



SAMPLE WEDDING CEREMONY #2

WELCOME

We'd like to welcome you -- friends and family -- to this celebration of the marriage of _____ and _____. ____ and ____--We welcome you to this moment in your lives and to the place you have come to in each other's hearts. We join with you on this day, as you commit before God and those gathered here that from this point forward you will live in a union of partnership—that you remain separate individuals with separate wants and desires while forming this vital, growing partnership between two equal people for the purpose of your spiritual growth.

OPENING WORDS

There are so many names for God— when we speak of God in this ceremony, we invite you to call on whatever name you call your Higher Power. We invite you to participate fully with your thoughts and prayers, asking for a blessing of this couple and their married life. You are here because this couple feels close to you and asks that you join with them in this dedication of sacred purpose.

You represent symbolically all the people in the world who will be touched in any way by the life of this couple. You represent their friends and family, now and forever. They have chosen this act of marriage and this public, holy ceremony in which to proclaim it. Together, let us all give thanks and to hold the vision of universal love.

PRAYER

Please prepare your hearts for prayer.
God in heaven above,
Please protect the ones we love.
We honor all that you created
As ____ and ____ pledge their hearts and lives together.
We honor Mother Earth --
And ask for their marriage to be abundant,
And to grow stronger through the seasons
We honor fire --
And ask that their union be warm and glowing with love in their hearts.
We honor wind --
And ask that we sail through life safely and calm as in our father's arms.
We honor water --
To clean and soothe their relationship that it may never thirst for love.
With all the forces of the universe you created,
We pray for harmony and true happiness
As they forever grow young together.
Blessed be, Amen.

READING 1: An Apache Marriage Blessing

Treat yourselves and each other with respect, and remind yourselves often of what brought you together. Give the highest priority to the tenderness, gentleness and kindness that your connection deserves. When frustration, difficulty and fear assail your relationship - as they threaten all relationships at one time or another - remember to focus on what is right between you, not only the part which seems wrong. In this way, you can ride out the storms when clouds hide the face of the sun in your lives - remembering that even if you lose sight of it for a moment, the sun is still there. And if each of you takes responsibility for the quality of your life together, it will be marked by abundance and delight.

THE PRESENTATION/ BLESSINGS

To the congregation: As our children find partners and found the homes of the next generation, each family is enlarged. Do you, all here today, who have nurtured these two, give your blessings to their union and their home?

If so, please respond "I do".

PREFACE TO THE VOWS

_____ - _____ is God's gift to you, but he is not a gift for you alone. Although this man does not complete you, may your love help him to find within himself a greater sense of who he is meant to be and know that he is a beautiful soul. You are asked to see the good in this man, to accept him for who he is and who he shall be, that he might be healed and made strong.

_____ - _____ is God's gift to you, but she is not a gift intended for you alone. Although this woman does not complete you, may your love help her see herself as God created her, so beautiful and strong that the entire world might be blessed by the presence of her light. You are also asked to see the good in her and to accept her for who she is and who she shall be, that she might be healed and made strong.

Our prayer for both of you is that you experience the vastness of what love, connection and union is all about. Through the union with one person, may you see the interconnectedness with all people.

From this point forward, _____, _____'s needs will carry the same priority as your own. Likewise, _____, from this point forward, _____'s needs will carry the same priority as your own.

You will not be two conflicting or competing forces, but rather the energies of your lives will blend into harmony and oneness. You will be two people who give more to the world as a couple than you ever could give alone.

THE EXCHANGE OF VOWS

READING 2

An Apache Marriage Blessing

Now you will feel no rain, for each of you will be the shelter for each other. Now you will feel no cold, for each of you will be the warmth for the other. Now you are two persons, but there is only one life before. Go now to your dwelling place to enter into the days of your life together. And may your days be good and long upon the earth.

CELTIC WEDDING TRADITION

Reading: Ecclesiastes 4: 9-12

“Two are better off than one, because together, they can work effectively. If one of them falls down, the other can help him up... Two people can resist an attack that would defeat one person alone. A rope made of three cords is hard to break.”

The three cords I hold in my hand are a symbol of the love that will join ___ and ___ for the rest of their lives. The first cord represents ___ ‘s love for ___, the second cord represents ___ ‘s love for ___, and the third cord represents the presence of God in their lives.

___ and ___, please hold the hands of your beloved.

(Minister loosely ties hands together, and holds them. During this time musicians play)

“As your hands are bound together now,
so your lives and spirits are joined in a union of love and trust.
Above you are the stars and below you is the earth.
Like the stars, your love should be a constant source of light,
and like the earth, a firm foundation from which to grow.
May your union always be made stronger by the presence of God.”

(Minister slowly unties the cords.)

THE PRONOUNCEMENT

Since ___ and ___ have joined themselves, each to the other, in marriage, and have signified their commitment to each other in the joining of hands, they are now and hence forward husband and wife for life.

___ and ___, you may now seal your marriage with a kiss.

BENEDICTION/ CLOSING WORDS

In a moment, ___ and ___ will end their wedding ceremony with the African American tradition of “Jumping the Broom”. As ___ and ___ tie their cords to the Broom, know that each part of the Broom is significant. The straws of the broom represent friends, family, our ancestors, those who have passed, and the joining of two families. The handle of the broom represents God, the source which unites us all, especially these two in marriage. And the cords represent the tie that binds ___ and ___ together. As I lay the broom down for ___ and ___, I ask that you join in applause and cheer for the happy couple- Mr. & Mrs. _____.