

Non Religious 4

(Parent & Community Blessing)

(Hand Blessing)

(Unity Joining of Hands)

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.

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

Parent and Community Blessing (optional)

A time comes for children to grow up and to leave the nest, and the families that raised them. Since the beginning of time couples have joined together in marriage crossing all religions and cultures. Marriage requires not only the love of each other but support and love from their families and friends. At this time, will the parents of the (Bride and Groom) come forward to bless this marriage.

Do you, _____ and _____, and _____ and _____, who have raised and nurtured (Bride) & (Groom), promise to support them, guide them and encourage them in their in the years ahead

(Parent's respond we do)

And to you family and friends, promise to support them, guide them, and encourage them in their in the years ahead?

(we do)

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 Edmond 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 to many places in your relationship, may twist and turn, 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 publicly 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

(Hands Blessing Ceremony) (optional)

"[GROOM'S NAME] and [BRIDE'S NAME], please face each other and place your palms together so you may feel the gift that you are to one another."

"These are the hands of your best friend, young and strong and full of love for you, that are holding yours on your wedding day, as you promise to love each other today, tomorrow, and forever."

"These are the hands that will work alongside yours, as together you build your future."

"These are the hands that will passionately love you and cherish you through the years and with the slightest touch will comfort you like no other."

"These are the hands that will hold you when fear or grief wracks your mind."

"These are the hands that will tenderly hold your children and support your grandchildren"

"These are the hands that will help you to hold your family as one."

"These are the hands that will give you strength when you need it."

"And lastly, these are the hands that – even when wrinkled and aged – will still be reaching for yours, still giving you the same unspoken tenderness with just a touch."

"Bless these 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 wondrous love. Help these hands to continue building this relationship, rich in caring and devoted to reaching for perfection. May [GROOM'S NAME] and [BRIDE'S NAME] see their four hands as healer, protector, shelter and guide. May these hands and this relationship be blessed for all time."

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

Unity in Joining of Hands (optional)

(BRIDE and GROOM) would like all of you to join hands, making a continuous link. When all hands are joined in unity, I will recite a short blessing.

Each of you here has demonstrated your love and support of (Groom and Bride's) lives. They asked you to be here to support them as they formed this union of marriage today. They appreciate the unselfish effort you have made to join them here today. Your love for them and their love for you have deep meaning and a solid foundation (Bride & Groom) will continue to count on you for your love and understanding.

(Groom) and (Bride): Remember your love brought you here today. With hard work and the support of your family and friends as they stand united with you will keep your love & marriage strong. Believe in yourselves and in each other. Allow your family and friends to be an important part of your married life. Allow them to encourage you and support you. Draw from their strength of your joined unity and with the love you have displayed here today nothing or no one will divide you.

Thank you. You may now release your Unity in joining hands.

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. _____!