

Secular/Humanist/Light Pagan  
Unity Candle & Handfasting

Guests are in a circle

[A bell rung three times...]

We have come together here in celebration of the joining together of (Groom) and (Bride). There are many things to say about marriage. Much wisdom concerning the joining together of two souls has come our way through all paths of belief, and from many cultures. With each union, more knowledge is gained and more wisdom gathered. Though we are unable to give all this knowledge to (Groom) and (Bride), we can hope to leave with them the knowledge of love, its strengths, and the anticipation of the wisdom that comes with time. The law of life is love unto all beings. Without love, life is nothing, without love, death has no redemption. Love is anterior to Life, posterior to Death, initial of Creation and the exponent of Earth. If we learn no more in life, let it be this.

Blessed be all who attend this glorious celebration, and blessed be those about to be united in the bonds of love.

As these two people are joined, so are their families united through them. It has been their decision to bind themselves by marriage, and their lives will be blessed and enriched by the support you give. Will you encourage and bless (Bride) and (Groom) in their union? Will you celebrate their marriage, standing beside them in rough times, yet not standing between them?

[Guests Answer: I will.]

So Be it.

[Music and Entrances]

[When Bride and Groom are at the altar, they pick up their candles.]

Above you are the stars, below you are the stones, as time does pass, remember...

Like a stone should your love be firm. Like a star should your love be constant. Let the powers of the mind and of the intellect guide you in your marriage. Let the strength of your wills bind you together. Let the power of love and desire make you happy and the strength of your dedication make you inseparable. Be close, but not too close. Possess one another, yet be understanding. Have patience with one another, for storms will come, but they will pass quickly.

Be free in the giving of affection and warmth  
Make love often, and be sensuous with one another  
Have no fear and let not the ways or words  
of the unenlightened give you unease  
For the universe is a part of you,  
Now and Always.

Your separate lives are symbolized by the separate candles you now bear. As you join their flames to make one flame, know that at that moment you are willingly joining your lives. Is this what you wish?

[Bride and Groom answer "I do"]

[The Lighting of the Unity Candle]

Although you are now entering into a marriage relationship, you do not, however, lose your personal identity. Rather, you will use your special individuality to create and strengthen the relationship of marriage. Therefore all three candles remain glowing. The individual candles represent all that makes each of you the wonderful and unique person the other admires and respects. The Unity candle in the center symbolizes the union of your lives, families, and friends, as well as your shining commitment to each other, and to a lasting and loving marriage. (Walk back to wedding officiant)

May the blessing of light,  
Be with you always,  
Light without and light within.  
And may the sun shine  
Upon you and warm your heart  
Until it glows  
Like a great fire  
So that others may feel  
The warmth of your love  
For one another.

**Please face each other and join hands**

[The Exchange of Rings]

The symbolism of the circular rings was explained by the great Native American leader, Black Elk, who said:  
"Everything the Power of the Worlds does is done in a circle. The sky is round, and I have heard that the earth is round like a ball and so are the stars. The wind in its greatest power whirls. Birds make their nests in circles ... The sun comes forth and goes down again in a circle. Even the seasons form a great circle in their changing and always coming back again to where they were. The life of a man or a woman is a circle from childhood to childhood, and so it is in everything where power moves."

Look into each other's eyes.

Repeat after me (Bride)  
I commit myself to the bond and unique relationship that exists between us, and pledge to keep it alive. As this ring has no end, neither shall my love for you.

Repeat after me (Groom)  
I commit myself to the bond and unique relationship that exists between us, and pledge to keep it alive. As this ring has no end, neither shall my love for you.

**[Blessing of the Hands]**

(Grooms hands on Top)

These are the hands, young and strong and vibrant with love that is holding yours on your wedding day, as he promises to love you all the days of his life.

These are the hands you will place with expectant joy against your stomach, until he too feels his child stir within your womb.

These are the hands that look so large and clumsy, yet will be as gentle as he holds your baby for the first time.

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 racks 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 love and desire for you.

(Brides hands on top)

These are the hands that are 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 each child in tender love, soothing them through illness and hurts, supporting and encouraging them along the way, and knowing when it's time to let go.

These are the hands that will massage tension from your neck and back in the evenings, after you've both had a long hard day.

These are the hands that will hold you tight as you struggle through difficult times. They 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 hold you in joy and excitement and hope.

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

Handfasting (one cord) of various colors

(Place ribbon over hands)

Bless the hands that you see before you this day. May they always be held by one another; Give them the strength to hold on during the storms of stress and the dark of disillusionment. Keep them tender and gentle as they nurture each other in their love. Help these hands to continue building a relationship founded in your grace, rich in caring, and devoted to reaching for your perfection. May Jennifer and Shaun see their four hands as healer, protector, shelter, and guide?

Two entwined in love, bound by commitment and fear, sadness and joy, by hardship and victory, anger and reconciliation, all of which brings strength to this union. Hold tight to one another through both good times and bad, and watch as your strength grows.

As this knot is tied, so are your lives now bound.

[The cords are tied]

**Now the Couple will exchange vows of their own...**

[Exchange of Vows]

**Closing**

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 each of you will be companion to the other.

Now you are two bodies, but there is only one life before you.

As you go to your dwelling place to enter the days of your togetherness

May your days be good and long upon the earth;

By the power vested in me, I now pronounce you Husband and Wife!

Kiss:

You May seal Your Vows with a Kiss

(Please face your guests)

Family & Friends May I introduce to you for the first time Mr. and Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_