

Brides full name and Grooms full name – DATE

Entrance (*Ask guests to “Please Rise” as bride comes down the isle*)

Friends, we have been invited here today to share with Bride and Groom a very important moment in their lives. In the time they have been together, their love and understanding of each other has grown and matured, and now they have decided to live their lives together as husband and wife.

**Giving in marriage:**

I ask you all ....“Who supports this couple in their marriage today?”

*(Parents: we do, guests will also say we do)*

And you all may be Seated.

Opening Prayer and Reading

Love is a gift, a blessing given, not to all, but only to some. In gratitude, let’s consider the words of Robert Louis Stevenson. He wrote the Wedding Prayer.

**“Wedding Prayer” by Robert Lewis Stevenson**

Lord, behold our family here assembled.  
We thank you for this place in which we dwell,  
for the love that unites us,  
for the peace accorded us this day,  
for the hope with which we expect tomorrow,  
for the health, the work, the food,  
and the bright skies that make our lives delightful;  
for our friends in all parts of the earth.  
Amen

*(Pause for 2 seconds)*

Love is the most unique and complex of emotions. It is, all at once, spontaneous and free, yet requires effort to sustain and perfect it.

A plant can take root easily, but it must be nourished and nurtured if it is to continue to grow.

Love is that thing which defies easy explanation - yet it is the most written about subject and we often wonder just what love is.

Our first reading today is

**“What Is Love” - the author is Unknown**

Sooner or later we begin to understand that love is more than verses on valentines and romance in the movies. We begin to know that love is here and now, real and true, the most important thing in our lives. For love is the creator of our favorite memories and the foundation of our fondest dreams. Love is a promise that is always kept, a fortune that can never be spent, a seed that can flourish in even the most unlikely of places. And this radiance that never fades, this mysterious and magical joy, is the greatest treasure of all – one known... only by those who love.

Sermon (*Bride and Groom face me*)

**Bride and Groom, LIFE is given to each of us as individuals, and yet we must learn to live together.**

**LOVE is given to us by our family and friends and we learn to love, by being loved.**

**Learning to truly love and living together is one of the greatest challenges in life, and it will be your shared goal in your married life.**

**Second reading is one of my personal favorites... its first Corinthians 13, verses one through 13**

**1 Corinthians 13: 1-13**

Love is patient, love is kind, love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in truth. It bears all things, believes in all things, hopes in all things, and endures all things.

Love never ends.

And now Faith, Hope and Love abide, these three;

And the greatest of these is Love.

Questions of intent

**Bride, do you come before this gathering of family and friends to proclaim your love and devotion for Groom? (She says I Do)**

**Do you promise to affirm him, respect him and care for him during times of joy and hardship? (She says I Do)**

**Do you commit yourself to share your feelings of happiness and sadness? (She says I Do)**

**Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health; and be faithful to him as long as you both shall live? (She says I Do)**

**Groom, do you come before this gathering of family and friends to proclaim your love and devotion for Bride? (He says I do)**

**Do you promise to Cherish her, respect her, and care for her during times of joy and hardship? (He says I do)**

**Do you commit yourself to share your feelings of happiness and sadness? (He says I do)**

**Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health; and be faithful to her as long as you both shall live? (He says I do)**

I know that this unique and wonderful gathering of loved ones here today and we have our own special hopes and prayers dreams for **Groom and Bride**. Could we all take a quiet moment to ourselves to call these wishes to mind?

We should also pause to remember the family and friends, past and present, which can't be here to celebrate with us today... Lets take a moment for them as well...

(Pause 8-10 seconds or whenever you feel is good)

**Bride and Groom, you have taken a very important step in choosing to marry each other today. You have the great opportunity to go forward from this day to create a kind, faithful, tender and loving relationship, so this question is for both of you....**

**Groom and Bride, do you both understand and accept this responsibility to do your very best every day to create a loving, healthy and happy marriage?**

Vows: *(Bride and groom face each other) (Pass Bouquet if not already passed)*

**Please join hands as you exchange vows from the heart.**

**I, Bride, choose you, Groom, /to be my husband,/ to respect you in your successes /and support you in failures, /to care for you / in sickness and in health, /to nurture you / and to grow with you /throughout the seasons of life.**

**I, Groom, choose you, Bride, /to be my wife, /to respect you in your successes /and support you in failures,/ to care for you / in sickness and in health,/ to nurture you / and to grow with you/ throughout the seasons of life.**

### Rings

**Bride and Groom bring Rings as a sign of their promise? (Get rings from Best man, ask him to separate them and put them into your hand)**

**From the earliest of times, the circle has been a symbol of completeness, an unbroken circle of never-ending love. As often as either of you look at these rings, I hope you will be reminded of the commitment you have made today... and that is to love each other forever and always.**

*Start with Groom:*

**Groom, please repeat after me:**

**I, Groom, give to you, Bride, /this ring, /as a visible and constant symbol, /of my promise/ to be with you as long as I live.**

*(Groom puts ring on Bride's finger)*

**I, Bride, give to you, Groom, /this ring, /as a visible and constant symbol, /of my promise/ to be with you as long as I live.**

*(Bride puts ring on Groom's finger)*

### Unity Sand

*(Play song) IF NEEDED*

If unity sand or equivalent is being done – I say something like:

“This represents the two individuals coming together as one”

### Announcement of Declaration

**Before this gathering of family and friends Groom and Bride have promised each other their love. They have confirmed their promises by joining hands and exchanging rings.**

**Therefore, on this absolutely beautiful day, I proclaim that they are husband and wife.**

*(STEP ASIDE SO YOU ARE NOT IN THEIR KISS PICTURE)*

**You may seal your vows with a kiss!**

Closing Words *(Bride and groom turn to face guests) (Gesture to bridesmaids to give her back her flowers) (Stay off to the side and read the closing words from there)*

**As you embark on this journey together in marriage,**

**Know that by your free choice you have made a marriage.**

**No matter what the demands on your lives and your time,**

**You are now wed.**

**May you always remain friends,**

**And your life together be full of kindness and understanding.**

**May the years bring you happiness.**

**As you enter into each other's joy with gladness,**

**And meet each other's needs with the sure presence of love.**

### Introduction of Newlyweds

**Ladies and gentlemen... I have the privilege to introduce to you:**

*(Announce them Nice and Loud with some excitement!)*

***The new Mr and Mrs.... Groom and Bride LAST NAME***

*(Check with the venue so you know where to let the guests know where cocktail hour will be held) (Also find out if the immediate family needs to stay close for family pictures – direct them where to go)*