

WEDDING CEREMONY

Of _____

Place: _

Rehearsal Date: _____

Rehearsal Address:

Phone: _____ Reh. Time: _____

Prelude Music: _____

Bridal Processional: _____

Family and Attendants

Bride's Given away

By: _____

Maid of Honor: _____

Bridesmaids: _____

Best Man : _____

Groomsmen: _____

THE CEREMONY

**Men Enter
Stand Platform/LEFT OFFCENTER**

CHOOSE ONE BRIDAL PROCESSION

THE BRIDAL PROCESSION IS AS FOLLOWS:

1) GROOMSMEN

BRIDESMAIDS

MAID/ OF HONOR

**Bride enters
Escorted by:**

OR

**2)
BRIDESMAIDS/GROOMSMEN**

MAID OF HONOR

**Bride enters
Escorted by:
OR**

3) ALL GROOMSMEN REMAIN UP FRONT WITH BEST MAN AND GROOM

BRIDESMAIDS

MAID/

**Bride enters
Escorted by:**

THE CEREMONY

Choose 1,2, or 3

1)

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Friends, we have come today at the invitation of **Band G to share in the joy of their wedding. This outward celebration we shall see and hear is an expression of the inner love and devotion in their hearts.**

Jesus Christ reminds us that at the beginning God the Creator made us male and female, and said , “For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh.”

God loved us, and created us to love others. Our lives find completion only as we love and are loved in return. Together, we can become what we could never be separately. Marriage is of God.

Band G come today desiring to be united in this sacred relationship.

THE GIVING OF THE BRIDE

Who is giving this woman to be married to this man?

(The person answers “I do,” then the bride’s right hand is placed in the groom’s left. The attendant now leaves to be seated with the family)

2)

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Welcome, family and loved ones. We are gathered here today, surrounded by the beauty of creation and nurtured by the sights and sounds of nature to celebrate the joining of **B and **G** in marriage.**

Today is a celebration. A celebration of love, of commitment, of friendship, of family, and of two people who are in it for forever.

The marriage ceremony has been an important part across nearly every culture, religion, generation, and society. We have thousands of important moments that happen throughout our lives, but this one is regarded as one so critical, we acknowledge its special status by sharing it with others. Why this moment?

Because despite all of our differences, love is what we all share. It's the great unifier - our one universal truth. That no matter who we are, where we've come from, what we believe, we know this one thing: love is what we're doing right. That's why you both are standing here.

That's why you all are here to watch them stand up here. We have all loved in our lifetimes, and in this moment, we're reminded

that the ability to love is the very best part of our humanity.

And this brings you both here. A time to pause, look back, and smile at all the moments that brought you here. And a time to look ahead at all the moments that are still to come.

We are here to hope with you, to support you, to be proud of you, and to remind you that love isn't happily ever after, love is the experience of writing your story. It's not one moment - not even this moment. It's every moment. Big ones like saying 'I love you,' moving in together, getting engaged - but mostly a million little ones that come in between the big moments. Falling asleep next to one another, making dinner together, spending holidays with your families, binge-watching tv shows, getting a big hug when you get home from work... These everyday moments fuse together into one big experience.

And even though this experience is so incredible, words fail us when we try and explain it. That's just the way it is with love - it's meant to be felt, not described.

You fell in love by chance, but you're here today because you're making a choice. You both are choosing each other. You've chosen to be with someone who enhances you, who makes you think, makes you smile, and makes every day brighter. You're about to make promises to each other that you intend to keep. You're going to vow to take care of each other, to stand up for one another, and find happiness in the other. There's a simple premise to each of these promises: you're vowing to be there. You're teaming up and saying to the other, 'Every experience I am going to have, I want you to be a part of.'

THE GIVING OF THE BRIDE

Who is giving this woman to be married to this man?

