

Wedding Script

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Essentials.

a) Question of Impediment (“Are you here freely without impediment?”)

I do solemnly declare that I do not know of any lawful impediment why I, _____ may not be joined in matrimony to _____,

b) Declaration of Intent (the “I Do’s”)

I call upon these persons here present to witness that I, _____ do take you, _____, to be my lawful wedded wife (husband, partner, spouse, mate)

c) The signing of the registry.

d) The Pronouncement (declaring you are now married)

By virtue of the powers vested in me, I do hereby pronounce you _____ to be married (husband & wife, partners,...),

These essentials all must happen in front of two adult witnesses.

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**The following can be added/mixed in as desired, in the order that you wish.**

**Entrance**

**Opening /Welcome**

**Marriage Context**

**Love story**

**Prayer(s)**

**Reading(s)**

**Exchange of Rings**

**Unity Ritual(s)**

**Hug/Kiss**

**Photo opportunity for guests**

**Applause from audience**

**Closing Prayer/Blessing**

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## Bible passages

### Genesis

1:28, 2:18-24

### Song of Solomon

1:2, 2:2-3, 2:4, 2:10, 3:4, 4:10, 8:7

### Ruth 1:16-17

Psalms 128: 1-4

Psalms 100

Proverbs 4:23, 7:18

Colossians 3:14

1 Corinthians 13, 13:1-13, 13:4-7, 13:13, 13:14

13 If I speak in the tongues[a] of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast,[b] but do not have love, I gain nothing.

4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

8 Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10 but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. 11 When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. 12 For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

13 And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Deuteronomy 24:5

Ephesians 5:25-26

Ecclesiastes 4: 9-10

### New Testament

Mark 10: 6-9

1 John 15:9-12

Rewritten: As God hath loved me, so have I loved you, continue in my love and abide in love. May joy remain in you and may your joy be full.

## **Mildly Religious Christian Ceremony.**

We are gathered together on this day to witness and celebrate the marriage of \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_. We come together not to mark the start of a relationship, but to acknowledge and strengthen a bond that already exists. This ceremony is a public affirmation of that bond and as their dearest family and friends, it is our honour and privilege to stand witness to this event.

This day is made possible not only because of your love for each other, but through the grace and support of your family and friends. It is our hope that your fulfillment and joy in each other will increase with each passing year.

Marriage is a commitment in life, where two people can find and bring out the very best in each other. It offers opportunities for sharing and growth that no other human relationship can equal, a physical and emotional joining that has the promise of a lifetime.

### **OPENING PRAYER**

Let us bow our heads in prayer. Lord, we thank you for gathering everyone here today. We ask that you help \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to remember the strong love that they share. To work that love into practical things so that nothing can divide them. May their love always inspire them to be kind in their words, considerate of the other's feelings, and concerned for the other's needs and wishes. Increase their faith and trust in You. Bless their marriage with peace and happiness and make their Love fruitful for Your glory and their joy, both here and in eternity. Amen.

While the commitment begins with the two of you, its effect radiates outward. It touches your family and friends and ultimately all of society. When this commitment is seriously made and continuously fulfilled, it leads to the richest and most rewarding of human relationships.

Your relationship will take more than love. It will take trust, to know in your hearts that you want only the best for each other. Dedication, to stay open to one another, to learn and grow, even when it is difficult to do so. And faith, to go forward together without knowing what the future holds for you both.

While love is our natural state of being, these other qualities are not as easy to come by. They are not a destination, but a journey. Marriage is a give and take between two personalities, a mingling of two endowments which diminishes neither, but enhances both.

### **CHARGE TO THE COUPLE**

Seeing that no moment is without meaning, we ask that you take this marriage as a beginning of your lives together. Today signifies the creation of a new home and a new family for you both. May you be fulfilled by each other's love and friendship. May you be overjoyed by the promises you are about to make and the life together you will create.

Remember that in every marriage, there are good times and bad, times of joy and times of sorrow. Marriage is a journey – a time of adventure and excitement enhanced by the love, trust, dedication and faith you share in one another.

