

There may be guidelines that come for Province I
~ you can hear.

HOLY MATRIMONY CEREMONY:

GREETING & DECLARATION OF INTENTION:

For Doreen & Dave.

The peace of God be with you.

Holy Matrimony is more than the joining in the bond of love between two people. It is the uniting of two souls already one in spirit. It is also the expression of fidelity, devotion, loving, and longing for union with God the Beloved, as lived out through fidelity, devotion, love, and longing for union with one's earthly beloved. With such blessed bond, _____ & _____ come before us and the presence of God to outwardly proclaim and seal this marriage. This outward seal is why the rest of us are here. We are here to witness and prayerfully be present as we ask God's blessing upon this couple's covenant promises.

_____ & _____ you are now taking into your care and keeping the one in all the world to whom you pledge your fidelity, love, and devotion. Never again will you be free to act as if you had not been here and made this commitment of yourselves. You trust one another enough to face the future together. You know each other's strengths. You know each other's needs and shortcomings, each other's humor and delights; each other's pain. With a known past and a still unknown future, you come confessing your unconditional love and trust in each other.

_____ & _____ these vows are a blessed privilege and spiritual responsibility, not to be entered into lightly. By choosing a religious rather than secular ceremony, you profess desire for Holy Wisdom and Sacred Love in this union: Holy Wisdom and God's gift of unconditional love which are larger than what the world may give. Never forget the size of that love.

READING/S (at least one of which is from scripture)

One: The Lord be with you. All: And also with you.
Hear these words from: [Sacred reading]

[Following the reading if sacred scripture]

One: The Word of the Lord or The Gospel of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God/Glory to you, Lord Christ.

HOMILY (oh so brief)

INVITATION TO VOWS OF MARRIAGE:

_____ & _____ before the sacred presence which breaths upon and within us all, and whom we glimpse in the faces of those gathered here, I ask you to affirm your willingness to enter this covenant of sharing all the joys and frustrations, laughter and sorrows, whatever the future may hold.

As you commit yourselves as life partners to each other, I invite you to share your covenant promises:

VOWS [personalized or as follows]

As you commit yourselves as life partners/husband and wife/spouses (couple selects language to fit their situation) to each other in marriage, I invite you to share your covenant promises:

_____ repeat after me:

In the Name of God, I _____, take thee _____,
to be my wife/husband/spouse/life partner,
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,
until we are parted by death.
This is my solemn vow.

_____ repeat after me:

In the Name of God, I _____, take thee _____,
to be my husband/wife/spouse/life partner,
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,
until we are parted by death.
This is my solemn vow.

Or

_____ & _____ do you freely come before God and this community to ask God's blessing
on the bows that you make to one another? (We do)

Will you support each other everyday in all of the circumstances that life will present to
you? (We will with God's help)

VOWS of FAMILY & FRIENDS:

Will the family and friends of _____ & _____ please rise.
You are here today because _____ & _____ love you. This couple wishes to recognize your
importance to them and because they know their relationship with each other does not
exist in a vacuum; being each other's spouse/life mate means that their relationship is
woven into the fabric of relationship with your life as well.

Therefore, will you, the gathered family and friends of this couple, do your utmost to support or be open to grow into support of _____ & _____' marriage/Holy Union? If so, answer "we will."

Let us pray:

O Immensity of Love, come brood over the face of our deep; over our restless longings and dreams, over our years of change and growing older, until the vulnerabilities of love come true in our flesh. Bless this mingling of lives and families. Remind us of the sacred presence dwelling within this web of relationship, breathing in the shadows.

As we prayerfully offer our love and support to this marriage/holy union, so it becomes an occasion of blessing for us all. Bless us as this couple's vows cause us to recall our own vulnerabilities of love...covenants made or broken....loving places or lonely places...relationships mended and those left torn.

Spirit of Healing, Hope and Joy, be with us all, but especially THIS couple before us now. Be with _____ & _____ as they pledge their lives to one another on an adventure of love and friendship through the years of change and growth. Amen.

EXCHANGE OF RINGS

Pastor: May I have the rings?

These rings are an outward, visible sign of an inward endless love that links you, spirit to spirit, and soul to soul.

Let us pray:

Gentle Maker of Beauty and Love, in the time of Noah you gave the rainbow as a sign of your faithfulness and promise of hope. Bless these rings, that they may also be signs of unending faithfulness, love, joy, forgiveness, and peace in _____ & _____'s togetherness. Amen.

As you exchange these symbols repeat after me, beginning with _____

_____, I give you this ring as a symbol of my vow, and with all that I am, and all that I have, I honor and love you.

_____, repeat after me:

_____, I give you this ring, as a symbol of my vow, and with all that I am, and all that I have, I honor and love you

THE BLESSING FOR A MARRIAGE (required for marriages from the Book of Common Prayer):

God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, on God, now and forever. *Amen*

BLESSING & THANKSGIVING

___ & ___: Become One, yet remember your individual identity, gifts and needs amid your Togetherness. Fulfill your promises. Be patient, kind and tolerant with one another. Forgive as freely as the Holy Beloved has forgiven you. May the Holy lover help you love and finding delight in each other always, and to remain faithful until your life's end. May no one or no event come between you.

Please join me in closing prayer:

Compassionate and Passionate God, we thank you for your love that lives within us and calls us from loneliness to companionship. Bless ___ & ___ that they may have the grace to live the promises that they have made today. Defend them from all that would hinder their love and commitment to each other. Lead them into peace. Shape their lives for healing and laughter. Let their love for each other be a seal on their hearts, a mantle about their shoulders, and a crown on their heads. Bless their companionship and nurture of each other's growth. Bless them in their loving, in their sleeping, in their waking, in their joys and in their hurt, in their lives and in their deaths. Teach them the patience of undeserved forgiveness. Bring them to old age, rejoicing in love's winter as well as it's Spring birth. Amen.

[SIGN LICENCE IF NOT DONE PRIOR TO THE SERVICE]

ANNOUNCEMENT OF MARRIAGE

Address to the couple:

___ & ___, you have committed yourselves in covenant to each other before and within God's being, and this gathering of family and friends. By the authority vested in me, and in the name of the Holy Spirit who performs every true union, I pronounce you are spouses/husband and wife/life partners in the holiest of unions.

You may now seal your covenant promises with a KISS.

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you. All: And also with you.

When Communion is not to follow the wedding party leaves after the benediction. A hymn or anthem may be sung, or instrumental music be played.

BENEDICTION IF NO COMMUNION

____ & ____: Go forth in laughter, joy, compassion and passion. And may God's face shine upon your togetherness with kindness and grant you peace. Blessed be.

If a Eucharist

The liturgy continues with the Offertory, at which the newly married couple may presents the offerings of bread and wine.

At the Communion, the newly married couple receive Communion first, after the ministers.

In place of the usual postcommunion prayer, the following is said:

O God, the giver of all that is true and lovely and gracious: We give you thanks for binding us together in these holy mysteries of the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Grant that by your Holy Spirit, __ & __, now joined in Holy Matrimony/Holy Communion, may become one in heart and soul, living in fidelity and peace, and obtain those eternal joys prepared for all who love you; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.