(The person answers "I do," then the bride's right hand is placed in the groom's left. The attendant now leaves to be seated with the family)

3)

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Dearly beloved, **B**and **G** have come here before a minister of the church and in the presence of you this community of family and friends so that their intention to enter into Marriage may be strengthened by the Lord with a sacred seal and their love be enriched with His Blessing, so that they may have strength to be faithful to each other forever and to assume all the responsibilities of married life. And So now In the Presence of your Family, Friends, and God ,
Band **G** I now ask you to state your intentions as we bring in this happy celebration of your love.

THE GIVING OF THE BRIDE

Who is giving this woman to be married to this man?

(The person answers “I do,” then the bride’s right hand is placed in the groom’s left. The attendant now leaves to be seated with the family)

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADD ANY PLEASE CIRCLE.

Remembrances and Acknowledgments #1 (PERSONS WHO HAVE DIED)

At this time,
we would like to honor the memory
of Groom’s paternal grandparents,
_____ and _____,
and Bride’s father _____,

***who, while no longer with us physically,
are carried in our hearts.**

**Alternatives:*

- a. who are here today in our hearts.
- b. who, while unable to be with us here today, are carried in our hearts.

Remembrances and Acknowledgments #2

(PERSONS WHO HAVE DIED)

Bride and Groom

Remembrances and Acknowledgments #4

At this time, Bride and Groom
would like us all to remember with them
a very special person, _____,
a loving wife, mother, and great friend,
who, while unable to be here with us today,
is carried now and forever in our hearts.

Remembrances and Acknowledgments #5

There might also be occasion to acknowledge the coincidence of your wedding day with an important event in the life of one of your dear ones.

At this time,
Bride and Groom would like to make
a special acknowledgment of Groom's parents,
_____ and _____,
who are celebrating their fortieth wedding anniversary
this very day!

Happy Anniversary to you!

Remembrances and Acknowledgments #8

At this time, Bride and Groom
would like to extend their love and best wishes
to Groom's sister and brother-in-law,
_____ and _____,
who are home in _____
giving birth to their first child.

We send our blessings and best wishes
to them and their new baby.

Remembrances and Acknowledgments #9

Today is special for Bride and Groom
not only because it is their wedding day,
but because it is the seventh anniversary of the day they met
and the second anniversary
of the day they became engaged.

Bride and Groom,

as you move through the years ahead
as husband and wife,
may you come upon this date,
year after year,
only to find yourselves

more deeply and profoundly loving each other

Remembrances and Acknowledgments #10

A ROSE CEREMONY FOR MOMS...PLEASE BRING A ROSE TO WEDDING FOR EACH MOM

Remembrances of Moms

Marriage is a coming together of two lives, and a celebration of the love of two people. But it is more. The love that feel for one another is a flowering of a seed that your mothers planted in your hearts many years ago.

When you were first born, you were a bundle of diapers and tears and your mothers lost sleep caring for you. Their love for you as you grew has brought them great happiness and great challenges, and their love for you did not diminish as they met these challenges.

As you embrace one another in your love, so too do you embrace the families which have been brought together on this happy occasion. As a token of your gratitude for your families, I would like to ask you to offer these symbols of eternal love to Your mom **B**_____ and to your mom **G**_____. These two women played an important part in making you the people you are today

Bride gives her rose to GROOM'S MOM and Groom gives his Rose to BRIDE'S MOM

EXHORTATION TO THE BRIDE AND GROOM

Band G Marriage is the essence of human relationships.

It challenges us to be of one accord without abandoning the truth of our individuality. It challenges us to not lose ourselves in one another but rather to walk side by side, heading in the same direction. Marriage is an endless presentation of choices about how we want to be with one another. Each choice should result in either more unity or more separation.

Choose into that unity **Band G** every chance you get.

Share the gifts of your friendship, humor, vulnerability, sensitivity, and kindness. Be sure to find ways each day to protect, affirm, and support each other.

Band G have you come freely and willingly today to share in the bonds of marriage uniting together in love until death shall separate you physically.

If so please answer WE DO. _____

Band G Will you love each other,
honor, each other, ...comfort, and keep each other,
within the bonds of marriage?

If so answer WE WILL.....

