

WEDDING CEREMONY

Optional unity candle ceremony:

(A candelabra and three white candles will be provided. The two outer candles are lit just before the ceremony begins. The two outer candles burn throughout the ceremony representing family and friends who are unable to attend the wedding.)

INTRODUCTION

Officiant to say: *This is the day that Groom and Bride have chosen to unite their lives in marriage. Today they begin a union based on love, laughter and friendship and lay the foundation for their future life together as a couple. A marriage is not just a ceremony but also a life long commitment to each other, built on respect and trust. Each day will be an adventure with many challenges, and together their love and support will be the inspiration to triumph.*

Optional Poem Reading

Choose from any of the poems on the attached page or attach a personal one

EXPRESSION OF INTENT

Officiant to Groom:

Will you Groom take Bride to be your wife and life long partner, to live together with love and friendship, trust and respect, joy and laughter and promise to build a marriage that shall become stronger throughout the years?

Groom's response: *Yes, I will.*

Officiant to Bride: *Will you Bride take Groom to be your husband and life long partner, to live together with love and friendship, Trust and respect, joy and laughter and promise to build A marriage that shall become stronger throughout the years?*

Bride's response: *Yes, I will*

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THE VOWS

Groom to repeat: *I Groom take you Bride to be my wife, my confidante and best friend. I will support and believe in you, trust and respect you, laugh and cry with you, when we are successful and prosperous, and also when we are faced with uncertainty and discouragement.
I will love you, honor you and cherish you until the end of our days.
This is my vow to you.*

Bride to repeat: *I Bride take you Groom to be my husband, my confidante and my best friend. I will support and believe in you, trust and respect you, laugh and cry with you, when we are successful and prosperous, and also when we are faced with uncertainty and discouragement.
I will love you, honor you and cherish you until the end of our days.
This is my vow to you*

RING EXCHANGE

Officiant says: *The wedding ring is a treasured gift that symbolizes never-ending love and commitment, which you have expressed to each other. Let your rings be a daily reminder of the vows you have exchanged here today.*

PLACE RING ON BRIDE'S FINGER

Groom to repeat: *Bride, accept this ring as a symbol of my love and devotion as we unite our hearts and celebrate our life together today, tomorrow and always.*

PLACE RING ON GROOM'S FINGER

Bride to repeat: *Groom, accept this ring as a symbol of my love and devotion as we unite our hearts and celebrate our life together today, tomorrow and always.*

Officiant says: *Now that these rings have encircled your fingers, let the love they represent encircle your heart*

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Optional Poem Reading

Choose one from any of the poems on the attached page or attach a personal one

CANDLE LIGHTING CEREMONY CONTINUED

Officiant says: *Will you now light the Unity Candle, using the candles that were lit at the beginning of the ceremony and that have been burning throughout to represent those who were not able to be here today.*

CANDLE IS LIT

The lighting of this Unity Candle represents the lifelong joining of yourselves, your families and your friends.

PRONOUNCEMENT

Officiant says: *Marriage is a journey. You will not always be able to choose the route that you will take or the circumstances along the way; but you have chosen one another.*

May this journey together bring you much satisfaction, contentment, and happiness, this marriage journey that begins today.

By the authority vested in me by the State of Washington I now pronounce you husband and wife!

You may now seal your marriage with a kiss!

OPTIONAL POEMS AND BLESSINGS:

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Poem #1

*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
Love does not rejoice at wrong but
Rejoices in the right
Love bears all things
Hopes all things
Endures all things
Love never ends.*

Poem#2

*How do I love thee?
Let me count the ways.
I love thee to the depth and breadth
and height my soul can reach,
when feeling out of sight
For the ends of being and ideal grace
I love thee to the level of every day's
most quiet need, by sun and candlelight
I love thee freely, as men strive for right
I love thee purely, as they turn from
praise.
I love thee with the passion put to use
In my old grief's, and with my
Childhood's faith.
I love thee with a love I seemed to lose
With my lost saints – I love thee
With the breath, smiles, tears, of all my
Life!
And if God chooses, I shall but love thee
Better after death.
(Elizabeth Barrett Browning)*

Poem #3

*Come live with me and be my love,
And we will all the pleasures prove
That valleys, groves, hills and fields, woods, or steeply mountain yields.
And we will sit upon rocks, seeing the shepherds feed their flocks,
By shallow rivers to whose falls melodious birds sing madrigals.
And I will make thee beds of roses and a thousand fragrant posies,
A cap of flowers, and a kirtle embroidered all with leaves of myrtle;
A gown made of the finest wool which from our pretty lambs we pull;
Fair lined slippers for the cold, with buckles of the purest gold;
A belt of stray and ivy buds, with coral clasps and amber studs;
And if these pleasures may thee move,
Come live with me and be my love
The shepherd's swains shall dance and sing for thy delight each May mornings:
If these delights thy mind may move,
Then live with me and be my love.*

Blessings:

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***** An Irish Blessing for Weddings *****

May the road rise to meet you.

May the wind be always at your back.

May the sun shine warm upon your face,

The rains fall soft upon the fields.

May the light of friendship guide your paths together

May the laughter of children grace the halls of your home.

May the joy of living for one another trip a smile from your lips,

A twinkle fro your eye.

And when eternity beckons,

At the end of a life heaped high with love,

May the good Lord embrace you with the arms that have nurtured you

The whole length of your joy-filled days.

May the gracious God hold you both

In the palm of His hands

And, today, may the Spirit of Love

Find a dwelling place in your hearts. Amen

Apache Wedding Blessing

Now you will feel no rain,

For each of you will be shelter to the other.

Now you will feel no cold,

For each of you will be warmth to the other.

Now there is no more loneliness for you,

For each of you will be companion to the other

Now you are two bodies,

But there is only one life before you.

Go now to your dwelling place,

To enter into the days of your togetherness.

And may your days be good and long upon the earth.

Blessing For a Marriage

May your marriage bring you all the exquisite excitements a marriage should bring,

And may life grant you also patience, tolerance, and understanding. May you always

Need one another – not so much to fill your emptiness as to help you know your fullness

*A mountain needs a valley to be complete; the valley because it has a mountain towering
over it. So let it be with you and you.*

May you need one another, but not out of weakness. May you want one another, but not

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*Out of lack. May you entice one another, but not compel one another.
May you succeed in all-important ways with one another, and not fail in the little graces.
May you look for things to praise, often say, "I Love you!" and take no notice of small
faults*

*If you have quarrels that push you apart, may both of you hope to have good sense enough
to take the first step back.*

*May you enter into the mystery which is the awareness of one another's presence – no
more physical than spiritual, warm and near when you are side-by-side, and warm and
near when you are in separate rooms or in distant cities.*

May you have happiness, and may you find it making one another happy.

May you have love, and may you find it loving one another!

(James Dillet Freeman)