

These words are considered to be a Traditional Wedding Ceremony. They have been revised many times since their first publication in 1549. This version could be described as on the “Lighter side” religion wise, while keeping it’s intended nature. I’m hoping you find meaning and beauty in these words.

There are many choices and options to personalize your ceremony. Please - fill in the blanks • circle your choices • indicate the options you prefer • Photocopy and return to Rev. Dodson, 2722 Montgomery Dr., Santa Rosa, CA 95405

*(With your permission I will give “stage directions,” such as;
“Hand off your flowers.”, “Turn, and face each other.”, etc...)*

OPENING GREETING

(Bride has arrived and taken the groom’s hand.)

Clergy: Please be seated. (pause)

_____ and _____ have asked
Bride’s First Name *Groom’s First Name*
me to extend a warm and loving welcome to each of you that
have come here today.

[Optional]

As we honor this day, let us honor the memory of those we’ve
loved. [If there’s been a loss in either family.] *(pause)*

It has been said — “For everything there is a season, and a time
for every matter under heaven. Now is the time for a wedding.”

[Optional]

PRESENTATION OF THE BRIDE

Clergy: Who gives this woman to be married to this man?

(Bride’s Escort remains standing until question is answered.)

Answer: Her Mother and I do. or I do.

(or)

Her family and I do. or We do.

GATHERING WORDS

Clergy: Dearly beloved, we are gathered here in _____
County, a place blessed with great natural beauty, in the sight of
God, and the presence of these witnesses, to join together

_____ and _____
Groom's first name or full name. *Bride's first name or full name.*

in holy matrimony; which is an honorable estate, instituted of
God. It is therefore not to be entered into unadvisedly, but
reverently, and discreetly. Into this holy estate these two persons
come now to be joined.

[Optional] - *Clergy:* If anyone can show just cause why they may
not lawfully be joined together, let them now speak, or else
hereafter forever hold their peace.

[Optional] - *Clergy:* "Ah, very good". (Provides small ripple of
humor.)

(Pause)

CHARGE TO THE COUPLE

Clergy: I require and charge you both, as you stand in the presence
of God, before whom the secrets of all hearts are disclosed, that,
having duly considered the holy covenant you are about to make,
you do now declare before this company, your pledge of faith,
each to the other. Be well assured that if these solemn vows be
kept inviolate, and if steadfastly you endeavor to do all that is
right and honorable, God will bless your marriage, will grant you
fulfillment in it, and will establish your home in peace.

DECLARATION OF CONSENT

Clergy: _____, will you have _____ to be
Groom's first name *Bride's first name*
your wedded wife, to live together in the holy estate of matrimony?
Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her in sickness
and in health, and, forsaking all others, keep you only unto her, so
long as you both shall live?

Answer: I do.

or

I will.

Clergy: _____, will you have _____ to
Bride's first name *Groom's first name*
be your wedded husband, to live together in the holy estate of
matrimony? Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him
in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others, keep you only
unto him, so long as you both shall live?

Answer: I do.

or

I will.

[No memorizing needed for these “repeat after me’s.”]

EXCHANGE OF VOWS

Clergy: _____, repeat after me.
Groom's first name

I, _____, take thee, _____, /to be
Groom's first name *Bride's first name*
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 do us part, / I pledge thee
my faith.

Clergy: _____, repeat after me.
Bride's first name

I, _____, take thee, _____, to
Bride's first name *Groom's first name*
be 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 and to cherish, / till death do us part, / I
pledge thee my faith.

BLESSING AND PRESENTATION OF RINGS

Clergy: These precious rings that are about to be exchanged are perfect circles, without beginning or end, and with no point of weakness; these circles are symbols of the eternal quality of love and of it's unending strength.

Clergy: _____, place the ring on your true love's hand
Groom's first name
and you _____, place yours on his, and hold.
Bride's first name

Clergy: Bless, O Lord, the giving of these rings, that they who wear them may abide in thy peace, and continue in thy favor.

Clergy: _____, repeat after me.
Groom's first name

In token and pledge / of our constant faith / and abiding love, /
with this ring / I thee wed.

Clergy: _____, repeat after me.
Bride's first name

In token and pledge / of our constant faith / and abiding love, /
with this ring / I thee wed.

[Optional - as to who will read.]

[This reading can be assigned to a special guest or family member, if you wish.]

(name of person reading)

or

Rev. Dodson will read.