Band G Will you promise to support each other through sickness ,and health, forsaking all others for so long as you both shall live, within the bonds of marriage? If so answer WE WILL.....

Band G you have each other now as husband and wife to live together in the holy covenant of marriage? If so answer WE WILL.....

TO THE WITNESSES GATHERED

Will you , witnessing these promises do all in your power to uphold **Band G** in their marriage?

If so, please answer, “WE will.”

IF USING HANDFASTING CEREMONY INSTEAD

1) HAND FASTING CEREMONY

Band G HAVE CHOSEN TO SHOW THEIR CONSENT FOR MARRIAGE WITH A HANDFASTING CEREMONY MANY YEARS AGO HANDFASTING WAS DONE PRIOR TO MARRIAGE AS A SIGN OF THE JOINING OF TWO FAMILIES INTO ONE. IT WAS A WAY OF TYING OR BINDING THE TWO TOGETHER IF YOU WILL, JOINING THEM, THAT'S WHERE WE GET THE EXPRESSION, TYING THE KNOT. LATER DURING THE MARRIAGE CEREMONY, IT WOULD BE SEALED WITH THE WEDDING VOWS, AND WHEN RINGS WERE LATER ADDED, THESE WERE AN OUTWARD SIGN.

NOW MANY YEARS LATER; HANDFASTING IS AGAIN, BECOMING A SPECIAL PART OF WEDDINGS, AND **Band G** CHOSEN AS COLORS FOR THEIR FASTING BRAIDS, COLORS REPRESENTING THEIR LOVE AND THEIR SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP

Band G Please face each other and hold each others hands palms upwards. And can the marriage bond be brought forward.

Band G have you come freely and willingly today to share in the bonds of marriage uniting together in love until death shall separate you physically.

If so answer WE DO. _____

Band G Will you love each other,
honor, each other, ...comfort, and keep each other,
within the bonds of marriage?

If so answer WE WILL.....

Band G Will you promise to support each other through sickness ,and health, forsaking all others for so long as you both shall live, within the bonds of marriage? If so answer WE WILL.....

Band G will you have each other now as husband and wife to live together in the holy covenant of marriage? If so answer WE WILL.....

TO THE WITNESSES GATHERED

Will you , witnessing these promises do all in your power to uphold **B and G** in their marriage?

If so, please answer, “WE will.”

I NOW ANNOINT THESE HOLY BONDS OF MATRIMONY

**,HEAVENLY FATHER
WATCH OVER**

**B and G SEAL THEIR MARRIAGE COVENANT THIS DAY AND ALWAYS BY UNITING
THESE BONDS IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.AMEN**

LET US PRAY

**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;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. Amen**

2) Hand Fasting / Hand Binding

We will now do the ancient Celtic hand fastening ritual where 3 cords will be placed over their joined hands.

PERSON 1 (usually the Best Man) will now place the Burgundy cord to symbolize romance, partnership and happiness

Person 2 (Usually Maid of Honor) will now place the Ivory cord which stands for peace, sincerity and devotion.

Person 3 will now place the gold cord which represents unity, prosperity and longevity.

Person 4 will now tie the cords together to signify the tying of the knot.

Minister: As this knot is tied, so are your lives now bound. Woven into this cord, imbued into its very fibers, are all the hopes of your friends and family, and of yourselves, for a new life together.

With the fashioning of this knot you tie all the desires, dreams, love, and happiness wished here in this place to your lives for as long as love shall last.

In the joining of hands and the fashioning of a knot, so are your lives now bound, one to another.

By this cord you are thus now and forevermore bound to your vow.

May this knot remain tied for as long as love shall last. May this cord draw your hands together in love, never to be used in anger.

May the vows you have spoken never grow bitter in your mouths. As any child discovers when they are learning to tie their own shoes, the first move is to cross the ends.

The cross creates the (X), which is the symbol of partnership and union. As your hands are bound by this cord, so is your partnership held by the symbol of this knot.

