

## Appendix 1

# A Rite of Blessing for Same-Sex Couples Diocese of Georgia

*This rite is normally used in the context of the Holy Eucharist. The Collect and Propers for the Day are to be used. Absent such a collect and propers, the collect and propers for Christian Service or Baptism are to be used.*

## The Prayers

*Following the Sermon and the Nicene Creed, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray for N. and N. in their life together and for the concerns of this community.

*The couple comes forward and faces the Celebrant. A Deacon or another leader bids prayers for the couple.*

For N. and N., seeking your blessing and the blessing of your holy people; Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

For a spirit of loving-kindness to shelter them all their days; Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

For friends to support them and communities to enfold them; Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

For peace in their home and love in their family; Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

For the outpouring of your love through their work and witness; Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

For the strength to keep our vows and commitments; Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

## Blessing of the Couple

*As the couple stands or kneels, the Celebrant asks God's blessing upon them, saying*

Most gracious God, we praise you for the tender mercy and unfailing care revealed to us in Jesus Christ and for the great joy and comfort bestowed upon us in the gift of human love. We give you thanks for N. and N. Pour out the abundance of your Holy Spirit upon them. Keep them in your steadfast love; protect them from all danger; fill them with your wisdom and peace; lead them in holy service to each other and the world.

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you, and mercifully grant you rich and boundless grace, that you may please God in body and soul. God make you a sign of the loving-kindness and steadfast fidelity manifest in the life, death, and resurrection of our Savior, and bring you at last to the delight of the heavenly banquet, where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*The liturgy continues immediately with the Peace.*