

SPIRITUAL CEREMONY

WHO GIVES _____ TO BE MARRIED TO _____ ?

WORDS OF GREETING

WELCOME TO THIS MOST JOYOUS OCCASION: TO CELEBRATE ONE OF LIFE'S GREATEST MOMENTS~THE UNITING OF TWO SOULS, THE JOINING OF TWO HEARTS. _____ AND _____ HAVE ASKED EACH OF YOU HERE TODAY BELIEVING THAT GOD IS PRESENT WITH US AS WE CELEBRATE THE COMING TOGETHER OF LOVE BETWEEN _____ AND _____. WE REMEMBER THAT MARRIAGE IS A TIME WHEN GROWING LOVE IS MADE PUBLIC AND TWO PEOPLE SHARE MUTUAL PROMISES BEFORE GOD AND BEFORE EACH OF US HERE TODAY.

WORDS TO THE BRIDE AND GROOM

_____ AND _____, IN THE DAYS AHEAD OF YOU, THERE WILL BE TIMES OF DIFFICULTY AND CONFLICT. WHEN YOU FIND YOURSELVES IN THESE SITUATIONS, I ASK YOU TO REFLECT ON THIS MARRIAGE ADVICE THAT THE APOSTLE PAUL WROTE: "LOVE IS PATIENT AND KIND. IT IS NOT JEALOUS OR BOASTFUL; IT IS NOT ARROGANT OR RUDE. LOVE DOES NOT INSIST ON ITS OWN WAY, IT IS NOT IRRITABLE OR RESENTFUL, IT DOES NOT REJOICE IN UNRIGHTOUSNESS, BUT REJOICES WITH THE TRUTH. LOVE BEARS ALL THINGS, BELIEVES ALL THINGS, HOPES ALL THINGS AND ENDURES ALL THINGS."

LET YOUR LOVE BE STRONGER THAN YOUR ANGER.
ALWAYS LOOK FOR THE BEST IN ONE ANOTHER.
REMEMBER THAT TRUE FRIENDSHIP IS THE BASIS FOR A LASTING RELATIONSHIP.
GIVE YOUR SPOUSE THE SAME COURTESY THAT YOU BESTOW UPON YOUR FRIENDS.
AND LET THEM KNOW THE TRUE MEANING OF "I LOVE YOU."

MARRIAGE IS A PROMISE, MADE IN THE HEARTS OF TWO PEOPLE WHO LOVE EACH OTHER, WHICH TAKES A LIFETIME TO FULFILL. WITHIN THE CIRCLE OF THIS LOVE, MARRIAGE ENCOMPASSES ALL OF LIFE'S MOST IMPORTANT RELATIONSHIPS. A WIFE AND A HUSBAND ARE EACH OTHER'S LOVER, TEACHER, LISTENER, CRITIC AND BEST FRIEND. IT IS INTO THIS STATE THAT YOU ARE ABOUT TO ENTER.

_____ AND _____, I REMIND YOU THAT MARRIAGE IS A PRECIOUS GIFT, A LIFELONG DEDICATION TO LOVE AND A DAILY CHALLENGE TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER MORE FULLY AND MORE FREELY.

DECLARATION OF INTENT

_____, DO YOU BEFORE GOD AND THESE WITNESSES, TAKE _____ TO BE YOUR WEDDED WIFE? AND DO YOU PROMISE TO BE HER FAITHFUL HUSBAND, TO LOVE HER, TO HONOR AND CHERISH HER AND KEEP HER IN SICKNESS AND IN HEALTH, FOR RICHER AND FOR POORER, FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE AND TO KEEP YOURSELF ONLY UNTO HER?

GROOM ANSWERS: I DO.

_____, WITH THIS UNDERSTANDING, DO YOU BEFORE GOD AND THIS WITNESS TAKE _____ TO BE YOUR WEDDED HUSBAND? AND DO YOU PROMISE TO BE HIS FAITHFUL WIFE, TO LOVE HIM, TO HONOR AND CHERISH HIM IN SICKNESS AND IN HEALTH, FOR RICHER AND FOR POORER, FOR BETTER AND FOR WORSE AND TO KEEP YOURSELF ONLY UNTO HIM?