May the promises you make to one another today, be lived out to the end of your lives. Tomorrow can bring you the greatest of joys, but today is the day it all begins.

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, do you, with your family and friends as your witnesses, present yourselves willingly and of your own accord to be joined in marriage?

[We do]

Will you promise to care for each other in the joys and sorrows of life, come what may, and to share the responsibility for growth and enrichment of your life together?

[We will]

## **VOWS**

Groom, please repeat after me.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wedded wife  
I give to you in the presence of these witnesses  
My promise to stay by your side,  
In sickness and in health, in joy and in sorrow,  
As well as through the good times and the bad.  
I promise to love you without reservation,  
Comfort you in times of distress  
Encourage you to achieve all of your goals,  
Laugh with you and cry with you,  
Grow with you in mind and spirit  
Always be open and honest with you,  
And cherish you for as long as we both shall live

Bride, please repeat after me

I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wedded husband  
I give to you in the presence of these witnesses  
My promise to stay by your side,  
In sickness and in health, in joy and in sorrow,  
As well as through the good times and the bad.  
I promise to love you without reservation,  
Comfort you in times of distress  
Encourage you to achieve all of your goals,  
Laugh with you and cry with you,  
Grow with you in mind and spirit  
Always be open and honest with you,  
And cherish you for as long as we both shall live

## **EXCHANGING OF THE RINGS**

Having this love in your hearts, you have chosen to seal your vows by exchanging rings. From the earliest times, the circle has been a sign of completeness. The rings that you have chosen to wear have neither beginning nor end, much like your love for one another. They are a symbol of the words that you speak today. May these rings be from this day forward, your most treasured adornment, and may the love they symbolize, be your most precious possession. As you wear these rings, may they be constant reminders of these glad promises you are making today.

\_\_\_\_\_, take this ring, place it on \_\_\_\_\_'s finger and repeat after me.

I give you this ring as a symbol of my love and faithfulness to you.

\_\_\_\_\_, take this ring, place it on \_\_\_\_\_'s finger and repeat after me.

I give you this ring as a symbol of my love and faithfulness to you.

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ from this moment forward you will never be alone. You will carry with you the love of another person, giving you a completeness and renewed lightness. May your life together be immersed in love and excitement. May you strive to enrich each other in every possible way. And may you work to bring the peace you find to this world.

## **DECLARATION OF MARRIAGE**

Having pledged their fidelity to one another, to love, honour and cherish one another in the presence of this gathering and by the authority vested in me by the constitution and the laws of this state, it is my honour to now pronounce you husband and wife. You may kiss the bride.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my honour to be the first to introduce you to: Mr. and Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_.

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## **A Traditional Christian/Religious Ceremony**

### **OPENING PRAYER**

We are gathered here in the presence of God, family and friends to unite \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in holy matrimony. Marriage is an honourable estate, and is therefore not to be entered into lightly, but reverently, advisedly, soberly and with God's blessing. Today, they will receive God's greatest gift; another person to share with, grow with, change with, be joyful with and to stand with as one when trials and tribulations enter their lives. It is fitting, therefore, that we should on this occasion begin by asking for God's blessing on this marriage. Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we gather to celebrate your gift of love, and its presence among us. We rejoice that these two people have chosen to commit themselves to a life of loving faithfulness to one another. We praise you, Lord, for the ways you have touched our lives with loving relationships such as \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_'s, and we give thanks for the special love and friendship you have put in their hearts. Renew within us an affectionate and loving spirit. Enrich our lives with the gracious gift of your love so that we may embrace others with that same love. May our participation in this celebration of love and commitment, give to us a new joy and responsiveness to the relationships that we cherish. In your loving arms we pray, Amen.

You may all be seated.

### **DEFINITION OF COMMITMENT**

Marriage is a joyous occasion. It is connected in our thoughts with the charm of love, the warmth of home, and with all that is pleasant, as being one of the most important events of our lives. Its sacredness and unity is the most significant and binding covenant known in human relations.

