The Traditional
Marriage Ceremony

Processional

Bride & her dad stop at front.

And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.  Gen. 2:18

Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.  Gen. 2:24

Who gives this woman to be married to this man?

Groom escorts bride to platform.

Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD.  Prov. 18:22

Introduction & Greeting

We have come together today to share in the marriage ceremony of (Bride) ________________ and (Groom) ________________. Marriage is ordained of God. It is the bringing together of two individuals, from separate backgrounds, from separate families, to now become one. Your family and friends rejoice with you today as you exchange your marriage vows.
(Groom) ________________, (Bride) ________________, neither of you are vowing to be perfect, nor are you vowing that you will always do everything just as the other would wish! But — you are vowing to be true to each other, honest with each other, caring, and loving for each other.

**The Wedding Vows**

The Bible tells us in Eph. 5:25 *Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;*

(Groom) ____________________________, you are about to take upon yourself a pure resolve, solemn vows, incurring grave and lasting responsibilities. The woman of your choice is now to become the partner of your life, the co-heir of your possessions, the queen of your home. In no other way could she so manifest her love for you. She leaves her home ties, the companionship of friends — all these — to share with you the joys and sorrows of life. With you she will now abide, and for you she will now live.

(Groom) ________________________________, if it is your choice, and you choose to take (Bride) __________________ to be your wife, please answer “I do.”

Please join hands and repeat after me.

I, (Groom) ________________, .... take you (Bride) ____________, .... to be my wife, ..... and these things I promise you: .... I will be faithful to you; .... honest with you; .... I will respect you; .... trust, help, and care for you; .... My lips will speak gently to you; .... from my heart ; .... I will share my life with you; .... I will forgive you; .... as we have been forgiven; .... together we will learn; .... to better understand ourselves; .... the world, and God; .... through the best and the worst; .... of what is to come; .... as we are led by His Spirit; .... as long as we live.

(Bride) ________________, the Bible tells us in Ephesians 5:22-23 *Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, ....*

You are also assuming the responsibilities of being a wife. He whom you are about to wed will look to you for solace and comfort in the hour of trial. Your smile should be his brightest day, your voice his sweetest music, your industry his greatest wealth, your economy his safest steward,
your lips his faithful counselor, and your prayers his most able advocate at heaven's court.

(Bride) ______________, if (Groom) ______________ is truly your choice to be your man, for the rest of your life, and you choose today to be his wife, please answer "I do."

Please repeat after me.

I, (Bride) ______________, .... take you (Groom) ______________, .... to be my husband, .... and these things I promise you: .... I will be faithful to you; .... honest with you; .... I will respect you; .... trust, help, and care for you; .... My lips will speak gently to you; .... from my heart; .... I will share my life with you; .... I will forgive you; .... as we have been forgiven; .... together we will learn; .... to better understand ourselves; .... the world, and God; .... through the best and the worst; .... of what is to come; .... as we are led by His Spirit; .... as long as we live.

The Ring Vows

In days past, men entered into agreements with a shake of the hand, that being their contract. God entered into an agreement, yet more than an agreement—a covenant, with Noah, by placing a rainbow in the sky, as a reminder of His everlasting covenant with him. You come today bringing a token of the covenant of marriage that you are entering into.

Could I have the rings please.........

The ring is made of gold, that is least easily tarnished. I charge you both today, never let anything tarnish your love for each other, nor tarnished your marriage vows. .......The ring is an endless circle, just as your love for each other must be. For the ring to be broken, ........an outside force must be brought to bear upon the ring. Never ........ let any outside force cause your wedding vows to be broken.

(Groom) ______________, will you take this ring and place it on (Bride) ______________ finger and repeat after me......

Today, (Bride) ______________, .... I join my life to yours, .... not merely as your husband, .... but as your friend, .... your lover, .... and your confidant. .... Let me be the shoulder you lean on, .... the rock on which you rest, .... the companion of your life. .... With you I will walk our path .... from this day forward. .... with free and unconstrained love, ... I give you all I am ... and all I am to become. ... Take this ring, ... and with it my promise of faith, ... patience, ... and love, ... for the rest of my life.
(Bride) ________________, will you take this ring and place it on (Groom) ________________ finger and repeat after me......

Today, (Groom) ________________, .... I join my life to yours, .... not merely as your wife, .... but as your friend, .... your lover, .... and your confidant. .... Let me be the shoulder you lean on, .... the rock on which you rest, .... the companion of your life. .... With you I will walk our path .... from this day forward. .... .... with free and unconstrained love, .... I give you all I am .... and all I am to become. .... Take this ring, .... and with it my promise of faith, ..... patience, .... and love, .... for the rest of my life.

**Definition of Love**

As we look around we see many expressions of love, the flowers, the candles, the Tuxedos, the beautiful gowns; many tokens, many examples today of the love that the two of you share. Our ways of expressing our love. But, I charge you today to never forget the words of the Apostle Paul concerning love and the love chapter in 1 Corinthians chapter 13.

*Love is patient; love is kind and envies no one. Love is never boastful, nor conceited, nor rude; never selfish, nor quick to take offense. Love keeps no score of wrongs; does not gloat over other men's sins, but delights in the truth. There is nothing love cannot face; there is no limit to its faith, its hope, and its endurance.* —1 Corinthians 13:4-7

**Proclamation of Marriage**

Because of the love that you have for each other, and after the exchanging of your wedding vows and the giving and receiving of rings, being a minister of the Gospel, and according to the laws of the State of Texas, I now pronounce you husband and wife.

Hear me now and hear me well..... “What God hath joined together let no man put asunder!”

**The Kiss**

(Groom) ________________, (Bride) ________________ is your wife. You may now seal the marriage vows with a kiss, as man and wife.
“The LORD bless thee, and keep thee: The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.”
Numbers 6:24-26

Optional — Unity Candle

From the (Groom’s Family) ________________ family came (Groom) ________________
...... a fine son.

From the (Bride’s Family) ________________ family came (Bride) ________________
...... a beautiful daughter ..... a lady and a princess!

But today, each of you will leave your family, --- your home ties .... those connections that have held you captive for all these years .... and now establish your home, together.

When trouble comes .... disagreements arise .... you can no longer go to mom or dad ..... You must sit down in your home and as man and wife work out the difficulties. That’s what marriage is all about!

The Unity Candle awaits you ------ Signifying that you are starting fresh and anew today .... Leaving father and mother, to establish your own home ..... yes, your own home!

When candle is lighted Bride & Groom move back to center isle and face audience.

A Prayer of Blessing

“Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.”
Matthew 6:9-13

The Presentation of the Newly Weds

It is my distinct honor to present to you
Mr. & Mrs. ________________ __________ ________________!

Recessional