor

Full Name

Best Man

Full Name

Bridesmaids

Full Names

Groomsmen

Full Names

Flower Girls

Full Names

Readers

Full Names

WEDDING READINGS

One or more of the following passages from Holy Scripture is read. If there is to be communion, a passage from the gospel always concludes the readings.

Old Testament Readings

Genesis 1:26-28

Then God said, ‘Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth. So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.’

Genesis 2:4-9, 15-24

These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created. In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground—then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, ‘You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.’ Then the Lord God said, ‘It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.’ So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and

brought her to the man. Then the man said, 'This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken.' Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

Song of Solomon 2:10-13; 8:6-7

My beloved speaks and says to me: 'Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away; for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtle-dove is heard in our land. The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away. Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is strong as death, passion fierce as the grave. Its flashes are flashes of fire, a raging flame. Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it. If one offered for love all the wealth of one's house, it would be utterly scorned.

Tobit 8:5b-8 (New English Bible)

Tobias said to Sarah: "We praise thee, O God of our fathers, we praise thy name for ever and ever. Let the heavens and all thy creation praise thee for ever. Thou madest Adam, and Eve his wife to be his helper and support; and those two were the parents of the human race. This was thy word: 'It is not good for the man to be alone; let us make him a helper like him.' I now take this my beloved to wife, not out of lust but in true marriage. Grant that she and I may find mercy and grow old together." They both said "Amen," and slept through the night.

New Testament Readings

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.

Ephesians 3:14-19

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.

Ephesians 5:1-2, 21-33

Be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, be subject to your husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. As the church is subject to Christ, so let wives also be subject in everything to their husbands. Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. Even so husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no man ever hates his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This mystery is a

profound one, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church; however, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Colossians 3:12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

1 John 4:7-16

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. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

Psalms

Between the readings, a Psalm, hymn, or anthem may be sung or said. Appropriate Psalms are 67, 127, and 128.

Psalm 67

- 1 May God be merciful to us and bless us, *
show us the light of his countenance and come to us.
- 2 Let your ways be known upon earth, *
your saving health among all nations.
- 3 Let the peoples praise you, O God; *
let all the peoples praise you.

- 4 Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, *
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide all the nations upon earth.
- 5 Let the peoples praise you, O God; *
let all the peoples praise you.
- 6 The earth has brought forth her increase; *
may God, our own God, give us his blessing.
- 7 May God give us his blessing, *
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him.

Psalm 127

- 1 Unless the Lord builds the house, *
their labor is in vain who build it.
- 2 Unless the Lord watches over the city, *
in vain the watchman keeps his vigil.
- 3 It is in vain that you rise so early and go to bed so late; *
vain, too, to eat the bread of toil,
for he gives to his beloved sleep.
- 4 Children are a heritage from the Lord, *
and the fruit of the womb is a gift.
- 5 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior *
are the children of one's youth.
- 6 Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them! *
he shall not be put to shame
when he contends with his enemies in the gate.

Psalm 128

- 1 Happy are they all who fear the Lord, *
and who follow in his ways!
- 2 You shall eat the fruit of your labor; *
happiness and prosperity shall be yours.
- 3 Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine within your house, *
your children like olive shoots round about your table.
- 4 The man who fears the Lord *
shall thus indeed be blessed.
- 5 The Lord bless you from Zion, *
and may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days
of your life.
- 6 May you live to see your children's children; *
may peace be upon Israel.

Gospel Readings

Matthew 5:1-10

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

Matthew 5:13-16

Jesus said, “You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lamp stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 7:21, 24-29

Jesus said, “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!” Now when Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.

Mark 10:6-9, 13-16

But from the beginning of creation, “God made them male and female.” “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.’ People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, ‘Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.’ And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

John 15:9-12

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.”

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Revised May 2018



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

CATHEDRAL OF THE DIOCESE OF THE
CENTRAL GULF COAST

Corner of Saint Emanuel and Church Streets
115 South Conception Street, Mobile, Alabama 36602

Established 1822

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