

TRADITIONAL CEREMONY

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Dearly beloved: we have come together in the presence of God to witness the joining together of this man and this woman in holy matrimony. The sacred relationship of marriage was established by God in creation, and our Lord Jesus Christ adorned marriage by His presence and first miracle at the wedding of Cana in Galilee. The apostle Paul chose marriage to symbolize the union between Christ and His church, and holy Scripture commends marriage to be honored among all people.

The union of husband and wife in heart, body, and mind is indented by God for the mutual joy; for the help and comfort given to one another in prosperity and adversity; and, when it is God's will, for the procreation of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of the Lord. Therefore, marriage is not to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly, but soberly, deliberately, and in reverent fear before God.

In this holy union, G _____ and B _____ now come to be joined.

DECLARATION OF CONSENT

TO 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 so long as you both shall live? If so, answer "I will."

TO 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 so long as you both shall live? If so, answer "I will."

TO CONGREGATION/WITNESSES: Will all of you witnessing these promises do all in your power to uphold these two persons in their marriage? If so, please answer, "We will."

THE GIVING OF THE BRIDE

TO THE BRIDE'S PRESENTER: Who is giving this woman to be married to this man? The giver answers, "I do."

"He gives the bride to the groom and goes to be seated."

THE MARRIAGE VOWS

Our Lord Jesus Christ taught us that at the beginning of creation God made them male and female, for this cause a man shall leave his father and mother and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh. Consequently, they are no longer two, but one flesh.

You have come to be made husband and wife. Will you join hands, and repeat these vows after me?

TO GROOM: I _____, take **B:** _____, to be my wife, 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; as God is my witness, I give you my promise.

TO BRIDE: I _____, take **G:** _____, to be my husband, 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; as God is my witness, I give you my promise.

SCRIPTURE READING

The Word of God in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 describes the kind of love we are to have, each for the other: 'Love is patient, love is kind, and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails!

Having this love in your hearts, you have chosen to seal your vows by the giving and receiving of rings.

THE EXCHANGE OF RINGS

Bless, O Lord these rings to be a sign of the vows by which this man and woman have bound themselves to each other; through Jesus Christ our Lord, amen.

"to be repeated by both Groom and Bride"

I give this ring, as a symbol of my vow, and with all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you, in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER FOR BRIDE AND GROOM

THE PRONOUNCEMENT OF MARRIAGE

Now that **G:** _____ and **B** _____ have given themselves to each other by solemn vows, before us and before God as witness, and have shown their affection and trust by giving and receiving of rings and also by joining hands. I pronounce that they are husband and wife, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Therefore what God has joined together, let no man, woman, boy or girl separate.

THE NUPTIAL KISS

PRESENTATION OF MARRIED COUPLE