Two entwined in love, bound by commitment and fear, sadness and joy, by hardship and victory, anger and reconciliation, all of which brings strength to this union.

Hold tight to one another through both good times and bad, and watch as your strength grows.

I shall now remove the cords.

DECLARATION

G by taking **B** to be your wife, you are assuming the awesome and sobering responsibility of a husband. You are saying to God, to **B** and to your family and friends, as well as to yourself, that you will allow God to develop in you – the qualities that are essential to help **B** reach her full potential.

B God has put you two together for HIS divine purpose. You are to be a helpmate, a motivator, and one who supports her husband..

B of all the women in the world whom God could have chosen, HE chose you to be **G** wife.
G of all the men in the world whom God could have chosen, HE chose you to be **G** husband.

Therefore, you must both accept mutual responsibility to make your marriage one of lasting love.
We come now to thank God for bringing you to this point in your lives. This occasion is not the end of your dreams but simply a chapter in those dreams.

God has worked in both of your lives to equip you and to prepare you for this day and for all the rest of your days together.

We charge you both in the presence of God to remember :::
that love, faithfulness, and grace alone will prevail as the foundation of a happy and enduring home. No other human ties are more tender, and no other vows more sacred than those you now assume.

Bride and groom Stand Center

BEST MAN BESIDE GROOM MAID OF HONOR BESIDE BRIDE

THE MARRIAGE VOWS

Please choose one set or if Writing your Own Please Give Minister a Copy at Rehearsal

#1 TO Groom:

G will you repeat this vow to **B**saying after me:

I, **G**, take you, **B**,to be my wife,
to have and to hold, from this day forward;
for better, for worse; for richer, for poorer;
in sickness and in health;
to love and to cherish,
until we are separated by death;

as God is my witness,
I give you my promise.

TO Bride: B will you repeat this vow to **G** saying after me:

I, B, take you, **G** to be my husband,
to have and to hold, from this day forward;
for better, for worse; for richer, for poorer;
in sickness and in health; to love and to cherish,
until we are separated by death;
as God is my witness,
I give you my promise.

#2 **G** will you repeat to **B** this vow
I G take you **B** to be my wife.

To walk beside me when things are good and when things are bad.

I pledge to you my undying love and constant faithfulness.

All I have or hope to have, I give to you as my partner in life.

I pledge you my help, support, love, and my prayers.

I pledge to remain faithfully yours until death separates us.

I ask God's help in keeping this solemn vow.

B will you repeat to **G** this vow

I B take you **G** to be my husband.

To walk beside me when things are good and when things are bad.

I pledge to you my undying love and constant faithfulness.

All I have or hope to have, I give to you as my partner in life.

I pledge you my help, support, love, and my prayers.

I pledge to remain faithfully yours until death separates us.

I ask God's help in keeping this solemn vow.

#3

G will you repeat to **B** this vow

I Gtake you Bto be my wife.
I promise to hold you high on the pillar of my heart.
To protect you, shelter you, and to provide for all your needs
In body, soul, and spirit.
To keep you always as my helper, friend, lover, and strength.
As God has given you to me as a woman of virtue,
I promise to always uphold you and keep you in my heart,
until my dying day as God is my witness.
I ask God's help in keeping this solemn vow.

Bwill you repeat to G this vow
IB take you Gto be my husband.
I promise to support you and give you strength
with my love and confidence.
To provide for your needs in body, soul, and spirit.
To keep you always as my source of stability and the pillar of strength in my life.
As God has given you to me as my husband and friend,
I promise to always keep you in my heart,
until my dying day as God is my witness.
I ask God's help in keeping this solemn vow.

4)

**I, G / take you Bto be my /wife, my 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
So Help Me God

I, **B** take you **G** to be my husband, my 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
So Help Me God

THE EXCHANGE OF RINGS

The minister speaks about the importance of the rings and then the ring ceremony takes place

MINISTER:

1) Though small in size, these rings are very large in significance. Made of precious metal, they remind us that love is not cheap or common; indeed, love may cost us dearly. Made in a circle, their design tells us that love must never come to an end; we must keep it continuous. As you wear these rings, whether together or apart for a moment, may they be constant reminders of

these glad promises you are making today.

