



Sample Wedding Ceremony

Prelude

Processional

The Giving in Marriage

P Who gives this woman to be wed to this man?

F I do.

Invocation (Text below adapted from an unknown source)

P Friends, we have been invited here today to share with (Groom's Name) and (Bride's Name) a very important moment in their lives. In the time they have been together, their love and understanding of each other has grown and matured, and now they have decided to live their lives together as husband and wife.

Let us share a moment of silence together now, as we reflect on our thoughts and wishes for this couple, and remember those who can be with us today only in spirit. (Pause)

(Groom's Name) and (Bride's Name) today your family and friends are gathered to witness your marriage and to share in the joy of this occasion. We hope that this will be one of the most memorable and happy days of your life.

Presentation of Flowers (Original Text)

P All roses communicate love; but, a red rose clearly says, "I love you." Let the roses that (Groom's Name) and (Bride's Name) present to their parents at this time communicate the love and respect they have for them.

Readings

P You Were Born Together (from the Prophet)
By: Kahlil Gibran

You were born together and together you shall be forevermore.
You shall be together when the white wings of death scatter your days.
Aye, you shall be together even in the silent memory of God.
But, let there be spaces in your togetherness,

Sample Ceremony Continued

And let the winds of the heavens dance between you.
Love one another but make not a bond of love:
Let it rather be a moving sea between the shores of your souls.
Fill each others cups but drink not from the same cup.
Give one another of your bread but eat not from the same loaf.
Sing and dance together and be joyous, but let each of you be alone,
Even the strings of the lute are alone though they quiver
with the same music.
Give your hearts, but not into each others keeping.
For only the hands of life can contain your hearts.
And stand together, yet not near together:
For the pillars of a the temple stand far apart,
And the oak tree and the cypress grow not in each other's shadow.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Love is long-suffering and kind. Love is not jealous, it does not brag, does not get puffed up, does not behave indecently, does not look for its own interests, does not become provoked, It does not keep account of injury. It does not rejoice over unrighteousness, but rejoices with truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things. Love never fails.

Brief Homely (I prepare a homely just for you and your fiancé)

Sand Ceremony (I have adapted the text below from several sources)

P (Groom's Name) and (Bride's Name) today you are joining your separate lives together. These two bottles of sand (I will hand a bottle of colored sand to each of you) symbolize your separate lives, separate families and separate sets of friends. They represent all that you are and all that you'll ever be as individuals.

(At this time you will take turns pouring the sand from your bottles into a large vase so that you form layers of different colors).

When two people get married they are pouring themselves into something new – a marriage. Notice that the color of sand which you just poured into this vase remains distinct. As you grow together may there always be room for you to be who you are.

Please also notice that your two colors of sand have formed something new and beautiful – a family. May you learn to live together in unity and to love, support and cherish each other.

Blessing of the Hands (Author of text unknown)

P (Bride's Name) please face (Groom's Name) and hold his hands, palms up so you may see the gift that they are to you.

These are the hands of your best friend, young and strong and vibrant with love, that

Sample Ceremony Continued

are holding yours on your wedding day, as he promises to love you all the days of his life.

These are the hands that will work along side yours, as together you build your future, as you laugh and cry, as you share your innermost secrets and dreams.

These are the hands that will passionately love you and cherish you through the years, for a lifetime of happiness.

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 comfort you in illness, and hold you when fear or grief wrack your mind.

These are the hands that will tenderly lift your chin and brush your cheek as they raise your face to look into his eyes: eyes that are filled completely with his overwhelming love and desire for you.

P (Groom's Name) please hold (Bride's Name) hands, palms up, so you may see the gift that they are to you.

These are the hands of your best friend, smooth young and carefree, that are holding yours on your wedding day, as she pledges her love and commitment to you all the days of her life.

These are the hands that will hold you tight as you struggle through difficult times.

These are the hands that will comfort you when you are sick, or console you when you are grieving.

These are the hands that will passionately love you and cherish you through the years, for a lifetime of happiness.

These are the hands that will give you support as she encourages you to chase down your dreams. Together as a team, everything you wish for can be realized.

Vows (Traditional Protestant Vows)

P (Groom's Name) and (Bride's Name) if it is your intention to share with each other your joys and sorrows and all that the years will bring, with your promises, then bind yourselves to each other as husband and wife.

B&G I (Groom, Bride) take you (Bride, Groom)
to be my (wife/Husband)
To have and to hold
from this day forward
For better, for worse

Sample Ceremony Continued

For richer, for poorer
In sickness and in health
In love and to cherish
For all the days of my life.

P (Spoken to those gathered) Will you, family and friends speak well of marriage and encourage (Groom's Name) and (Bride's Name) to work out their difference. If so answer, we will.

Exchange of Rings (Traditional text)

P These rings are a symbol of the unbroken circle of love. Love freely given has no beginning and no end, no giver and no receiver for each is the giver and each is the receiver. May these rings always remind you of the vows you have taken today.

B&G I give you this ring as a sign of my love and faithfulness

Marriage Blessing (Text by Robert Fulghum)

P May God bless and keep you;
May the sun of many days and years shine upon you;
May the love that you have for one another grow and hold you close;
May the good, true light within you guide your way on together;
May your dreams come true, and when they don't, may new ones arise.
And long, long, years from now, may you look at one another and be able to say,
"Because of you, I have lived the life I always wanted to live – because of you I have become the person I longed to be."
God bless, God Bless, God bless,

Announcement of Marriage

P (Groom's Name) and (Bride's Name), the promises you have just made in the presence of family and friends have bound you together as husband and wife.

The kiss

P You May kiss the bride

Presentation of the couple

P I now present to you _____

Recessional