



Unity Rituals

Unity Rituals have become very popular for a number of reasons – the ritual can be a way to include people or traditions in your ceremony, they add a personal touch to your ceremony and they can create lasting keepsakes for you to treasure.

You will be required to make the arrangements for your Unity Ritual unless you request assistance from me, as your celebrant. There may be an additional fee from for any special performers, costumes, props or equipment required in order to carry out your Unity Ritual. I will of course work with you to create the words that blend your Unity Ritual into the ceremony.

I have a number of handmade items that I create for ceremonies and unity rituals including engraved wedding vow cards and handfasting cords. Have a chat with me about what you might like to include in your ceremony. You can see my ceremony products on my website. Items that you choose to purchase will be invoiced separately from your ceremony fees if you engage my services as your marriage celebrant and you are under no obligation to purchase any items from me at any time.

If you choose to include a handfasting ritual in your ceremony, I will make you a braided cord in your choice of colours at no extra charge.

Over the following pages are some examples of scripts for unity rituals.

Hand Fasting

This beautiful unity ritual is a wonderful way to symbolise your union and include your family if you wish. I love to create keepsakes and I make your handfasting cords/braid at no extra charge. Simply choose how you would like to include the ritual in your ceremony from the following options and let me know your colours.

After your ceremony, your braid/cords will be put in a keepsake box with a personalised tag and given with your Certificate of Marriage to your trusted person or put with your Wishing Well / Card box as you wish.

Here are some examples of how to do a handfasting. It can be a wonderful way to include other people from your families.

Cord Colour Meanings

Red – love, strength, fertility, courage, health, vigour, passion

Orange – encouragement, adaptability, stimulation, kindness

Yellow – attraction, charm, confidence, balance, harmony

Green – fertility, luck, prosperity, nurturing, beauty, health, love

Blue – tranquility, understanding, patience, health

Purple – healing, health, strength, power, progress

Black – strength, empowerment, wisdom/vision, success, pure love

White – spiritual purity, truth, peace, serenity and devotion

Grey – balance, neutrality

Pink – love, unity, honour, truth, romance, happiness

Brown – healing, skills & talent, nurturing, home, the earth

Silver – for creativity, inspiration & vision, and protection

Gold – unity, longevity, prosperity, strength

Option 1 - Single Cord Blessings

(The cords are chosen and brought up by people as single cords to give blessings. Can be any number)

As I am sure you all know, to get married is known as Tying the Knot.

Now this is not some made up saying – it refers to the beautiful tradition of Handfasting which dates back thousands of years. Before rings and certificates, it was how people were bound together in marriage.

Your family have supported throughout your life and will continue to be there for you in your married life. They love you beyond measure and have some blessings they wish to bestow upon your marriage.

I am going to invite your parents to join us one at a time to share their blessings. The cord colours are very special and unique, just like the love they have for you both.

Sam and Liam, please join hands.

Inci, please come and drape your cord over their hands.

This pink cord gives Inci's blessing for romance, unity, happiness, truth and honour.

Theresa, please come and drape your cord over their hands.

This teal cord gives Theresa's blessing for joy, tranquillity, harmony and clarity.

Brian, please come and drape your cord over their hands.

This yellow cord gives Brian's blessing for charm, confidence, balance and joy.

Tony, please come and drape your cord over their hands.

This red cord gives Tony's blessing for success, honour, loyalty and love.

Thank you all.

Sam and Liam, these cords hold the blessings your family have made for your marriage. To give life to these blessings, you must embrace them in your hearts and uphold them each day through your actions.

Remember, you hold in your own hands the making or breaking of this union.

Just as your hands are now bound together, so too, are your lives.

Please grip your ends of the cords and pull gently to tie this everlasting knot.



Option 2 - Braided Cord to give blessings

(Between 3 and 6 cords are chosen by the couple and people to give blessings. I will create a braided cord)

As I am sure you all know, to get married is known as Tying the Knot.

Now this is not some made up saying – it refers to the beautiful tradition of Handfasting which dates back thousands of years. Before rings and certificates, it was how people were bound together in marriage.

Your family have supported throughout your life and will continue to be there for you in your married life. They love you beyond measure and have some blessings they wish to bestow upon your marriage.

Your parents have chosen cords to give blessings to your marriage, which have been woven into this braid. Each cord is special and unique, just like the love they have for you both.

Sam and Liam, please join hands.

The pink cord gives Inci's blessing for romance, unity, happiness, truth and honour.

The teal cord gives Theresa's blessing for joy, tranquillity, harmony and clarity.

