

Sample Marriage Ceremony

Begin: Ushers seat guests.

Couple enter

Introduction:

..... and have invited us here today to share in the celebration as their marriage begins. We come together - not to mark the start of a relationship – but to recognize a bond that already exists. I would now like to introduce _____ (friend/family member) for our first reading:

And for my first reading:

Song of Solomon 8:6-7

Place me like a seal over your heart,
like a seal on your arm;
for love is as strong as death,
its jealousy unyielding as the grave.
It burns like blazing fire,
like a mighty flame.

Many waters cannot quench love;
rivers cannot wash it away.
If one were to give
all the wealth of his house for love,
it would be utterly scorned.

And now a reading from the Gospel:

Colossians 3:12-19

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Message:

The message I've chosen for today is about making a commitment to one another. It's obvious to each of us the commitment that and already share. Now we walk along this path with them on a new journey they've chosen. The decision isn't one they've made lightly. They know this means they have dedicated themselves to each other in a brand new way. The partnership they now enter in is filled with hard work, and constant diligence. And most importantly, it isn't one they do alone. It is with the help of their very dear families, and of their friends from all walks of life. It is this combination that makes *their* family complete.

Now I'd like to share with you a couple of my favorite quotes on commitment:

When you make a commitment to a relationship, you invest your attention and energy in it more profoundly because you now experience ownership of that relationship.

- Barbara De Angelis

In a time when nothing is more certain than change, the commitment of two people to one another has become difficult and rare. Yet, by its scarcity, the beauty and value of this exchange has only been enhanced. ~Robert Sexton

And a prayer from the Cherokee's to bless you:

Cherokee Prayer Blessing

**May the Warm Winds of Heaven
Blow softly upon your house.
May the Great Spirit
Bless all who enter there.
May your Moccasins
Make happy tracks
in many snows,
and may the Rainbow
Always touch your shoulder.**

Now and will state their vows to one another.

In the name of Jesus, I ___ take you, ___, 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, for today and for always. This
is my solemn vow.

(Exchange of rings as follows:) I give you this ring as a symbol of my love; and with all that I am and all that I have, I honor you, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

At this joyful moment, and by the power vested in me by the State of NY, we now recognize and, a married couple.

(The kiss, and turn to the audience/congregation.)

Music as they walk down the aisle together.