

Marriage Ceremony

INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

We have gathered here today to worship the Lord Jesus Christ by celebrating together in the marriage of **GROOM** and **BRIDE**.

The Bible teaches that marriage is to be a permanent relationship of one man and one woman freely and totally committed to each other as companions for life. Our Lord declared that man shall leave his father and mother and unite with his wife in the building of a home, and the two shall become one flesh.

Who gives the bride to be married?

RESPONSE, Bride's Father: "Her mother and I."

THE COVENANT

In marriage, a man and woman willingly bind themselves together and become one, even as Christ is one with the church, His body. Only God can make a house a home. Only Christ can give meaning and purpose to your lives. I charge you in Christ's name to allow your home to be a place where God can accomplish His purpose and plan for your lives together. The home is built on love, whose characteristic is best portrayed in the 13th chapter of Paul's letter to the Corinthians: "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. Love is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil, but rejoices in the truth. Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails ... And now these three remain: faith, hope and love, But the greatest of these is love." (1 Corinthians 13:4-8a, 13 NIV)

GROOM and **BRIDE** you are exhorted to dedicate your home to your Creator. Take His word, the Bible for your guide. Give loyal devotion to His church. Live your lives as willing servants to His glory.

OPTIONAL: ADDITIONAL READINGS

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 - Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

Ruth 1:16 - Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God."

DECLARATION OF INTENT

GROOM will you have **BRIDE** to be your wife; will you promise to her in all love and honor, in all duty and service, in all faith and tenderness, to live with her, cherish her, and keep only unto her, according to the Word of God in the holy bond of marriage?

RESPONSE: "I will"

BRIDE will you have **GROOM** to be your husband; will you promise to him in all love and honor, in all duty and service, in all faith and tenderness, to live with him, cherish him, and keep only unto him, according to the Word of God in the holy bond of marriage?

RESPONSE: "I will"

EXCHANGE OF VOWS

(Facing one another, repeat after me)

"I, **GROOM**, take you, **BRIDE** to be my lawful and wedded wife, and I do promise and covenant, before God and these witnesses, to be your loving and faithful husband. In plenty and in want, in joy and in sorrow, in sickness and in health, as long as we both shall live.

"I, **BRIDE**, take you, **GROOM** to be my lawful and wedded husband, and I do promise and covenant, before God and these witnesses, to be your loving and faithful wife. In plenty and in want, in joy and in sorrow, in sickness and in health, as long as we both shall live.

EXCHANGE OF RINGS

When God made a covenant with Noah, He sent a rainbow as a sign of that covenant. You have chosen rings as a sign of your covenant with each other. They are made of pure gold, which symbolizes the purity of your love for each other, and they are an endless circle, which is a symbol of the unbroken marital union, which God has established.

GROOM will you give the ring to **BRIDE** and repeat after me: "**BRIDE** in token and pledge of my life and love to you, with this ring I thee wed, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

BRIDE will you give the ring to **GROOM** and repeat after me: "**GROOM** in token and pledge of my life and love to you, with this ring I thee wed, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

OPTIONAL: UNITY CANDLE AND/OR COMMUNION

PRONOUNCEMENT

Forasmuch as **GROOM** and **BRIDE** have consented together in holy marriage, and have witnessed the same before God and this company, and thereto have pledged their love one for the other, and have declared the same by joining hands and by giving and receiving rings; I pronounce that they are husband and wife together, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Those whom God hath joined together, let no man put asunder. Amen.
(You may kiss the bride.)

BENEDICTION

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you; and be gracious unto you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace both now and forever more. Amen."