

## Welcome by minister

We are gathered together in the presence of God to mark the ending of the marriage between N and B.

N, we welcome you, we are here to offer you our support in this time of (pain and loss / renewal and hope / confusion and regret). In the changes surrounding you we commit ourselves to journey with you.

*A brief Line of silence*

*A hymn may be sung*

## Introduction

*spoken by the minister, or a friend or family member*

Marriage is a gift from God. A couple enters it with hopes of companionship and peace, and with a vision of lasting love. They also enter it in their human frailty. Dreams can be lost, hopes broken; a marriage can end. This has happened for you, N

### Options:

- We have seen you struggle with confusion and pain, and face this ending. We are aware of the brokenness surrounding you and those close to you (including B and his / her family). -We offer you our love and our prayers as you seek to be healed and to renew your world.
- God of compassion, source of all healing, surround N with your love as he / she faces this present time of crisis. May she/ he know your unfailing support, rediscover his / her ability to trust, and journey onwards with hope renewed. Amen.
- Faithful God, in you we trust that dawn follows even the longest night. We join with N in welcoming a new day, new beginnings, release from troubles past. May he / she be empowered to live this day in the joy and freedom of your Spirit. Amen.

## Reflection / Ministry Of The Word

Scriptures of brokenness and grace, of new beginnings, new creation. Other readings significant for N.

## ENDING

N. I have come before God, in the presence of (this congregation / you my friends and family) to declare that my marriage to B has now ended.

I give thanks for all that was good in it, all we enjoyed together, all we gave each other

I acknowledge my part in all that went wrong.

I now put that marriage behind me, accepting that it belongs in my past. I let go of my relationship with B. May God bless us both in our separate lives.

### Options:

- I commit myself anew to the nurturing of our children, and to the continued sharing of my co-parenting role with B.
- To mark the end of my marriage I now take the name

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### • *A symbolic act of relinquishment*

- *placing a special object on the altar (e.g. ring)*
- *extinguishing a candle lit earlier*
- *lighting two candles separately from an altar candle*
- *exchanging or presenting symbols from the marriage*

- At my wedding I made solemn vows to B before God. I have failed to keep them. May God forgive me.

*Priest: God forgives you..... forgive yourself.*

- *Anointing with oil. Laying on of hands.*

## PRAYERS

### Options:

Holy and eternal God, in you we live and move and have our being. In all the challenges N now faces, provide the guidance and protection of your spirit, that she / he may remembered and reveal your presence, growing into the full stature of Christ.

Creator God, you are our beginning and our end. You have made both N and B in your image, and have been present throughout their time together. May your Spirit lead them as they travel separate paths, fulfilling your purpose in their lives, until they come at last to your eternal kingdom.

Faithful and loving God, you have remained with N and B through a night of pain and darkness. May the Christ light shine in their hearts, drawing them on to where you live in glory.

God of all comfort, surround with your presence all of *N's family* and friends (especially.....) Support those who have shared his / her pain and faced their own bewilderment and loss through the ending of this marriage. May they share with N the assurance of your unchanging love that brings forth new life from every dying. We ask this through Jesus, whose-resurrection offers us the hope of eternal life.

May God kindle in us the fire of love, to bring us alive and give warmth to the world.

Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth; lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust;

lead us from hate to love, from war to peace.

Let peace fill our heart, our world, our universe.

Lord, make us instruments of your peace; where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union, where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.

### **Celebration Of Community**

Bread and wine

Flowers, gifts shared

### **Blessing And Dismissal**

# Liturgy for recognising the end of a marriage

This liturgy was written for one person but can be adapted to include two former partners. The service also can be adapted to mark the ending of any committed relationship.

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## A pastoral liturgy

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