LORD BLESS + AND CONSECRATE

B AND G in their love for each other. May these rings be a symbol of true faith in each other and always remind them of their love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN

TO GROOM;

G will you take your ring and place it on **B**ring finger,
and repeat after me this promise, saying;
“With this ring, I seal my promise,
to be your faithful and loving husband,
as God is my witness.”

TO BRIDE;

B will you take your ring and place it on **G** ring finger,
and repeat after me this promise, saying;
“With this ring, I seal my promise,
to be your faithful and loving wife,
as God is my witness.”

2)RING EXCHANGE

You've both chosen to wear rings as a reminder of these promises. People often say wedding bands are a perfect circle, with no beginning and no end. But these rings did have a beginning. The stones were formed a long time ago deep within the earth.

Eventually, a series of lucky events caused them to rise to the surface, where someone dug them up. Metal was then liquefied in a furnace - molded, cooled, and painstakingly polished. Something beautiful was made from raw elements.

Love is like that. It comes from humble beginnings, and through a combination of happy circumstances and effort, imperfect beings shape it into something extraordinary. It's the process of making something beautiful where there was once nothing at all. As you look at these rings over the years, I hope you remember that. You've created something invaluable, and just as I know you'll protect these rings, I'm confident you'll protect the commitments you've made to one another today.

G as you place this ring on **B**'s finger, repeat these words after me:

G TO B This ring symbolizes my love for you
and the commitments we made today.

B as you place this ring on **G**'s finger, repeat these words after me:

B TO G This ring symbolizes my love for you
and the commitments we made today.

Minister

Please place your hands Palm Upwards and look closely at them:

BRIDE AND GROOM

**These are the hands of your best friend, young and strong and vibrant with love, that are holding yours on your wedding day,
as he promises to love you all the days of his life.**

**These are the hands that will work alongside yours, as together you build your future, as you laugh and cry, as you share your
innermost secrets and dreams.**

These are the hands that will work long hours for you and your new family

These are that hands that will passionately love you and cherish you through the years, for a lifetime of happiness.

These are the hands that will countless times wipe the tears from your eyes: tears of sorrow and tears of joy

**These are the hands that will hold each child in tender love, soothing them through illness and hurt, supporting and
encouraging them along the way, and knowing when it is time to let go**

These are the hands that will massage tension from you neck and back in the evenings after you've both had a long hard day.

These are the hands that will hold you tight as you struggle through difficult times

These are the hands that will comfort you when you are sick, or console you when you are grieving.

**May they always be held by one another. Give them the strength to hold on during the storms of stress and the dark of
disillusionment. Keep them tender and gentle as they nurture each other in their wondrous love.**

Help these hands to continue building a relationship rich in caring, and devoted in reaching for your perfection. May

G AND B see their four hands as healer, protector, shelter and guide.

OTHER CEREMONIES

If desired circle

1) Cord AND Coin

Officiant: **G AND B**, I invite **Best Man** and **Maid of Honor** to place a cord over you. This cord symbolizes an infinite bond of love you share that keeps your relationship strong in the face of adversity, as well as that you both are no longer two, but one in marriage. May this cord remind you to face your life together courageously and to be mutual in support of each other in carrying out your duties and responsibilities as a couple. And, may your love grow stronger and bind you closer together through the years.

(Instruction: **Best Man** will place the cord over **Gs/** head and rest it on his shoulders, while **Maid of Honor** will place the cord over **B** head and rest it on her shoulders.)

Minister : Now let us do an exchange of the Arras, or coins. Instruction: **Ringbearer with Pillow or Groomsman** will present the pillow with the coins to the Officiant. Originally, there was an understanding of husband as "bread winner" and wife as "home maker" so the coins were given and received not in a spirit of mutual benefit but in a give/take relationship. Nowadays the coins are a reminder of good stewardship for all couples; that they will mutually support each other, their children and the world around them. May God bless these coins that symbolize mutual support and responsibility.

