

Wedding Ceremony Pattern

Processional

Greeting: We have met here today in the presence of God and these witnesses to unite this man and this woman into the bonds of holy matrimony. Marriage has existed from the beginning of human history. It has the sanction of heaven having been instituted by God in the

Garden of Eden and honored by Jesus God's Son. Those who take its vows are brought into the closest and most sacred of human relationships. Their lives are blended into one as the waters of two streams join together, and from then on they share both the joys and sorrows of life. From this close and intimate relationship springs forth obligations of the most solemn and lasting character. Obligations to protect one another, to stand by each other in the rough storms of life, to cling to each other with unfaltering faithfulness, to cherish each other with unflinching affection, and to guard each other's happiness with unceasing vigilance.

Scripture: Both of you are under obligation to fulfill the love ordained by God as is written in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. Where it says: "Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."

Parents' Blessing: (This is not required. Option One): Who gives this woman to be married to this man?

(Option Two): Someone once said, "A parent's love cannot be paid back, it can only be passed on." (Bride) & (Groom), you are forming a new family of your own, and it is important that your families support you in this new relationship. Parents would you please stand?

Will you give blessing to (Bride) and (Groom) in their new relationship? Will you support them with your prayers, and the love and freedom they need? Will you share your experience and wisdom with them as they seek it?

Declaration of Intention: And now, if you know of nothing either legal or moral to forbid your marriage, and you wish to take its vows assume its obligations, indicated that wish by joining hands.

Prayer: Let us pray: Almighty God, heavenly parent of us all, whose very nature is love. Look with favor upon this couple who desire now to make their vows before you. We are grateful for the providence, which has guided them to this holy altar of marriage. Grant this to be more than an outward union, but rather the blending of hearts and spirits and purposes. Bless each with the inward qualities of loyalty, honor, purity, self-control, trust, cooperation, and forgiveness, that they may keep faithfully this covenant, and may live together all their days in true love and perfect peace, through Jesus Christ the Master of the art of living, and our Savior. Amen.

Possible place for Song

Exchange of Vows: Many begin marriage believing marriage is a beautiful box full of all the things they have longed for: companionship, intimacy and friendship. The truth is that we begin with an empty box. You must put something into your relationship before you can take anything out. If you take more out than you put in, your relationship becomes empty. Your vows represent your commitment to keep the box full. Now, before God, friends and family members, I ask that you declare your love for one another through the exchange of vows.

Hands of the Bride and Groom (Optional words before each person give their vows)

(Groom), please hold (Bride)'s hands, palms up, so you may see the gift that they are to you. These are the hands of your best friend, holding yours on your wedding day, as she pledges her love and commitment to you all the days of her life. These are the hands that will hold each child in tender love, soothing them through illness and hurt, supporting and encouraging them along the way, and knowing when it is time to let go. These are the hands that will massage tension from your neck and back in the evenings after you've both had a long hard day. These are the hands that will hold you tight as you struggle through difficult times. These are the hands that will comfort you when you are sick, or console you when you are grieving. They are the hands that will passionately love you and cherish you through the years, for a lifetime of happiness. These are the hands that will hold you in joy and excitement and hope, each time she tells you that you are to have another child, that together you have created a new life. These are the hands that will give you support as she encourages you to chase down your dreams. Together as a team, everything you wish for can be realized.

(Bride), please hold (Groom)'s hands, palms up, so you may see the gift that they are to you. These are the hands of your best friend, holding yours on your wedding day, as he promises to love you all the days of his life. These are the hands that will work along side yours, as together you build your future, as you laugh and cry, as you share your innermost secrets and dreams. These are the hands that will work long hours for you and your new family. These are that hands that will passionately love you and cherish you through the years, for a lifetime of happiness. These are the hands that will countless times wipe the 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 overwhelms you. 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.

(Optional Prayer) Let us pray: God, bless these hands and give them strength to hold on during the storms of life. Keep them tender and gentle as they nurture each other in love. Help them continue building a relationship founded in your grace, and rich in caring. May (Groom) and (Bride) use their hands healing, protecting, sheltering and guiding. We ask this in your name, Amen

Vows (Option One): Write Your Own Vows

(Option Two): (Groom) repeat after me: (Bride), I pledge my love to you/ I accept you as you are/ and as you will become./ I give you all that I am/ and all that I possess,/ I pledge to be faithful to you forever;/and I promise to believe in you;/ comfort and support you;/ respect, honor and cherish you./ I want you as my wife,/ my best friend,/ being partners/ in and through all things,/ in and through all time.

