

Sample Wedding Ceremony

Opening Words:

Our Loving God, we know that we live and move and enjoy our being in your presence of Love. On this most meaningful day, it is our prayer that we express You so completely that our every thought, word, and action be an example of Your indwelling presence.

We thank you God for Your gifts of Love, Life, and Light that are forever in us. May we always honor these gifts by living at peace with all of creation and ourselves. And may we always remember that because you have shared these gifts with us, we are one with You and with each other.

It is in your Spirit of Love and Light and with great joy that we celebrate this day. Amen

_____ and _____, it is our great joy today to witness your celebration of Love, as you give expression to the commitment which has been formed between you already.

During this service, God's Love and the Light of your union will be symbolized by this lighted candle that will stand witness to the vows and commitment into which you enter today.

Those present have come to share in this sacred occasion, and it is with joy that we witness your choice, rejoice in your love, and extend to you our blessings, our support and our prayers.

Your union in marriage offers you the highest and the most intimate experience of Love. May your choice to marry support a continued pursuit of your spiritual development of love, forgiveness, and peace. May your choice to marry help you to build a long history of respect and affection for each other. May your choice to marry support each other's dreams and plans to experience and enjoy life as fully as possible, Living your lives in such a way that your relationship remains pure, simple, uncluttered, and free from complication.

Through marriage, you join each other at all the levels of your being - body, mind, heart, and spirit. Your joining does not mean the loss of an individual identity or individuality, for these qualities constitute your spiritual beingness.

You are both individuals. You both have talents and gifts and the expression of these talents and gifts is a demonstration of your love for God and each other. The longer that you live together and the more you develop as individuals, the more you will have to contribute to each other and to your world.

Your commitment then, is to Love. This commitment to Love each other, to honor the other's unique talents and gifts, to behold the Love of God in each other, fulfills the greatest commandments of all that says: "Love the Lord our God with all your heart, soul, and mind, and love your neighbor as much as you love yourself."

It is Love that has brought you here today, and it is Love that calls forth and strengthens the best qualities in each of you. Remember then, that Love never seeks to dominate or to possess, but rather, only to enjoy and to enhance.

As you stand here on this sacred occasion, remember that it is God's Love for you that you first experienced through your parents and family members, then friends and now each other, that has helped you to become the unique and unrepeatable expressions of God that you are today. This wedding widens the circle of Love to include all of those that have already' loved you, and then it makes room for all those that are yet to become a part of your life.

May you always know that Love, freedom, and trust are the foundations of a happy and enduring relationship.

As you fulfill the vows you make here today, your life together will be increasingly full of Love, joy and peace, for you are one with God, and God is Love, joy, and peace.

The Reading

(Kahlil Gibran on Marriage)

You were born together and together you shall be forever more. You shall be together when the white wings of death scatter your days. Ay, you shall be together even in the silent memory of God. But let there be spaces in your togetherness. And let the winds of the heavens dance between you.

Love one another, but make not a bond of love; let it rather be a moving sea between the shores of your soul. Fill each other's cup but drink not from one cup. Give one another of your bread, but eat not from the same loaf. Sing and dance together and be joyous, but let each one of you be alone, even as the strings of a lute are alone, even though they quiver with the same music.

And give your hearts, but not into each other's keeping. For only the hand of Life can contain your hearts. And stand together, yet not too near together. For the pillars of the temple stand apart, and the oak tree and the cypress grow not in each other's shadow.

Offering of Support by the Family:

Families are a part of this sacred celebration and commitment. Both of you are a beautiful, unique, and unrepeatable expression of God, and the family from which you have come helped you to arrive at being the special person you are today.

Knowing that this marriage widens the circle of life, I ask: Do you, the parents and family of _____, open your hearts and minds in love to _____ as he now makes the sacred commitment and vow of marriage to _____?

Answer: We do

Do you, the parents and family of _____, open your hearts and minds in love to _____ as she now makes the sacred commitment and vow of marriage to _____?

Answer: We do

The Intention and Prayer

I want to remind you that what you are about to do is a sacred and holy decision. It must not be entered into lightly, but rather, only under God's guidance, Love, and wisdom.

It is fitting then, that we seek God's presence through prayer:

Our Loving God, we give thanks, knowing that it is your Love and Light that fill the hearts and minds of _____ and _____.

We accept your Divine Blessing upon this service and upon this marriage now being established. May these two always be aware of your endless blessings of peace, freedom, and abundance in their lives. May their hearts, their minds, and all that concerns them be filled with an awareness of your Love. And may your presence of Light and Life be their everlasting strength. For your unending blessings and your presence of Love in and through our lives, we give thanks. Amen.

The Vows

Recognizing that marriage is the joining of two individuals who become one with the other, but yet are unique from the other, I call on you both in the presence of God and these witnesses to give expression to the commitment which has been formed between you already.

_____ in the light of this Vision of life together, will you accept _____ as your wife/husband, that you may live together in the sacred and holy bond of marriage? Will

you love and honor her/him, comfort her/him, and be faithful to her/him as long as you both live?

Repeat after me: I _____ take you _____ to be my wedded wife/husband. I promise to hold to you alone, to love, to honor, and to cherish always.

The Ring Ceremony:

These rings are symbols of the love shared by _____ and _____

These rings by their shape are symbols of eternity, without beginning or end, and they are true emblems of the undying love that exists between you. The gold is a symbol of purity, which shall ever characterize your minds and hearts in all of your relations.

There are two rings for you are two people - each with a contribution to make to the other, and to your new life together. We bless these rings knowing that they will be a constant symbol of your love and light.

_____ do you accept _____ as your wedded wife/husband, companion, and friend, and do you pledge to love her, honor her/him, to be faithful to her/him and to accept the responsibilities expressed and implied in this commitment? Answer: "I do."

The Wedding Blessing

May your marriage bring you all the exquisite excitements a marriage should bring, and may life grant you also patience, tolerance and understanding.

May you need one another - not so much to fill your emptiness as to help you know your fullness.

May you always have happiness and may you find it extending happiness to each other.

May you continue to embrace one another but never encircle one another.

May you entice one another but not compel one another.

May you always experience love, and may that happen by loving one another! And, don't just live, celebrate! Cherish each living moment, savor every breath and grow with each experience, so that this attitude will stay with you for all your days.

Candle

As we began this service, I reminded you that God's Love and your oneness are symbolized by the lighted candle that has been burning throughout this service. This candle is my gift to you, given with the request that each year on the anniversary of this day that you again light this candle and remember the vows that you have given and made to each other on this day.

The Pronouncement

And now, in conformance with your mutual declarations and the giving and receiving of these rings, and by the authority vested in me, I now pronounce that you are husband and wife, and this I do in the name of God. Amen.

The Benediction

The Light of God surrounds you. The Love of God enfolds you. The Power of God protects you. The Presence of God watches over you. For wherever you are, God is.

The Embrace

The Recessional and Announcement:

Ladies and gentlemen, may I present to you the happy couple
_____ and _____