Minister : / **GROOM** / Instruction: **The officiant drops the coins into GROOM's/** waiting hands. **GROOM** then drops the coins into **/BRIDE** hands. **BRIDE** then puts **her/** hand above **/ GROOM 's** then drops the coins back into his/her hands.

Finally, **GROOM/** gives the coins to **(Best Man)** for safe-keeping. **Minister :** leads and **GROOM/** repeats after him/
“**GROOM/**, I give you this arrhae as a pledge of my dedication to your welfare.”

/BRIDE: I accept them and in the same way pledge my dedication to you, the care of our home, and the welfare of our children.

Removal of Veil and Cord

Officiant: I would like to call on the Best Man and Maid to remove the cord and veil.

2) COMMUNION

ONLY FOR BRIDE AND GROOM, OR BRIDE AND GROOM AND WEDDING PARTY

3) Glass Breaking

(A PLASTIC GLASS IS USED, AND IS FIRST WRAPPED IN A WHITE HANDKERCHIEF)

The BEST MAN AND MAID OF HONOR WRAP THE GLASS LOOSELY IN A WHITE HANDKERCHIEF AND GIVE IT TO THE GROOM AFTER THE WORDS ARE SPOKEN THE GROOM PLACES THE WRAPPED GLASS ON THE FLOOR AND STEPS ON IT

This old custom has many traditions, with many interpretations. At one time it was meant to scare off demons that frequent celebrations (or pesky wedding guests) Today, the fragility of the glass suggests the frailty of human relationships. Just as permanent and final as the breaking of this glass is unchangeable. The glass is broken to protect this marriage with the implied prayer. “May your bond of love be as difficult to break, as it would be to put back together these pieces of glass.” Knowing that this marriage is permanent, **GROOM/** and **BRIDE** should strive every day to show each other love and respect and happiness.

After **GROOM/** breaks the glass, I invite everyone to shout the words “BLESSINGS AND HAPPINESS“

4)Sand Ceremony

PLEASE ORDER VASES AND SAND IN ADVANCEIf Children are being united you will need a vase and sand for each child**



follow minister's instructions

Today as we are gathered here in this beautiful setting, **BRIDE** and **GROOM/** will join their lives(and their families together.)*(Her family will become his and his family will become hers.)* Like a garden well tended, their marriage will grow more lovely with each passing year.

BRIDE and **GROOM/** today you are making a lasting commitment to share the rest of your lives with each other. That commitment is symbolized through the pouring of these two individual containers of sand; one that represents **GROOM/** *(who now pours in some of his/her sand)* and the other that represents **BRIDE** *(who pours some of his/her sand on top)*.

Each of you comes to this relationship with unique strengths, vulnerabilities, and histories. As individuals, you are beautiful people all on your own. Yet when the two of you are blended together, you form something even more beautiful.

**Minister SWIRLS THE VASE WITH THE TWO SANDS IN IT
IF UNITING FAMILIES USUALLY A PIECE OF JEWELRY FOR THE CHILDREN IS
BLESSED AND GIVEN BY THE BRIDE AND GROOM AFTER THIS CEREMONY [A
CHAIN,BRACELET,RING,ETC...]**

Those strengths can blossom, those vulnerabilities can be cared for, and those people can soar.

Minister: As the individual grains of sand can no longer be separated, may your bond also be inseparable.

But you are also making a bond with your children, As they also contribute their unique personalities and strengths to this new family, they will also individually add a layer of sand to this unity vase.

Pause as the children pour their sand individually, forming separate layers over their parents' blended sand.

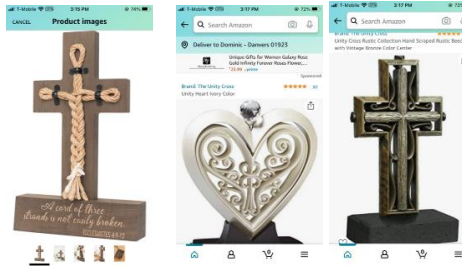
CHILDREN POUR SOME SAND INTO VASE

Then everyone

will pour together, representing their commitment to each other .