The yellow cord gives Brian's blessing for charm, confidence, balance and joy.

The red cord gives Tony's blessing for success, honour, loyalty and love.

Sam and Liam, these cords hold the blessings your family have made for your marriage. To give life to these blessings, you must embrace them in your hearts and uphold them each day through your actions.

Remember, you hold in your own hands the making or breaking of this union.

Just as your hands are now bound together, so too, are your lives.

Please grip your ends of the cords and pull gently to tie this everlasting knot.



Option 3 - Braided 3-6 Colour Cord chosen by couple

(You choose the colours as you wish and they will be braided)

As you may know, to get married is known as Tying the Knot. This is not just a random expression - handfasting is beautiful tradition dating back thousands of years. Before rings and certificates, it was how people were bound together in marriage.

Chris and Kailah, this cord is a symbol of the connection between your lives together. It is a braid made of <number> strands which represent each of you, your love and what you hope for your marriage.

Please join your right hands.

As your hands are bound together by this cord, so too, will your lives be bound together in marriage.

These are the hands that will love you.

These are the hands that will hold and comfort you through the years.

These are the hands that will give you support and encouragement.

These are the hands you will each work with, create with, and use to build a life together.

The knots of this binding are not only formed by this cord but by your vows, the promises you make in your hearts and uphold each day through your actions. Remember, you hold in your own hands the making or breaking of this union.

Just as your hands are now bound together, so too, are your lives.

Please pull the cord gently to tie the knot.



God's Knot

During the wedding ceremony, the bride and groom braid a Cord of Three Strands together. The groom holds a small metal ring with three attached strands. The bride then braids the strands together, symbolising the union of God, husband and wife.

While braiding the Cord of Three Strands, you may wish to have someone read an explanation of the ceremony:

Today, [name of groom] and [name of bride] have chosen to braid three strands together into a single cord. Each strand has a significant meaning.

The gold strand represents God and His majesty. The <colour> strand represents the groom and his life. The <colour> strand represents the bride and her life.

In braiding these three strands together, [name of groom] and [name of bride] have demonstrated that their marriage is more than a joining of two lives together. It is a unity with God as well. They have chosen to allow God to be at the centre of their marriage, woven into every aspect of it.

As Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 reads, "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken."

Sand Blending

Both <Names> love going to the beach.

As a symbol of their union today and forever, <Names> each have some sand in their favourite colours. You are each going to pour sand into this jar. As the sand combines, it will forever provide a visual representation of your marriage union that you can treasure in your family home.

<Names>, as I hold this vessel, please pour your sand into it and repeat after me together:

You are my love for eternity.
I blend my life,
my hopes,
my happiness
and my dreams with yours.

This vessel will serve as a beautiful reminder of this special day. It is fragile and must be cared for, just like your hearts. May you treasure it always as you treasure each other and your love.

Sand and Shells

As you will all know, <Names> absolutely adore the beach. Both keen surfers and scuba divers, they take every chance they can get to enjoy the ocean and travel far and wide to find beautiful new beaches to explore.

You are here today because your love and support means so much to <Names>. Each of you holds a special place in their hearts and they want to include you in both today and their lives together. To symbolise your important role in their life together, you were all asked to bring with you a small shell and you will each place it in this beautiful vase. <Names> each have a jar of sand that they will combine in the vase along with your shells.

The two separate jars of sand symbolise your separate lives, separate families and separate sets of friends. They represent all that you are and all that you'll ever be as an individual. They also represent your lives before today. As these two containers of sand are poured into the vase, the individual jars of sand will no longer exist, but will be joined together as one. Just as these grains of sand can never be separated and poured again into the individual containers, so will your marriage be.

Thank you everyone for taking part in this ritual. <Names> will treasure this vase and keep it in a prominent place in their home to remind them of this special moment, their love for each other and each of you here today.

Candle Ritual

Much as we all love a refreshing breeze, for the special moment we are about to share, we appreciate the serenity of the calm we are enjoying today.

<Witness or Attendant Name>, can you please light the two thin candles on the table.

<Names>, please take a candle each from <Name>. Thank you <Name>. The two candles you hold separately symbolise your separate lives, your separate families and your separate friends. I ask you to take your candle and together light the centre candle to bring light to your marriage.

The individual candles represent your individual lives before today.

In lighting the centre candle this represents that your two lives are now joined to one light, and represents the joining of your two families, and your friends to one.

<Names>, please now extinguish your own candles, thus letting the centre candle symbolise the union of your lives.

