Rev. Will’s Blessing of the Hands

_The Blessing of the Hands is a touching blessing for the two of you and is often read by the mothers. Some couples have found the traditional Blessing too explicit or religious, so we’ve re-worked it into a more contemporary one (#2 below)._  

1. Blessing of the Hands (Traditional)

Bride, please turn and face groom and hold his hands palms up, where you can see the gift that they are to you.

These are the hands, young and strong and vibrant with love, that hold yours on your wedding day, as he promises to love you all the days of his life.

These are the hands you will place with expectant joy against your stomach, until he too, feels his child stir within your womb.

These are the hands that look so large and clumsy, yet will be so gentle as he holds your baby for the first time.

These are the hands that will work long hours to earn money for you and your family.

These are the hands that will be nicked and bruised from fixing things around the house to make you more comfortable.

These are the hands that will caress your body through the years, to make the passion of love come alive in you.

These are the hands that will countless times wipe tears from your eyes; tears of sorrow and tears of joy.

These are the hands that will comfort you in illness, and hold you when fear or grief rack your mind.

These are the hands that will tenderly lift your chin and brush your check as they raise your face to look into his eyes; eyes that are filled completely with his overwhelming love and desire for you.

Groom, please face Bride and hold her palms up, so you may see the gift they are to you.

These are the hands hold yours on your wedding day as she gives you her pledge to love you, and accepts your ring.

These are the hands that are smooth and young and carefree now, but will be lined and rougher, working to make you comfortable.
These are the hands that will hold each child in tender love, soothing them through illness, teaching them right from wrong and wringing themselves in worry when trouble comes.

These are the hands that will hold your face and wipe tears from your eyes – in wonder and awe that you would cry for her.

These are the hands that will hold you in joy, excitement and hope each time she tells you that you are to have another child; that together you have created a new life.

Perhaps these are the hands that will comfort you when you are told you cannot have a child, and will convince you that together you will create a new life in other ways.

These are the hands that through the years will caress your body in the passion of love, to enhance your intimacy.

These are the hands that will enter the Sacrament of Matrimony. These four hands will be your armor and shield against the evils and temptations of the world.

These are the hands that will reach out, first to each other, then united, will spread your love and your sacrament to all they touch.

These are the hands that will ease your parents’ loneliness as you leave the nest, will first teach your own children the marvels of married life, and will be a sign to friends and strangers alike as to just how wonderful married life can be.

Through these four hands, God will renew His Church. These hands are the hope of a troubled humanity. These are the hands that will change the world.

2. Blessing of the Hands (Contemporary)

Officiant or Family Member: Bride, please turn and face Groom and hold his hands palms up, where you can see the gift that they are to you.

These are the hands of your best friend, your lover and partner.

These are the hands, young and strong and vibrant with love, that hold yours on your wedding day, as he promises to love you all the days of his life.

These are the hands that will passionately love, cherish and protect you,

These are the hands that will work alongside yours as you build your life together.

These are the hands that will countless times wipe tears from your eyes; tears of sorrow and tears of joy.
These are the hands that will comfort you in illness, and hold you when you are sad or afraid.

These are the hands that will tenderly lift your chin and brush your cheek as they raise your face to look into his eyes; eyes that are filled completely with his overwhelming love and desire for you.

Officiant or Family Member: Groom, please face Bride and hold her hands palms up, so you may see the gift they are to you.

These are the hands of your best friend, your lover and partner.

These are the hands that hold yours on your wedding day as she gives you her pledge to love you unconditionally, and accepts your ring.

These are the hands that will be a source of strength to you when you are in need.

These are the hands that will work alongside yours as you build your life together.

These are the hands that will passionately love, cherish and care for you.

These are the hands that will comfort you in illness, and hold you when fear or grief racks your mind.

These are the hands that will hold your face and wipe tears from your eyes – in wonder and awe that you would cry for her.

Bride and groom, please clasp your four hands together.

Officiant: May these four hands grow old together…intertwined just as your lives will be…forever united in love, patience and strength.

These four hands will be your armor and shield against the hardships of the world. May they always be ready to reach out, first to each other, then together to spread love to all they touch.

May these hands continue to build your relationship, both when it is easy and when it is hard to do so. May they have strength to hold on when you are afraid. May they be tender and gentle as you nurture each other. May these hands build an extraordinary marriage full of love, happiness and peace.