WEDDING CEREMONY 1

Processional Music

We are gathered here today in the sight of God, and the presence of friends and loved ones, to celebrate one of life's greatest moments. We are here to give recognition to the worth and beauty of love, and to add our best wishes and blessings to the words that will unite \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in holy matrimony.

Who gives this woman to be married to this man? *(The father of the bride should answer “Her mother and I” or an appropriate answer.)*

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, out of the world's three greatest institutions, the home, the church, and the state, the home is the oldest and most sacred. Marriage is the most important of all earthly relationships. It should be entered into reverently, thoughtfully and with full understanding of its sacred nature. Your marriage must stand by the strength of your love and the power of faith in each other and in God. Just as two threads woven in opposite directions form a beautiful tapestry, your two lives when merged together will make a beautiful marriage.

1st Corinthians 13 says,

*Love is very patient and kind, never jealous or envious, never boastful or proud. Love is never haughty or selfish or rude. Love does not demand it's own way. Love is not irritable or touchy. Love does not hold grudges and will hardly notice when others do it wrong. Love is never glad about injustice, but rejoices whenever truth wins out. If you love someone, you will be loyal to them no matter what the costs. You will always believe in them, always expect the best in them, and will always stand your ground in defending them.*

*VOWS* (face each other and hold hands)(repeat after me)

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ take you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to be my wife, my partner in life, my best friend, and my one true love. I will cherish our friendship and love you today, tomorrow, and forever. I will trust you and honor you I will laugh with you and cry with you. I will love you faithfully through the best and the worst, through the difficult and the easy. Whatever may come I will always be there. As I have given you my hand to hold, so I give you my life to keep.

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ take you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to be my Husband, my partner in life, my best friend, and my one true love. I will cherish our friendship and love you today, tomorrow, and forever. I will trust you and honor you I will laugh with you and cry with you. I will love you faithfully through the best and the worst, through the difficult and the easy. Whatever may come I will always be there. As I have given you my hand to hold, so I give you my life to keep.

John 4:7-12

*Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is born of God and knows God. But anyone who does not love does not know God—for God is love.*

*God showed how much he loved us by sending his only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love. It is not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.*

*Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love has been brought to full expression through us.*

*I Do’s*

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, do you take \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to be your Wife? Do you promise to love, honor, cherish and protect her, forsaking all others and holding only unto her forevermore? ("I do")

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, do you take \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to be your Husband? Do you promise to love, honor, cherish and protect him, forsaking all others and holding only unto him forevermore? ("I do")

The ring is a symbol of the unbroken circle of love. Love freely given has no beginning and no end, no giver and no receiver for each is the giver and each is the receiver. May these rings always remind you of the vows you have taken.

*Ring Exchange* (repeat after me)

I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to be my Wife- To have and to hold, in sickness and in health, for richer or for poorer, in joy and sorrow, I promise My love to you. And with this ring, I take you as my Wife, for as long as we both shall live.

 I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, take you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, to be my Husband. To have and to hold, in sickness and in health, for richer or for poorer, in joy and sorrow, I promise My love to you. And with this ring, I take you as my husband, for as long as we both shall live.

*COMMUNION*

*UNITY CROSS*

At this time, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will assemble the Unity Cross, a beautiful sculpture they will display in their home to remind them of the covenant they are making today.

In Genesis chapter 1, we read that God created man in His own image. That means that He created man bold, strong, to be a leader, to be a protector of his wife and family.

The outer form of the Unity Cross represents the strength, leadership, and protection of the man. The book of Ephesians reminds husbands to love their wives as Christ loved the church, totally and completely giving himself for her.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, put the outer cross into the base.

As well, Genesis (Genesis 2:20-23) tells us that the woman was taken from man. The inner piece of the Unity Cross represents the beauty and the many capabilities of the woman, designed  with intricate, beautiful detail and is placed inside the protection of the groom’s cross, completing the sculpture and representing the Two Becoming One.

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, place the inner piece into the outer piece.

To complete the cross, representing the Taber and Sarah's covenant, we are placing three pegs to hold it together. These pegs represent the Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit showing God’s place in this covenant and the security and completeness that only our Heavenly Father can give.

The scriptures tell us that a three-stranded cord is not easily broken (Ecc. 4:12). Matthew 19:5-6 says, “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife and the two will become one flesh. So, They are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.

*Wedding Prayer*

Lord we are thankful for the lives of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_that you have blessed us with. I ask today that you would bless their marriage, as they begin their journey down the road of life together. We don't know what lies ahead for the road turns and bends. But help them to make the best of whatever comes their way.

Help them to continue to enjoy each other as they did when they first met. Help them to realize that nothing nor no one is perfect and to look for the good in all things and all people including themselves.

Help them to respect each other's likes and dislikes, opinions and beliefs, hopes and dreams and fears even though they may not always understand them.

Help them to learn from each other and to help each other to grow mentally, emotionally, and most importantly, spiritually and in you.

Help them to realize that no matter what happens to them they will hold on to each other and know that you have a way of working all things out for their good.

Help them to create for their children a Godly home of love with you and your word as the foundation on which they can build their lives.

But most of all, dear God, help them to keep the torch of love that they now share burning bright so that by their loving example they may pass on the light of love to their children and to their children's children forever. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, by the power vested in me I now pronounce you husband and wife.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, you may kiss your Bride.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we would like to introduce to you for the first time, the happy couple

Mr. & Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Recessional Music