

Basic Wedding Service

The following ceremony can be a starting point for incorporating your own ideas, or it can be used as is. For more ideas, search the Internet for a “sample wedding ceremony.”

Opening Statement & Address to the Couple

“Friends, we have gathered here today in the presence of God with (Bride) and (Groom) to give thanks for the gift of marriage and to share in the joy of their wedding. Christian marriage is a way of life given by God so that husband and wife may provide each other companionship, help, comfort, joy and love. Marriage is a promise of hope that endures all things. Marriage, therefore, is not to be entered into lightly, for by God’s Word, we are commanded to hold it in honor at all times.”

Intent to Marry

(To the Groom) _____, will you have this woman to be your wife, to live together in the holy covenant of marriage; will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health; and forsaking all others, be faithful to her as long as you both shall live? If so, answer, ‘I will.’”

(To the Bride) _____, will you have this man to be your husband, to live together in the holy covenant of marriage; will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others, be faithful to him as long as you both shall live? If so answer, ‘I will.’”

Leave-Taking (optional)

(Option 1) “Who is giving this woman to be married to this man?”

(Option 2) “Will all of you present and witnessing these

vows today do everything in your power to uphold them? If so, answer, ‘We will.’”

Scripture Reading

“As I read these words of Scripture, I encourage you both to meditate upon them.” (choose from the following)

- Genesis 1:26-31
- 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, 13
- Proverbs 3:3-6
- Ephesians 3:14-21
- Mark 10:6-9
- 1 Peter 3:1-9
- Luke 6:36-38

Vows

(Ask the Bride & Groom to join hands & face each other.)
(To the Groom) “Repeat after me this vow, saying, I,... take you... be my wedded wife, and I pledge that I will be faithful and that I will love and serve you as long as we both shall live.”

(To the Bride) “Repeat after me this vow, saying, ‘I.... take you... to be my wedded husband, and I pledge that I will be faithful and that I will love and serve you as long as we both shall live.’”

Exchange of Rings

“As a sign and seal of the love you have for each other and for the promises you make this day, you have chosen to exchange rings. May I please have the rings?”

(Hand the Bride’s ring to the Groom.) “Please place your ring upon the third finger of _____’s left hand, and repeat this vow after me saying, ‘I give you this ring as a sign of the promises we have made this day.’”

(Hand the Groom’s ring to the Bride.) “Please place your ring upon the third finger of _____,s left hand, and repeat this vow

after me, saying, 'I give you this ring as a sign of the promises we have made this day.'

Prayer for the Bride & Groom

“Eternal God, bless (Bride) and (Groom) that they may live together in marriage according to the vows they have made this day. Fill them with the love of your dear Son so that the love they have for each other will grow deeper and more meaningful with each day. May they have a long and joy-filled life together. May their home be a haven of blessing and peace. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.”

Benediction

(Option 1) “The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you, both now and forever. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

(Option 2) “The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

Declaration of Marriage

“You have come before God and these witnesses today to express your desire to be husband and wife. By the clasping of hands, by the reciting of vows, by the exchanging of rings, you have shown your love and devotion to each other. I, therefore, pronounce that you are husband and wife. What God has joined together, let no person separate.”

Traditional Kiss

(If appropriate, you may ask the husband and wife to kiss by saying,) “ (Groom), you may kiss (Bride),”

Introduction

(Option 1) “It is now my honor to present to you Mr. & Mrs. .”

(Option 2) “It is now my honor to present to you & .”