**STANDARD CEREMONY**

**Opening**

We are gathered here on this wonderful day to join in the marriage of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_&\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(Choose 1 of 3)

You are blessed to be surrounded by so many people, family and friends who have given their loving support and their strength which has brought you hear this very moment and this why you are standing together before us today.

OR

We are here not only to witness the vows and promises you are about to exchange but also to wish you both continued happiness prosperity and love that your relationship has already brought into your lives. We come together not to mark a start of marriage, but to recognize the next step of an ongoing adventure that you will share for the rest of your lives.

OR

The step which you are about to take are the most important which human beings can come. It’s a union of two people founded upon mutual respect and affection. Your lives will change, your responsibilities will increase, but your joy will be multiplied if you are sincere and earnest with your pledge to one another. One of the most important things to make your marriage work is communication, talking is the key, but the key is to be an outstanding listener.

**Consent**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, will you have this woman to be your wedded wife, to love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, and forsaking all others, so long as you both shall live? … I do

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, will you have this man to be your wedded husband, to love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, and forsaking all others, so long as you both shall live?... I do

**Remembrance & Acknowledgement** (optional)

\_\_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_\_ would like to take a moment to remember those special people in their lives who are not with us here today.   May their spiritual presence here today and always continue to influence their lives, providing Love, Strength and Courage to be the best person they can be.

**Reading** (Choose 1 of 4)

What greater a thing for two people to feel, that they are joined together, to strengthen each other in all labor, to rest on each other in all sorrow, to help each other in all need, to share in all joy and to be one with each other. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_&\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I leave you now with the following words may all that you are, always be in love, always be anew, may your love be as beautiful each day you share, as it is on this day and may you always be each other’s best friend, and greatest love.

OR

\_\_\_\_\_&\_\_\_\_ today is one of the happiest days of your lives. Marriage is a promise to be kind and understanding to be thoughtful considerate and to share one life together. Happiness in marriage is not something that just happens; a good marriage must be created. And in the art of marriage it’s the little things that are the big things you’re never too old to hold hands, it’s remembering to say l love you at least once a day and it’s never going to sleep angry.

OR

It is no time you should taking the other for granted for the courtship should not end at the honeymoon it should continue through all your years together it is speaking words of appreciation and demonstrating gratitude, in thoughtful ways and it is not looking for perfection in each other, it is cultivating flexibility, patience, understanding, and most of all a scene of humor

OR

It is having the capacity to forgive and forget and respect one another, it is a common search for the good and beautiful, and it is establishing a relationship in which the independence is equal, the dependence is mutual and obligation is reciprocal. It is not only marrying the right partner but it is being the right partner for each other, which both of you know you are.

**Vows** (Choose 1 of 4 or write your own)

\_\_\_\_\_\_, please repeat after me:

\_\_\_\_\_\_I take you as you are, loving who you are now and who you are yet to become. I promise to listen to you and learn from you, to support you and accept your support. I will share in your hopes and dreams. I will love you and have faith in your love for me, Let us be partners, friends and lovers, today and all of the days to follow.

\_\_\_\_\_\_, please repeat after me:

\_\_\_\_\_ I promise to be faithful supportive and loyal, to give you my companionship and love throughout all the changes in our life, I will walk with you when life is good, and through every storm. I will celebrate the joys of life with you. And comfort you in time of sorrow, I will love honor and protect you, I promise to support your dreams and walk besides you offering courage and strength through all endeavors.

\_\_\_\_\_\_, please repeat after me:

I\_\_\_\_ give myself to you\_\_\_\_\_ to be your life’s partner. I promise to continue to love and sustain you in sickness and in health in plenty and in want, in joy and in sorrow, as long as we both shall live.  This is my solemn vow.

\_\_\_\_\_\_, please repeat after me:

I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ take you \_\_\_\_\_ for my lawful husband/wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, until death do us part.

**Reading** (Choose 1 of 4)

Love is patient, love is kind, it is not jealous, it is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude,

It does seek its own interests, it is not quick tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrong doing, but rejoices over truth, it bares all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things, and love true love never fails.

OR

To love is to share life together, to build special plans just for two, to work side by side and then smile with pride as one by one, dreams all come true, to love is to have someone special one who you can always depend to be there though the years sharing laughter and tears as a partner a lover a friend to love is to make special memories of moments you love to recall of all the good things that sharing life brings love is the greatest of all.

OR

Love works in ways that are wondrous in strain, and there is nothing in life that love can’t change, love is the answer that every one seeks, love the language that every heart speaks, love can’t be bought, it’s priceless, and free, and love is like pure magic, its life’s sweetest mystery.

OR

They say love is blind. I disagree. Infatuation is blind, love is all-seeing and accepting.

Love is seeing all the flaws and blemishes and accepting them. Love is accepting the bad habits and mannerisms, and working around them. Love is recognizing all the fears and insecurities, and knowing your role is to comfort. Love is working through all the challenges and painful times. Infatuation is fragile and will shatter when life is not perfect. Love is strong and it strengthens because it is real.

**Ring Exchange** May I have the rings?  Take each other’s hands

Rings are the external and visible sign of your internal and spiritual bond of love which unites both your hearts. May they serve as a seal of your vows to one another from this day forward.

(Choose 1 of 4)

\_\_\_\_\_\_ repeat after me:

­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_, This ring I give to you in token of my love and devotion and with my heart, I pledge to you all that I am. With this ring, I marry you and join my life to yours.

OR

\_\_\_\_\_\_ repeat after me:

\_\_\_\_\_\_, I give you this ring a token of the vows I have made today. Let the gold remind you each day of how much I value you. Let the unbroken circle remind you of my pledge to be faithful and loving always. I place it on your finger as a visible sign of the promises that have made us husband and wife

 OR

\_\_\_\_\_\_ repeat after me:

\_\_\_\_\_\_, this ring I give to you in token and in pledge and constant faith and abiding love. With this ring, I marry you and join my life to yours.

OR

\_\_\_\_\_\_ repeat after me:

\_\_\_\_\_ I give you this ring as a symbol of my love and commitment from this day forward I will be proud to be your husband/wife and best friend.

**(INSERT UNITY CANDLE, SAND, OR ROSE CEREMONY HERE if desired)**

**Prayer** (Choose 1 of 2) Optional

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Psalm 67**May God be merciful to us and bless us, show us the light of his countenance and come to us.Let your ways be known upon earth, your saving health among all nations.Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the people with equity and guide all the nations upon earth.The earth has brought forth her increase; may God, our own God, give us his blessing.May God give us his blessing, and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him. | **Lord’s Prayer**And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,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. |

**Pronouncement** May love be in every step you take, every word you speak and every choice you make in your life. (Choose 1 of 4)

It is with my great pleasure and honor to declare you married by the power vested in me by the Great State of New Jersey. \_\_\_\_ You make kiss your Bride!

OR

\_\_\_\_\_\_&\_\_\_\_\_\_, by the power vested in me by the State of New Jersey, I now pronounce you husband and wife! \_\_\_\_\_\_ you, may kiss your bride!

OR

Family friends by the power vested in me by the State of New Jersey I am pleased to pronounce that \_\_\_\_ and\_\_\_\_ are married sealed today and with a kiss

OR

Inasmuch as\_\_\_\_\_&\_\_\_\_\_ have exchanged vows of love and fidelity here in the presence of those assembled, I now pronounce that they are bound to one another in holy marriage according to the laws of the State of New Jersey as long as they both shall live.

May you always find delight in each other and live in peace and steadfast love.

Rev August 9, 2017