

Sample Contemporary Christian Ceremony

GREETING AND PRAYER

Friends, we are gathered here today to witness the marriage of *bride name* and *groom name*. Let us call upon God to be with us today as we celebrate this union of two into one. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Let us pray.

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, hear our prayers for N. and N. who have come here today to be united in the sacrament of marriage. Increase their faith in you and in each other, and through them bless your church. Make their love fruitful so that they may be living witnesses to your divine love in the world. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Usually the couple selects two readings, Family and friends may be selected to proclaim the readings, excluding the Gospel which is usually proclaimed by the priest or deacon.

MARRIAGE RITE

Officiant may ask, depending upon location, every one to stand, or the Bride and Groom stand, if seated. The Officiant addresses the Bride and Groom in one of these ways:

CONSENT

Bride name and *groom name*, you have come together here today so that the Lord may seal and strengthen your love in the presence of the Church's minister and this community. Christ abundantly blesses this love. He has already consecrated you in baptism and now enriches and strengthens you by a special sacrament so that you may assume the duties of marriage in mutual and lasting fidelity. And so, in the presence of the church here present, I ask you to state your intentions.

Bride name and *groom name*, have you come here freely and without reservation to give yourselves to each other in marriage?

Will you love and honor each other as husband and wife for the rest of your lives?

Will you accept children lovingly from God and bring them up according to the Law of Love and Compassion?

Since it is your intention to enter into marriage, with your hands joined, declare your consent before God and his Church, this community of your family and friends.

EXCHANGE OF VOWS

<p>VOWS FORM A</p> <p>G. I, GROOM, take you, BRIDE, to be my wife. I promise to be true to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will love you and honor you all the days of my life.</p> <p>B. I, BRIDE, take you, GROOM, to be my husband. I promise to be true to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will love you and honor you all the days of my life.</p>	<p>VOWS FORM B</p> <p>G. I, GROOM, take you, BRIDE, for my lawful wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, (a) until death due us part. (b) forever. (c) all the days of my life.</p> <p>B. I, BRIDE, take you, GROOM, for my lawful husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, (a) until death due us part. (b) forever. (c) all the days of my life.</p>	<p>VOWS FORM C</p> <p>G. I, GROOM, take you, BRIDE, to be my wife, to be the mother of our children, to be the companion of my heart. I promise to love you and to be true to you in good times and in bad all the days of my life.</p> <p>B. I, BRIDE, take you, GROOM, to be my husband, to be the father of our children, to be the companion of my heart. I promise to love you and to be true to you in good times and in bad all the days of my life.</p>
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PERSONAL VOWS

If you will be writing your own vows, please provide a copy to the priest at least one week prior to the wedding for inclusion in his materials. In that way he can make your wedding ceremony work seamlessly.

CONFIRMATION OF VOWS

You have declared your consent before the community of your family and friends. May the Lord in his goodness strengthen your consent and fill you with his + blessings. What God has joined together, let no one separate.

BLESSING AND EXCHANGE OF RINGS

Lord, bless + and consecrate *Bride name* and *groom name*, in their love and compassion for each other. May these rings be a symbol of the true faith they share in each other and always remind them of their love and compassion. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The bridegroom places his wife's ring on her finger. He may say:

Bride name, take this ring as a sign of my love and fidelity. (*In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.*)

The bride places the ring on her husband's finger. She may say:

Groom name, take this ring as a sign of my love and fidelity. (*In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.*)

UNITY CANDLE (Optional)

(Mother (Groom) and Mother (Bride) may come forward to altar and light a small candle each from altar candle or with assistance of Best Man. Mothers turn and gave candle to B & G. B & G go to altar and light Unity Candle.) or (Bride and Groom come forward, light a small candle each from altar candle or with assistance of Best Man and light Unity Candle) as officiant says the following or similar words to this effect:

The Unity Candle is both a symbol of the union of two separate lives into one and a sign of God's light and presence. I encourage you to light this candle on each anniversary remembering this day, of the promises made and God's promise to dispel the darkness and be present with you in your marriage always.

Other optional Ceremonies that couples have chosen are the [Coins, Lasso \(rope or rosary\) and Veil ceremony](#) among Mexican and Filipino families, the Sand Ceremony in which couples pour different colored sand into a container showing the blending of two lives and a wine ceremony mixing two different colored wine into a cup and sharing it.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

Dear friends, we have witnessed the exchange of promises by *bride and groom name* Let us ask the Lord to strengthen their love for each other.

bride and groom name, as they begin their married life together, may they always know Your presence in good times and in bad. Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For their families, may they be good examples of love and faithfulness as they support *bride and groom name*. in their marriage. Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those family and friends who have entered into eternal life, (especially...), may the memory of their presence in the Kingdom of God be an inspiration to N. and N. throughout their lives. Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those here present, may we find Christ's love for us mirrored in *bride and groom name* love for each

other. Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

NUPTIAL BLESSING

My dear friends, let us turn to the Lord and pray that he will bless with his grace this woman N. now married in Christ to this man N. and that he will unite in love the couple he has joined in this holy bond.

Father, by your plan man and woman are united, and married life has been established as the one blessing that was not forfeited by original sin or washed away in the flood.

Look with love upon this woman, your daughter, now joined to her husband in marriage. She asks your blessing. Give her the grace of love and peace. May she always follow the example of the holy women whose praises are sung in the scriptures.

May her husband put his trust in her and recognize that she is his equal and the heir with him to the life of grace. May he always honor her and love her as Christ loves his bride, the Church.

Father, keep them always true to your commandments. Keep them faithful in marriage and let them be living examples of Christian life. Give them the strength which comes from the gospel so that they may be witnesses of Christ to others. (Bless them with children and help them be good parents. May they live to see their children's children.) And, after a happy old age, grant them fullness of life with the saints in the kingdom of heaven. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Family Blessing (Optional)

Let us pray for this new family created through marriage of *bride and groom name*

Father, you created us in love and saved us in mercy and through the bond of marriage you have established the family and willed that it should be a sign of your love for us. Shower your blessings on this new family created here today. Enable them, joined by one love, to create a home together and support one another. Make them responsive to the needs of others and witnesses to the faith in all they say and do. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

CONCLUSION OF THE CELEBRATION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us Pray together in the words Jesus gave us.

Together: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.

(If roses are to be presented, this usually occurs following the Peace Prayer. Bride and Groom may each give a long stem, dethroned, non-red rose to respective mother-in-law, Groom presenting first to Bride's mother, then Bride to Groom's mother. Maid of Honor stands in waiting to present Bride with her bouquet. The couple returns for the Solemn Blessing, Introduction and Dismissal.)

THE SOLEMN BLESSING

PRESENTATION

My dear friends, it is my pleasure to introduce you to Mr and Mrs *bride and groom name*.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord and one another.

Thanks be to God.