You have now blended your families into a new family,
as you start your journey in marriage, loving and strong as Husband and wife, as inseparable as these grains of sand.

5)Unity Cross OR UNITY HEART (PLEASE ORDER IN ADVANCE FROM AMAZON)



Minister:

At this time, the **BRIDE AND GROOM/ 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.

(Holding the groom's piece of the Unity Cross, the pastor says:)

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.

(At this time the officiant hands the piece to the groom and he places his cross onto the base.) Joseph will now place the outside piece of the cross onto the base which represents he is beginning his house and family on the Cross which is the only sure Foundation.

(Holding the bride's piece of the cross, the pastor says:)

As well, Genesis (Genesis 2:20-23) tells us that the woman was taken from man. The bride's 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.



(At this time, the pastor hands the bride her piece of the cross and she places it into the center of the man's cross.)

To complete this sculpture, representing the couple'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.

(At this time the three pegs will be placed into the unity Cross, completing the sculpture.)

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.

6)Unity Candle with Children

Light is the essence of our existence. Each one of us possesses an inner glow that represents our hopes, our dreams and aspirations in life.

The lighting of the center candle represents not only the union of **Bride____ and Groom____** in marriage, but the unity formed in this new family in which your lives will now shine as one family. **Bride____, Groom____, Child____, Child____.**

Each candles flame represents your lives before this day, individual, unique and special. Please take the candle symbolizing your life before today, and together light the center candle to symbolize the union of your individual lives. Each flame will help to make the family even brighter and stronger.

As you light this candle today, may the brightness of the flame shine throughout your lives. May it give you courage and reassurance in darkness, warmth and safety in the cold, and strength and joy in your bodies, minds, and spirits. May your union be forever blessed

7) Unity Candle WITHOUT CHILDREN

Now we shall celebrate this union as it is symbolized through the lighting of the unity candle.

_____ and _____ please light the two taper candles. These candles represent your individual spirits, your individual connections with God, all that you are and, all that you have been, and all that you will become.

The center candle represents your relationship. It is the symbol of your marriage, the symbol of the joining of 2 spirits, 2 lives, 2 souls. Now you will take the tapers and light the center candle. As you do so, keep in mind the pledge you made to each other today. It is the pledge of the truth and purity of your every breath. The constant friendship of your hearts. The passion and fire of your spirits and the deepest love your souls have to give. It is the pledge of all that is within you. The only true pledge that one heart can offer to another.

You are now as husband and wife offering yourselves, and all that has come to pass unto each other, towards the creation of your future, and to all that is yet to come. The candle of your marriage shall burn brightly, but the 2 tapers of yourselves are not diminished.

You do not disappear in marriage. You remain you. But in joining, both lights are brighter, each supports the other and miracles can happen. True Love shines brightly and today is but a beautiful beginning of the miracles to come.

PRAYER FOR THE BRIDE AND GROOM

Our Father, we come today asking your blessing upon these two lives and this home being established. You have made us so that we are incomplete without the other so that we yearn for someone whom we can love and whose love we can receive.

We are thankful for the love we see here, and even more, for the love we feel from you. May we never take your love for granted.

We pray that your love will be the shield and stay for

B AND G AMEN

B AND G

You have come before us and before God and have expressed your desire to be husband and wife. You have shown your love and affection by the joining of hands, have made promises of faith and devotion to each to the other, and have sealed these promises by the giving and receiving of rings.

I therefore pronounce that you are husband and wife.

May God bless you and keep you and give you His peace. Amen.

(Taking their joined hands in his, the minister shall say)

The bond and covenant of marriage was established by God in creation.

What God has joined together, let man not separate.

THE NUPTIAL KISS

G you may now kiss your bride!!

PRESENTATION OF THE NEWLYWEDS

Dear friends, may I present to you

Mr and Mrs nnnn