

Wedding Ceremony

Dearly beloved, we are gathered here today to celebrate, bless, and to affirm the union of _____ and _____ in Holy Matrimony. Let this day live in our hearts as a joyous occasion of love and support for these two dear ones, about to embark upon the adventure of a lifetime, a whole new life together as One. May they be a constant source of strength, inspiration, and love for one another, helpmates and partners as they travel through life together. May their hearts always be joined in the vision of peace and harmony, inspired by the love of Christ within each one of them for the other. And as time stretches forth into the unknowable future, and their family develops and grows, may they always hold true love, affection, compassion and respect as the centerpiece of their productive, fulfilling lives.

Who gives this woman in marriage?

Over twenty centuries ago, the Apostle Paul wrote about love in what is now known as the thirteenth chapter of his first letter to the Corinthians. He said: *“If I could speak in any language in heaven or on earth, but didn’t love others, I would only be making meaningless noise like a loud gong or a clanging cymbal. If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I knew all the mysteries of the future and knew everything about everything, but didn’t love others, what good would I be? And if I had the gift of faith so that I could speak to a mountain and make it move, without love I would be no good to anybody. If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn’t love others, I would be of no value whatsoever. Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous, or boastful, or proud or rude. Love does not demand its own way. Love is not irritable, and it keeps no record of when it has been wronged. It is never glad about injustice but rejoices*

whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. Love will last forever . . . There are three things that will endure – faith, hope , and love – and the greatest of these is love.”

Marriage is a divine relationship, for in it man and woman can find a greater degree of happiness together and a more radiant expression of life than either could find alone. Marriage is not an act that takes place in a single moment, nor in one day of time. It is an action taking place over years as two people join in common purposes and aims, and their love becomes stronger in working and sharing together. I can perform a ceremony, but it will be the two of you who will perform the marriage.

This you will do as you grow in love for each other. Marriage is more than equal giving; it is the total giving of each to the other, and always, with loving regard for the rights and beliefs of the other.

Do you both agree to these concepts of marriage?

Through life’s experiences, focus on what seems right between you; this way, when clouds of illusion hide the sun in your lives and you lose sight of it for a moment, you can remember that the sun is still there.

And if each of you will take responsibility for the quality of your life together, it will be marked by abundance and delight.

How do two become One? A great mystery of life is that we are all One. We have always been one with the whole of Creation, for we are One with the Creator . . . God.

These two are now embarking upon a great adventure, the discovery of Oneness, which will always be framed by individuality, the unique and special essence . . . of our own divinity within the Mind of God.

The Unity Candle Ceremony

The unity candle is a visible symbol of the spiritual Oneness that unites these two hearts.

(Minister steps aside)

_____ and _____

Please approach the candles.

A flame represents life, the warmth, the radiant light, and quickening power which animates each spirit. The flames of the two individual candles, representing the bride and groom, will now join in the Oneness of their marriage, symbolized by the central candle, a larger, brighter radiance as two hearts are merged.

(Bride and Groom light the central candle.)

As they return their individual tapers, the two separate flames continue to burn, representing the individuality of each, which is not extinguished, but continues to glow in its own uniqueness and special worth.

Now, Let us pray

Blessed Spirit:

At every turning of life's way, we would seek Thy guidance and Thy blessing. We thank Thee God, that Thou art Love, and that Thou hast created us after Thine own image.

We thank Thee for planting love for woman in the heart of man, and love for man in the heart of woman.

God, we are open to your love, to joy, to compassion, and to your guidance. We step forward now into a whole new day. Our hearts are overflowing with love for all of your creation. We are enlightened by your wisdom and kindness, now and forevermore thru the grace and the power of the Christ within us all.

And so it is.

Amen.

If under the law of man or of God there is any reason why this union should not take place, let it now be made known.

Now draw near.

_____do you take _____to have and to hold, and to be your wedded wife? Do you promise to love, honor, cherish, and protect her, forsaking all others, and holding unto her for as long as you both shall live? (I Do)

_____do you take _____to have and to hold, and to be your lawful wedded husband? Do you promise to love, honor, cherish, and protect him, forsaking all others, and holding only unto him for as long as you both shall live? (I Do)

May I have the rings, please.

This ring, by its shape is a symbol of eternity, without beginning or end, and is a true emblem of the undying love that shall exist between you. The substance of which it is composed is a symbol of purity, which shall ever characterize your minds and hearts in all your relations.

_____please place this ring on the third finger of
_____left hand and repeat after me:

With this ring . . . I thee wed
And with it . . . I bestow upon thee:
all the treasures . . .
of my mind, heart and hands.

(repeat, if double ring ceremony)

Please join hands.

What God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

In as much as the two of you have agreed to live together in the Holy State of Matrimony, have promised your love for each other by these vows, and the giving of these rings . . . by the power invested in me, and in the name of the Holy Spirit of Truth, which performs every true marriage, I now pronounce you husband and wife.

Congratulations!

You may kiss the bride.

Ladies and Gentleman,
It is with great pleasure that I present to you.

Mr. & Mrs. _____