(Bride) repeat after me: (Groom), I pledge my love to you./ I accept you as you are/ and as you will become/ I give you all that I am/ and all that I possess,/ I pledge to be faithful to you forever;/ and I promise to believe in you;/ comfort and support you;/ respect, honor and

cherish you./ I want you as my husband./ my best friend./ being partners/ in and through all things./ in and through all time.

(Option Three): Will you (Groom), have this woman (Bride), whose hands you now hold to be your wedded wife, and solemnly promise to loyally fulfill your obligations as her husband, to protect her, honor her, love her, and to cherish her in adversity as well as in prosperity, and to keep yourself unto her alone so long as you both shall live?

Will you (Bride), have this man (Groom), whose hands you now hold to be your wedded husband and solemnly promise to be unto him a tender, loving and true wife through sunshine and shadow alike, and to be faithful to him so long as you both shall live?

(Optional Vows for Children): We recognize the significant role the children play in this marriage today celebrated. (Children), will you accept (Groom) & (Bride) as your stepfather/stepmother, and promise to love and honor him/her in all ways?

Lighting of Unity Candle (Optional): The lighting of the unity candle symbolizes joining of two lives together. (Groom) & (Bride), as a symbol of your new union, please take the light that your families have given to you and form a new light together.

Sand Ceremony (Optional): The pouring of these sands together symbolizes joining of two lives together. (Groom) & (Bride), as a symbol of your new union, please take the sand that your families have given to you and form a new life together.

Possible Song during this part of the service

Exchange of Rings: We read in the Bible that when God made a covenant with Noah, God set a rainbow in the clouds as a token of that covenant and said that it would be a sign forever of God's promise. From this we learn that it is well for us, when we enter into solemn agreement with one another, to set apart some reminder of what we have promised. As tokens of your marriage you have selected rings of precious metal. May I have those rings?

Precious metal fittingly represents the precious ties that unite husband and wife. These rings, endless until broken by outside forces, are fit symbols of the unbroken partnership of marriage which should continue until broken by death. Let them be unto you constant reminders of your obligations to each other and mute incentives to their fulfillment.

For as much as the husband imparts to his wife his name and receives her into his care and keeping, I give this ring to you, (Groom). Put it upon the finger of your bride and say to her these words, "I (Groom), / take you (Bride)/ to be my wife;/ and I promise/ before God, friends and family members,/ that I will share my life with you, / in all love and honor,/ in all faith and tenderness,/ through all joy and sorrow,/ in sickness and in health,/ as long as we both live."

Take this ring which you have selected, (Bride), and put it upon the finger of your bridegroom and say to him these words, "I (Bride),/ take you (Groom)/ to be my husband;/ and I promise/ before God, friends and family members,/ that I will share my life with you,/ in all love and honor,/ in all faith and tenderness,/ through all joy and sorrow,/ in sickness and in health,/ as long as we both live." May your rings remind you of the unbroken circle of love! May you always remember the freedom and power of this love!

Medallion/Ring/Necklace for Children (Optional): As a symbol of family unity and in recognition of the hope and joy made visible through this marriage, (Groom) & (Bride) take this Medallion/Ring/Necklace and give it to (Children) and repeat after me: "(Children) we pledge to you/ our continuing love, support and protection."

Communion (Optional): Since you have confessed your commitment to one another in a new covenant relationship, it is appropriate that you share this bread and cup which will symbolize your new life as a family in Christ. As you break bread and share this cup, you seal your union to one another and to the Lord, Jesus Christ who gives Himself to you.

On that night long ago, Jesus took a loaf of bread, blessed it, broke it, and then gave it to His beloved, saying, "Take eat, this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of my love." In like manner He took a cup and gave it to His beloved, saying, "This cup is the new covenant of love. Do this in remembrance of me."

Possible Song

Pronouncement of Marriage: I charge you to be true to the vows you have taken. With your marriage, you begin life under new responsibilities; and it is only by faithfully performing the duties and fulfilling the obligations of the new relationship that true and lasting happiness can be found.

For as much as you, (Groom), and you, (Bride), have openly declared your wishes to be united in marriage and in the presence of God and these witnesses have pledged loyalty and love each to the other, and have confirmed the same by exchanging rings and holding hands. I as a minister of Christ's church and legally authorized by the state of Colorado now pronounce that you are husband and wife. You are now joined together in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. May God bless this holy union, and what God has brought together, let no one pull apart. You may now kiss the bride.

Presentation of the Couple: May I introduce to you: Mr. and Mrs. (Groom) & (Bride) _____

Recessional