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, let me charge you both to remember that your future happiness is to be in mutual consideration, patience, kindness, confidence and affection. It is the duty of each of you to find your greatest joy in the company of the other; to remember that your love pledged today must remain undivided for a lifetime.

It is your duty, \_\_\_\_\_, to be to \_\_\_\_\_, a considerate, tender, faithful, and loving husband: to support, guide and cherish her in prosperity and trouble; to thoughtfully and carefully enlarge the place she holds in your life; to constantly show to her the tokens of your affection, to shelter her from danger, and to love her with an unchangeable love.

It is your duty, \_\_\_\_\_, to be to \_\_\_\_\_, a considerate, tender, faithful, and loving wife; to comfort, guide and cherish him in prosperity and trouble; to give to him the unfailing evidences of your affection; to continue making the place he holds in your heart, broader and deeper; to support him, value him and work with him to make your marriage the very best that it can be.

I call your attention to the seriousness of the decision which you have made and the covenant you are about to declare before God. The vows you are about to take are not to be taken without careful thought, for in them you are committing yourselves exclusively to one another for as long as you both shall live.

### **WEDDING VOWS**

If you are ready to assume the obligations and duties before God, as I have defined them, you will unite your hands and pledge your love and your lives to each other.

Groom, repeat after me.

I \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my lawfully wedded wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, for as long as we both shall live. This is my solemn vow.

Now Bride, please repeat after me.

I \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, for as long as we both shall live. This is my solemn vow.

## EXCHANGE OF RINGS

You will now exchange rings as a symbol of the lifelong commitment and abiding love which you as husband and wife have promised to each other.

Groom, please place the ring on \_\_\_\_\_'s finger, and repeat after me.  
I give you this ring as a sign of my love and faithfulness.

And Bride, please place the ring on \_\_\_\_\_'s finger and repeat after me.  
I give you this ring as a sign of my love and faithfulness.

(Great Place for a Reading)

## CLOSING PRAYER

Eternal God, help \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to fulfill the promises they have made here today and to reflect your steadfast love in their commitment to each other. Give them kindness and patience, affection and understanding, happiness and contentment. May their family and friends continue to support them in difficult days, so that their love for each other may continue to grow as long as they both shall live.

Let us all pray.

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done,  
On Earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive those who trespass against us,  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
And the power, and the glory,  
Forever and ever.

Amen.

## DECLARATION OF MARRIAGE

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, having witnessed your vows for marriage before God and all who are assembled here, by the authority invested in me, I now pronounce you husband and wife. You may now kiss the bride!

It is my pleasure to introduce to you for the first time...

**Baptist**

Will you \_\_\_\_ have \_\_\_\_ to be your wife/husband? Will you love him/her, comfort and keep him/her, and forsaking all others remain true to her/him as long as you both shall life?

I will

With this ring, I thee wed, and all my worldly goods I thee endow. In sickness and in health, in poverty or in wealth, till death do us part

Alternate: In sickness and in health, For richer or poorer, Unto thee all my worldly goods I pledge.

**Episcopalian**

In the name of God, I \_\_\_\_ take you \_\_\_\_ to be my wife/husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until we are parted by death. This is my solemn vow.



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# A Christian Wedding Ceremony – Scriptural

## WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

We welcome all of you here today as we have gathered together in the presence of God and these witnesses to join \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in holy matrimony. Marriage is a gift from God, given to us so that we might experience the joys of unconditional love with a lifelong partner. God designed marriage to be an intimate relationship between a man and a woman.

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, because your deep love for each other comes from God above, this is a sacred moment, and it is with great reverence that I now ask you to declare your intent.

## CONSENT

\_\_\_\_\_, do you take \_\_\_\_\_ to be your wedded wife (husband), to live together after God's ordinance in the holy estate of matrimony? Do you promise to love her, comfort her, honour and keep her, in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others, remain faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

I do.