I CORINTHIANS

Clergy: Love is patient and kind; love 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 at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.

BLESSINGS

Clergy: May the blessings of life, the joy of love, the peace of truth, the wisdom and strength of spirit, be your constant companions.

[Please Note - for the candle, Wine and Flower Ceremonies, etc. you will need to provide the goods and accessories such as; candles, candle holders, wine, wine glass, flowers, etc.]

[Optional - Difficult outside, but not impossible.]

CANDLE CEREMONY

Clergy: We witness before us today the gathering light of two families. The light from these candles symbolizes the brightness and energy created when two people move into relationship and share their love for each other.

[Optional]

THE WINE SHARING CEREMONY

(Red wine is the most traditional, but you can choose any fruit related beverage including grape or cherry juice, non-alcoholic wine, champagne , etc.)

(The glass of wine, waits on a small table. The Clergy lifts and passes it to the bride and groom, they hold it between them, each facing the other.)

Clergy: Throughout the ages, wine has been used for celebration. Often and among many people, wine has signified life, vitality, love, and a life of plenty. Often and among many people, drinking wine from a common cup has been the mark of deep sharing.

The years of our lives are a cup of wine poured out for us to drink. The grapes when they are pressed give forth their good juices for the wine. Under the wine press of time our lives give forth their labor and honor and love. Many days you will sit at the same table and eat and drink together. Drink now, and may the cup of your lives be sweet and full to running over.

(The groom offers the cup to the bride, the bride to the groom, the groom passes it back to the clergy.)

Clergy: As you have shared this cup of wine, you undertake all that the future may bring. May all the sweetness that it holds for you be the sweeter because you taste it together.

[Optional]

THE FLOWER GIVING CEREMONY

(Music or song during this time.)

(Bride and Groom turn and go together to front row. Present flowers to VIP's on each side. Return to positions facing each other.)

[Optional]

THE CHILDREN'S CEREMONY

(Children come forward to join Bride and Groom.)

Clergy: _____, today you are witnessing
Name or Names of Children
this marriage. By the promises made here your lives are forever better. The circle of those that will care for you, Love you and comfort you has been increased. You are part of a new family. (couple may wish to give small gifts to each child. Such as; pendants, rings, etc.) (Also, hugs/kisses.)

(Children return to their places.)

DECLARATION OF MARRIAGE

Clergy: Forasmuch as _____ and _____ have
Groom's first name *Bride's first name*
consented together in holy wedlock, and have witnessed the same before God and this company, and thereto have pledged their faith each to the other, and have declared the same by joining hands and by giving and receiving rings; I pronounce that they are husband and wife together, according to the ordinances of God. Those whom God hath joined together, let no one put asunder.

Clergy: You may kiss the bride. (or) You may seal your
vows with a kiss.

[Optional]

THE ROSE EXCHANGE CEREMONY

Clergy: Now I would like to present each of you with your first gifts as husband and wife.

(Clergy passes each a red rose.)

It is representative of the beauty of your union, the gentleness of your caring and the strength of your devotion. Now will you please exchange flowers?

By this exchange you have given each other your first gifts as husband and wife. As the flower symbolizes all that you would bring to your union and to each other, so let it stand always as a symbol of constancy and commitment to the love you have pledged.

BLESSING

Clergy: May grace attend you, Love surround you, and harmony be yours. Now and forever,

(or)

May the wind be always at your back.
May the road rise to meet you.
May the sun shine warm on your face,
The rains fall soft on your fields.
Until we meet again, may the Lord
Hold you in the hollow of his hand.

PRESENTATION OF COUPLE

[Optional] - (To be done just as you are presented to your guests.)

ROSE PETALS ~ ABOVE AND AROUND

Clergy will toss a rounded up, double handful of fresh rose petals high over you.

*Imagine the beautiful picture created
as the rose petals float and swirl, filling the air with color.
What a photo it will be!*

(To make this happen; A. Check with your site. B. Write "Rose Petals" in on ceremony pages. C. Instruct flower provider to deliver appropriate petals with your other flowers.)

Clergy: I now present to you,

_____ and _____ (or)
Groom's first name *Bride's first name*

_____ and _____ _____ (or)
Groom's first name *Bride's first name* *Couple's New Last Name*

Mr. and Mrs. _____
Couple's New Last Name

Clergy: Go in peace.

["Go in peace" is a signal for your music to start. So, wait to walk until you hear it.]