WEDDING TEMPLATE

http://christianity.about.com/od/christianweddingelements/a/weddingoutline.htm

I. PRE-WEDDING CEREMONY EVENTS

**Wedding Party Pictures**
This should begin at least 90 minutes prior to the start of the wedding and be finished at least 45 minutes before the ceremony.

**Wedding Party Dressed and Ready**
The wedding party should be dressed, ready and waiting in the appropriate locations at least 15 minutes prior to the start of the ceremony.

**Prelude**
Any musical preludes or solos should take place at least 5 minutes prior to the start of the ceremony.

**More Resources for Christian Wedding Music**

**Lighting of the Candles**
Sometimes the candles or candelabras are lit before the guests arrive. Other times the ushers light them as part of the prelude, or as part of the wedding ceremony.

II. THE WEDDING CEREMONY

**Seating of the Parents**
Having the support and involvement of parents and grandparents in the ceremony brings a special blessing to the couple and also expresses honour to the previous generations of marriage unions.
The processional music begins with the seating of the honoured guests:
- Seating of the Groom's grandmother
- Seating of the Bride's grandmother
- Seating of the Groom's parents
- Seating of the Bride's mother

**Bridal Processional Begins**
Minister and Groom enter usually from stage right. If the Groomsmen are not escorting the Bridesmaids down the aisle to the altar, they also enter together with the Minister and Groom.
Bridesmaids enter, usually down the center aisle, one at a time. If the Groomsmen are escorting the Bridesmaids, they enter together.
Maid or Matron of Honour enters. If she is being escorted by the Best Man, they enter together.
Flower Girl and Ring Bearer enter.
Wedding March Begins
The Bride and her father enter. Typically the Bride's mother will stand as a signal for all of the guests to stand. Sometimes the Minister will announce, "All rise for the Bride."

Opening Remarks
The Call to Worship
Samples of the Call to Worship

The Opening Prayer
Samples of the Opening Prayer

Congregation is Seated
At this time the congregation is typically asked to be seated.

Giving Away of the Bride
Samples of the Giving Away of the Bride

Worship Song, Hymn or Solo
At this time the wedding party typically moves to the stage or platform and the Flower Girl and Ring Bearer are seated with their parents.

The Charge to Bride and Groom
Samples of The Charge

The Pledge
Samples of The Pledge

Wedding Vows
At this moment in the wedding ceremony the Bride and Groom face one another.
Samples of Wedding Vows

Exchanging of the Rings
Sample Exchanging of the Rings

Lighting of the Unity Candle
Sample Lighting of the Unity Candle
The Pronouncement

Samples of the Pronouncement

Communion

Many times couples will incorporate Communion into the wedding ceremony, making Communion their very first act as a married couple.
More information about Communion

The Closing Prayer

Samples of the Closing Prayer

The Kiss

Minister: _____, you may now kiss your Bride.

Presentation of the Couple

Minister: It is now my privilege to introduce to you for the first time, Mr. and Mrs. _____.

Recessional

The wedding party exits the platform, typically in the following order:
  Bride and Groom
  Maid or Matron of Honour and Best Man
  Bridesmaids and Groomsmen
  Flower Girl and Ring Bearer
The Ushers return for the honoured guests who are escorted out in reverse order of their entrance.
Ushers may then dismiss the remaining guests, either all at once, or one row at a time.