(repeat for alternate)

Who gives \_\_\_\_\_ to be married to \_\_\_\_\_?

(The Escort shall say): Her Mother and I or I do or We do or Her family or other.

Today is the beginning of a new life together for you. It marks the commencement of new relationships to your families, your friends, and certainly to each other. You have invited these special guests to share in one of life's greatest moments as they give recognition to the worth and beauty of your love and add their best wishes to the words that shall unite you today as husband and wife.

God knew your needs when He brought you together. He knew exactly what you needed to make you complete. And now, He wants you to commit yourselves to each other as the one He has chosen to complete you.

Through the ages, man has tried to define "love." Poems, songs, and books all have been written trying to describe this little four letter word. But the best description I have found comes from God Himself, since He is the Author of love. In His Word in First Corinthians, Chapter 13. It describes the kind of love that must characterize your lives if you are to live in joy and harmony and honour with each other, and also before God and your fellow man.

Listen to what it says:

CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 13 or other reading INSERTED HERE

\_\_\_\_\_, I believe you are saying to all of us today that you are committing yourself to this woman only, moving toward her in a more open and intimate way, giving yourself to care for her, and promising to love her as she needs to be loved.

And \_\_\_\_\_, I believe you are saying to us that you are committing yourself to this man only, moving toward him with increasing openness, tenderness, and respect, giving yourself to him, and trusting him as the head of your home, and, through him, listening to God's plan for your life together.

And so, (Groom)\_\_\_\_\_, if you will love (Bride)\_\_\_ as Christ loves the church, and (Bride)\_\_\_\_\_, if you will respond to (Groom) \_\_\_\_\_ as unto the Lord, your companionship as husband and wife will blossom into a physical, emotional, and spiritual closeness beyond which nothing can compare.

## **WEDDING VOWS**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, take thee, \_\_\_\_\_, / to be my wedded wife (husband), / to have and to hold / from this day forward, / for better, for worse, / for richer, for poorer, / in sickness and in health, / to love and to cherish, / till death do us part. / This is my solemn vow.

(repeat for alternate)

## **EXCHANGE OF THE RINGS**

The wedding ring serves as a symbol of the promises you have just spoken. It is the outward and visible sign of an inward and invisible love that binds your two hearts together. The wedding ring also is a symbol of what God is. He is without beginning and without end—He is eternal.

As you can see, the ring is without beginning and without end. So I believe this exchange of rings not only reminds us of the unending love you have for each other, but also reflects the eternal love God has for each of you.

May I have the token of Groom's (Bride's ) love for \_\_\_\_\_?

This ring I give in token and pledge / as a sign of my love and devotion. / With this ring, I thee wed.

(repeat for alternate)

## **WEDDING PRAYER/BLESSING**

Our Heavenly Father, we ask Your blessing upon these two lives and the home they are establishing today. May the love they have for each other grow deeper and stronger because of their love for You.

Lord, You guided them to each other, now guide them in this new journey as husband and wife. As they walk down this path, light their way so they may keep their eyes focused on Your will, their hands holding fast to Your truth, their feet firmly planted in Your Word, and their hearts bound together by Your love. This we pray in Your name. Amen.

## **PRONOUNCEMENT**

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, since you have consented together in holy matrimony, and have pledged yourselves to each other by your solemn vows and by the giving of rings, and have declared your commitment of love before God and these witnesses, I now pronounce you husband and wife in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Those whom God hath joined together, let no man separate.

\_\_\_\_\_, you may kiss your Bride.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my privilege to introduce to you for the very first time, Mr. and Mrs.

\_\_\_\_\_.

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## Book of Common Prayer (1800's)

### SOLEMNIZATION OF MATRIMONY.

#### Opening

DEARLY beloved, we are gathered together here in the sight of God, and in the face of this company, to join together this Man and this Woman in holy Matrimony; which is [an honourable estate, instituted of God in the time of man's innocency, signifying unto us the mystical union that is betwixt Christ and his Church: which holy estate Christ adorned and beautified with his presence and first miracle that he wrought in Cana of Galilee, and is]\* commended of Saint Paul to be honourable among all men: and therefore is not by any to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly; but reverently, discreetly, advisedly, soberly, and in the fear of God. Into this holy estate these two persons present come now to be joined. If any man can show just cause, why they may not lawfully be joined together, let him now speak, or else hereafter for ever hold his peace.

