

## 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:

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 their Oneness which will always be framed by their individuality, their unique and special essence, and their own divinity within the Mind of God.

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

*(step 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 the 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 lawful wedded wife? Do you promise to love, honor, cherish, and protect her, forsaking all others, and holding only unto her for as long as you both shall live?

\_\_\_\_\_, 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?

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 \_\_\_\_\_'s 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.

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, the joining of your hands, and the giving of these rings, by the power invested in me, and in the name of the Holy Spirit which performs every true marriage, I now pronounce you husband and wife.

Congratulations.

You may kiss your bride.

Ladies and Gentlemen,  
It is with great pleasure that I present to you,  
Mr. & Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_.