

Non Religious 2

(Honoring those not Present)

(Unity Candle Ceremony)

All Rituals Can be Changed or eliminated

Welcome

Welcome family and friends! We are assembled here to today because (Bride) & (Groom) chose all of us to celebrate their wedding with them we are here to witness their dreams unfold and to support our beautiful bride and groom as they begin their wedding day as two individuals and become one in marriage. We are here to celebrate with them and for them, to rejoice with them and shed tears of joy for them. We are here to celebrate the beginning of their new journey as husband and wife.

Honoring those not present

Option 1 *At this time, we would also like to honor those who could not be with us today. We offer a special remembrance of _____ . Although they are not here with us physically, we feel blessed they are with us in spirit on this beautiful day. We bow in silence to honor their memory. (Pause for a few moments.)*

Option 2: *Lighting the Candle Ceremony for those not with us*
Celebrant:

The candle lit symbolizes our memories of those who could not be here with us today to share in the celebration of this special occasion.

Lighting of Candles by the mothers: (Optional)

To begin this ceremony, I would like to invite the two mothers to light the unity candle. In lighting these candles the two mothers honor the lives of their children, the lives they brought into this world. Their love for their children and support of this marriage. The two end candles represent the couple's individual lives different and unique.

(Optional: *We can insert here a special story, a favorite poem, how you met, anything personal you would like to add to your ceremony)*

Opening:

Today is the day our bride and groom will end their solitary journey and begin a new journey, a new commitment, a new bond, the melting together of the two lives into one. Love is a mysterious process. It is a physical and emotional undertaking. Edmond O'Neill says it best

On Marriage, By Edmund O'Neill

Marriage is a commitment to life - to the best that two people can find and bring out in each other. It offers opportunities for sharing and growth that no other human relationship can equal, a joining that is promised for a lifetime. Within the circle of its love, marriage encompasses all of life's most important relationships. A wife and a husband are each other's best friend, confidant, lover, teacher, listener, and critic. There may come times when one partner is heartbroken or ailing, and the love of the other may resemble the tender caring of a parent for a child. Marriage deepens and enriches every facet of life. Happiness is

fuller; memories are fresher; commitment is stronger; even anger is felt more strongly, and passes away more quickly. Marriage understands and forgives the mistakes life is unable to avoid. It encourages and nurtures new life, new experiences, and new ways of expressing love through the seasons of life. When two people pledge to love and care for each other in marriage they create a spirit unique to themselves, which binds them closer than any spoken or written words. Marriage is a promise, a potential, made in the hearts of two people who love, which takes a lifetime to fulfill.

Address:

(Bride & Groom)

Today is a joyous occasion, but marriage is not always like this. Just as you both have ups & down's, and high and low's so does a marriage. You will have times of great joy and also times of sorrow. When you have those difficult days that are the time you both have to dig deep within yourselves. You will find days when you may say hurtful things to each other or are less than tolerant of each other, but you must always be able to forgive and go on. Take these opportunities to deepen your love, and your commitment to each other; this is the maturing of your relationship. This journey you have begun today will take you too many places in your relationship, may twists and turns, happy occasions and sad occasions. Planned and unplanned events will cross your paths. Embrace those changes, they are giving you the opportunity to take your journey together, and deepen your love more than you could ever imagine. As you stand together today and proclaim your love publically to each other and the world remember what those words stand for. You are promising to love each other through the turmoil's of life. You both have been given a beautiful gift of love. Remember to remember Love. Love is what brought you together and love will prevail.

Reading:

"Marriage Means Being In Love for the Rest of Your Life" by Chris Ardis

Marriage is love walking hand in hand together .It's laughing with each other about silly little things, and learning to discuss big things with care and tenderness .In marriage, love is trusting each other when you're apart .It's getting over disappointments and hurts ,knowing that these are present in all relationships .It's the realization that there is no one else in this world that you'd rather be with than the one you're married to .It's thinking of new things to do together; It's growing old together. Marriage is being in love for the rest of your life.

Declaration of Intent:

Bride & Groom in just a few moments you are going to say your vows to one another. I would first like to remind you that marriage is a precious gift, A lifelong dedication to love and a daily challenge to love one another more fully and more freely. That will be the foundation of your relationship. With that understanding I ask you to face each other and join hands

Vows:

Option 1 : Repeat after Vows

_____, repeat after me: I, _____, take you _____, to be my wedded 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 as long as we both shall live.

_____, repeat after me: I, _____, take you _____, to be my wedded 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 as long as we both shall live.

Option 2: Respond "I Do" Vows:

Groom Do you take bride to be your wedded wife? (I DO)

Do you promise to be a tender faithful husband? (I Do)

Do you promise to Love, Honor and cherish her in sickness and in Health, for richer or poorer, for better or for worse as long as you both shall live? (I Do)

Bride Do You take Groom to be your wedded husband? (I DO)

Do you promise to be a tender faithful wife? (I Do)

Do you promise to Love, Honor and cherish him in sickness and in Health, for richer or poorer, for better or for worse as long as you both shall live? (I Do)

Option 3: Your own vows

Rings:

Rings are a precious metal; they are also made precious by us wearing them. Your wedding rings are special they enhance who you are. They mark the beginning of your long journey together. Your wedding ring is a circle a symbol of love never ending. It is the seal of the vows you have just taken to love each other with end.

_____ please place the ring on Brides left hand and repeat after me:

A: I give you this ring as a symbol of my vows, I promise to love you today tomorrow always

B: I give you this ring that I am bound to you always through my love, with my soul and all of my heart

C: I give you this ring as a sign of my love that I have chosen you above all else with this ring I thee wed

Guests lighting of Candles (Optional)

Family & Friends

You came here today as separate individual families and separate set of friends. With the uniting of our Bride and Groom through marriage we also united the families and friends into one large community of support. You have all played a very important part of their lives which is demonstrated by you taking the time to join them on their wedding day. They would like for you to pass the flame which started from their two individual candles. This is a sign of God's light and present. Please keep the candles lit until the Bride and Groom light their unity candle. The lit candles signify a beautiful display of love faith, and support for our bride and groom. Take the candles home with you as your first gift from (Bride & Groom).

Unity Candle: (Optional)

Groom and Bride, you have exchanged vows and rings expressing your desire to be united as one marriage. As you enter marriage, may this light illuminate in your life and works in you to be seen as a light in the darkness. . May that truth be reflected as you now take the flames from two separate candles and blend them into the one center candle. May Bride & Groom be united with one hope, and one love. I ask you to light this candle on your wedding anniversary remembering this day, and the promises made to each other.

Pronouncement:

'Love'

A word that promises so many happy tomorrows, That gives meaning to everyday moments of sharing .That strengthens and supports in difficult time..That makes a commitment that never ends. Today is the beginning of a whole new life together A life of special moments, shared with love. Today is the beginning of countless bright tomorrows..Filled with all the special dreams you are dreaming of. May the happiness you have found together be yours throughout a lifetime of love."

Bride & Groom you have heard the words about love and marriage. You have declared your commitment to each other before us today and you expressed your love by the giving and receiving of rings. I now pronounce you husband and wife.

Kiss:

You may seal your vows with a kiss

You may kiss your beautiful bride

Introduction:

Family & Friends may I introduce to you for the first time as a married couple: Mr. & Mrs. _____!