As one light cannot be divided, neither will your lives be divided.

Love Letter Ritual

<Names> have lived their lives apart and together with open hearts and minds. They value each other's opinions and wisdom and the knowledge of those around them. Before today, you each took the time to write each other a love letter. Your letters speak about:

How you felt when you met; Your favourite adventure together; How much you have grown from then to now; Your feelings as you anticipate your wedding day; Your wishes for your future together; and your promise to the other.

You also asked your parents to write you letters expressing their love for you, how proud they are, advice for marriage, words of wisdom for love and life.

You will now place these love letters into this box along with a special bottle of wine you have chosen together and two beautiful glasses. Keep the box in a place of honour prominently displayed in your home as a constant reminder of your commitment to each other.

<Names>, you have chosen to keep this box sealed until your fifth wedding anniversary. On that day, you can look forward to opening this box, reflecting while reading the letters you wrote to one another when you were united as a couple, in marriage. By reading these love letters you will reflect upon the reasons you fell in love and chose to marry each other today.

<Names>, you may now lock the box and look forward to opening it on <date> to enjoy that delicious wine and savour many happy memories from your first five years of marriage.

Warming the Rings

Before <Names> exchange rings to symbolise their union, they would like each of you to hold the rings and make a wish, a blessing, for their eternal love and happiness. As you hold these precious bands of gold, please warm them with your love and impart to them a few thoughts of wisdom and encouragement that you would wish to pass on to <Names>. (Begin passing the rings)

The ring is an ancient symbol, so perfect and simple. It has no beginning and has no end. It is round like the sun, like the moon, like the eye, like arms that embrace. It is a circle; for love that is given comes back round again.

Your rings are precious because you wear them with love. They symbolise your commitment in marriage. They remind you of who you are, where you've been, and where you're going. As you wear them through time, they will reflect not only who you are as individuals, but also who you are a couple.

These rings are made of precious metals; purified by the heat of many fires. They are a symbol of the wealth that resides inside each of you and the purity of your love for one another. Though we have heard the vows, which have been shared by you both today, words, once spoken, are carried away on the wind. Therefore, the wedding ring is a visible symbol of the promises that have been made.

Hand Blessing Ritual

Holding another person's hand is one of the simplest and truest ways of showing a person we care. Showing a person that we will support them on their walk through life.

<Names>, please join hands. I encourage all of you, to join hands with your own loved ones if they are here today, or if they are absent, place your hand on your heart and think of them to reaffirm your love and support as I offer this blessing:

These are the hands of your best friend, young and strong and full of love for you, that are holding yours on your wedding day, as you promise to love each other today, tomorrow, and forever.

These are the hands that will work alongside yours, as together you build your future.

These are the hands that will passionately love you and cherish you through the years, and with the slightest touch, will comfort you like no other.

These are the hands that will hold you when fear or grief fills your mind.

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 tenderly hold your children.

These are the hands that will help you to hold your family as one.

These are the hands that will give you strength when you need it.

And lastly, these are the hands that even when wrinkled and aged, will still be reaching for yours, still giving you the same unspoken tenderness with just a touch.

Ring Cleansing Ritual and Exchange

The wedding rings you exchanged on your wedding day are a symbol of your eternal love for one another. <Name>, you were entrusted with the wedding rings. Can you please them to me as we will honour them and the bond between their wearers by cleansing them and blessing them for the love you are renewing today.

<Name>, please take <Name> ring from <Name> and hold it in your hand. Hold your hand over the crystal bowl and use your other hand to sprinkle water over the ring.

This water represents the tears you have shed over the many years you have been together – tears of both joy and sadness. Your union has been purified by your tears over the years, both happy and sad but always from the heart. Today, you now wash away the past and begin a new chapter of your life together, keeping the happiness and the wisdom you have gained along the way.

Please take the ring and dry it gently with this cloth then place it on <Name> hand. Please repeat after me:

This ring is infused with the love I have for you. Wear it as a symbol of our love, the promises we have made and the eternal bond we share.

<Name>, please take <Name> ring from <Name> and hold it in your hand. Hold your hand over the crystal bowl and use your other hand to sprinkle water over the ring.

This water will wash away the past and bring a new gleam to your love. Your love for each other and your union will be purified and revived by its power. Love, happiness and hope remain, now and forever more.

Please take the ring and dry it gently with this cloth then place it on <Name> hand. Please repeat after me:

This ring is infused with the love I have for you. Wear it as a symbol of our love, the promises we have made and the eternal bond we share.