Page from the Marriage service, from an edition published in 1865.

¶ And also speaking unto the Persons who are to be married, he shall say,

I REQUIRE and charge you both, (as ye will answer at the dreadful day of judgment when the secrets of all hearts shall be disclosed), that if either of you know any impediment why ye may not be lawfully joined together in Matrimony, ye do now confess it. For be ye well assured, that if any persons are joined together otherwise than as God's Word doth allow, their marriage is not lawful.

¶ The Minister, if he shall have reason to doubt of the lawfulness of the proposed Marriage, may demand sufficient surety for his indemnification: but if no impediment shall be alleged, or suspected, the Minister shall say to the Man,

¶ Then shall the Minister say unto the Woman,

\_\_\_\_\_ WILT thou have this Woman to be thy wedded wife, to live together after God's ordinance in the holy estate of Matrimony? Wilt thou love her, comfort her honour and keep her in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, keep thee only unto her, so long as ye both shall live?

\_\_\_\_\_ WILT thou have this Man to be thy wedded husband, to live together after Gods ordinance in the holy estate of Matrimony? Wilt thou obey him, and serve him, love, honour, and keep him in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, keep thee only unto him, so long as ye both shall live?

¶ The Man shall answer,

¶ The Woman shall answer,

I will.

I will.,

¶ Then shall the Minister say,

Who giveth this Woman to be married to this Man?

¶ Then shall they give their troth to each other in this manner. The Minister, receiving the Woman at her father's or friend's hands, shall cause the Man with his right hand to take the Woman by her right hand, and to say after him as followeth.

I \_\_\_\_ take thee \_\_\_\_ to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part, according to God's holy ordinance; and thereto I plight thee my troth.

¶ Then shall they loose their hands; and the Woman with her right hand taking the Man by his right hand, shall likewise say after the Minister:

I \_\_\_\_ take thee \_\_\_\_ to my wedded husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love, cherish, and obey, till death us do part, according to God's holy ordinance; and thereto I give thee my troth.

¶ Then shall they again loose their hands and the Man shall give unto the Woman a Ring. And the Minister taking the Ring shall deliver it unto the Man, to put it upon the fourth finger of the Woman's left hand. And the Man holding the Ring there, and taught by the Minister, shall say,

WITH this Ring I thee wed, and with all my worldly goods I thee endow: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

¶ Then the Man, leaving the Ring upon the fourth finger of the Woman's left hand, the Minister shall say,

Let us pray

OUR Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil. Amen.

O ETERNAL God, Creator and Preserver of all mankind, Giver of all spiritual grace, the Author of everlasting life; Send thy blessing upon these thy servants, this man and this woman, whom we bless in thy Name; that, as Isaac and Rebecca lived faithfully together, so these persons may surely perform and keep the vow and covenant betwixt them made, (whereof this Ring given and received is a token and pledge,) and may ever remain in perfect love and peace together, and live according to thy laws; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

¶ Then shall the Minister join their right hands together, and say,

Those whom God hath joined together let no man put asunder.

¶ Then shall the Minister speak unto the company:

FORASMUCH as \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_ have consented together in holy wedlock, and have witnessed the same before God and this company, and thereto have given and pledged their troth, each to the other, and have declared the same by giving and receiving a Ring, and by joining hands; I pronounce that they are Man and Wife, In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

¶ And the Minister shall add this Blessing:

GOD the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Ghost, bless, preserve, and keep you; the Lord mercifully with his favour look upon you, and fill you with all spiritual benediction and grace; that ye may so live together in this life, that in the world to come ye may have life everlasting. Amen.