BRIDE ANSWERS: I DO

LIGHTING OF THE UNITY CANDLE

AS YOU ENTER INTO THIS MARRIAGE, MAY THE LIGHT OF HIS PRESENCE BE IN YOUR LIFE. MAY THAT TRUTH BE REFLECTED AS YOU NOW TAKE THE FLAMES FROM THE SEPARATE CANDLES AND BLEND THEM INTO ONE CENTER CANDLE. MAY THE LORD UNITE YOU WITH ONE FAITH, ONE HOPE AND ONE LOVE. MAY YOU _____ AND _____, BE ONE IN NAME AND COMMITMENT? AMEN.

PRESENTING THE RINGS

FROM THE EARLIEST TIME, THE CIRCLE OF THE WEDDING BAND HAS BEEN A SYMBOL OF UNENDING LOVE AS WELL AS AN OUTWARD SYMBOL OF COMMITMENT TO EACH OTHER. AS OFTEN AS EITHER OF YOU SEES THESE CIRCLES, YOU WILL BE REMINDED OF THIS TENDER MOMENT YOU SHARE HERE TODAY ~~THE LOVE AND TRUST YOU HAVE PLACED IN EACH OTHER'S CARE.

BLESSING OF THE RINGS

BLESS O' LORD, THE GIVING AND RECEIVING OF THESE RINGS. THAT THEY WHO WEAR THEM MAY ABIDE TOGETHER IN YOUR PEACE AND GROW IN ONE ANOTHER'S EYES. AMEN

EXCHANGE OF RINGS

GROOM: _____ TAKE THIS RING AND PLACE IT ON _____ 'S FINGER AND REPEAT AFTER ME:

I _____, TAKE YOU _____ TO BE MY WEDDED WIFE. AND I PROMISE BEFORE GOD AND THESE WITNESSES TO BE YOUR LOVING AND FAITHFUL HUSBAND, IN SICKNESS AND IN HEALTH, IN JOY AND IN SORROW, WITH ALL THAT I AM AND ALL THAT I HAVE AND WITH ALL THAT I SHALL EVER BE, AS LONG AS WE BOTH SHALL LIVE.

BRIDE: _____ TAKE THIS RING AND PLACE IT ON _____ 'S FINGER AND REPEAT AFTER ME:

I _____, TAKE YOU _____ TO BE MY WEDDED HUSBANDE. AND I PROMISE BEFORE GOD AND THESE WITNESSES TO BE YOUR LOVING AND FAITHFUL WIFE, IN SICKNESS AND IN HEALTH, IN JOY AND IN SORROW, WITH ALL THAT I AM AND ALL THAT I HAVE AND WITH ALL THAT I SHALL EVER BE, AS LONG AS WE BOTH SHALL LIVE.

LET THESE RINGS SERVE NOT AS LOCKS BINDING YOU TOGETHER, BUT AS KEYS UNLOCKING THE SECRETS OF YOUR HEARTS FOR EACH OTHER TO KNOW, AND THUS BRINGING YOU CLOSER TOGETHER...FOREVER.

LET US PRAY: ALMIGHTY FATHER, YOUR PRESENCE IS THE JOY OF EVERY OCCASION, AND YOUR FAVOR HALLOWS EVERY RELATIONSHIP. BE ESPECIALLY PRESENT AND GRACIOUS TO THESE TWO PERSONS, WE PRAY, THAT THEY MAY TRULY BE JOINED IN ONE WITH YOUR BLESSING. AS YOU HAVE BROUGHT THEM TOGETHER IN YOUR PROVIDENCE, SANCTIFY THEM WITH YOUR HOLY SPIRIT, GIVING THEM A NEW MIND AND HEART FOR THEIR LIFE TOGETHER. AND GRANT THEM, NOW AND ALWAYS, THE PROMISE OF YOUR GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT. AMEN

NOW THAT _____ AND _____ HAVE PLEDGED THEMSELVES TO EACH OTHER BY SOLEMN VOWS AND BY THE GIVING AND RECEIVING OF RINGS, THEY NOW ENTER INTO THE HOLY STATE OF MATRIMONY. AND BY THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE STATE, I NOW PRONOUNCE WITH GREAT JOY THAT YOU ARE HUSBAND AND WIFE. MAY HIS BLESSINGS REST UPON YOU AND FILL ALL YOUR COMING DAYS.

_____, YOU MAY KISS YOUR BRIDE!!

PRESENTATION

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IT IS NOW MY HONOR AND PRIVILEGE TO PRESENT TO YOU, FOR THE FIRST TIME AS HUSBAND AND WIFE: MR. AND MRS. _____.