



the
HARBOUR
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Invocation

We have gathered here today to celebrate a commitment of love.

It is a commitment that _____ and _____ believe to be the leadership of the Holy Spirit in their lives. Let us ask the Father to bless this special occasion.

Prayer.

Ask the congregation to be seated.

Welcome and Greeting

We are here today to unite _____ and _____ in marriage. This simple ceremony, this celebration, is the outward token of a sacred and inward union of hearts. A union created by God's loving purpose and kept by God's abiding will.

_____ and _____, welcome you, their family and friends. Each of you has given some of yourself to their lives. They want you to know that your love, guidance and encouragement will forever be appreciated. It is fitting then that you should share in this celebration of their commitment to each other.

Marriage is powerful force of love, a picture of Christ and His church, and a permanent relationship, and I know that _____ and _____ are committed to those eternal principles through my counseling times with them:

So is my privilege to ask, who presents this women in marriage to this man?

Special Song

Scripture Reading

A Christian wedding finds a great deal of instruction, encouragement, guidance, and admonition in the Word of God.

In the story of Adam and Eve, the second chapter of Genesis adds vital insights to the concept of marriage. This chapter tells how the Lord God formed man for the dust of the earth and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, so that he became a living soul. Then the Lord placed him in the beautiful Garden of Eden. Something, however, was

lacking. The man was not complete in the garden. The Lord said, "It is not good for man to be alone; I will make him a help meet for him."

This early account in the Word of God, points to one of the women's important roles, and that is to be a help meet to her husband. Wives have rendered valuable help to their husbands in every field of human activity and in every period of human history, from the time of Eve to the present. But women were not created solely to be man's subordinate helper. After the Lord God had decided to make women, He caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man. God took one of Adam's ribs, not a part of his head or foot to be ruler or to trample upon her, but from near his heart, of the same substance of man, a coequal, not inferior or superior, but a sharer of life.

In a marriage ceremony, with God Himself as the officiating minister, "The Lord God brought her unto man." United with the women, man was now complete and whole. No longer were they two people, but one. Adam expressed the closeness of their union when he declared, "This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh."

Jesus underscored the uniqueness of this first marriage and its continuing importance when He made this penetrating and comprehensive statement: "But from the beginning of creation God made them male and female. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; and they two shall be one flesh, so then they are no longer two, but one flesh.

God's pattern is clear. One man for one woman until death do they part or the Lord returns to take them both home with Him.

Bring Bride and Groom on the Stage.

_____ and _____, before God and this congregation, I ask you to affirm your willingness to enter this covenant of marriage and to share all the joys and sorrows of this new relationship, whatever the future may hold.

Addressing the Groom

Will you _____ have _____ to be your wife, and will you love her faithfully as long as you both shall live?

Addressing the Bride

Will you _____ have _____ to be your husband, and will you love him faithfully as long as you both shall live?

Addressing the Groom

_____ do you have this women to be your wedded wife, to live together after God's ordinance in the holy estate of matrimony, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, and forsaking all others, keep only unto her as long as you both shall live?

Addressing the Bride

_____ do you have this man to be your wedded husband, to live together after God's ordinance in the holy estate of matrimony, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, and forsaking all others, keep on unto him as long as you both shall live?

As an expression of your commitment today, _____ and _____ will you now exchange wedding rings.

Much is suggested about the quality of your love as we look at the rings. Made of gold, one of the purest metals, the ring suggests your commitment to unfailing purity and fidelity in your love. So as you wear it, may you be continually be reminded of this commitment.

Also, we note that the ring is a complete circle with no separation point. This suggests a commitment on your part to always remain together, to never reject one another. It further suggests an openness to seek to see life from another's viewpoint with the understanding that each of you makes a vital contribution to the strength and character to the other.

_____ as you take the ring to place it on your bride's finger, please repeat these words after me:

_____, with this ring, I commit all my love to you. As I love the Lord, so do I love you. I receive you, as God's gift to me. I receive every quality of your life, as purposed by God, to perfect virtue in me. As God enables me, I will lead our home spiritually, under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. I will seek to support and encourage you, through each life challenge. All that is mine is yours, until death do us part.

Now, _____, as you take the ring for _____ and place it on his finger, please repeat these words after me:

_____, with this ring I commit all my love to you. As I love the Lord, so do I love you. I receive you, as God's gift to me. I receive every quality of your life, as purposed by God, to perfect virtue in me. I trust the Lord to enable me, to be submissive to you, as my spiritual head, and leader of our home. I will seek to support and encourage you, through each life challenge. All that is mine is yours, until death do us part

Unity Candle

_____ and _____ will now light the unity candle. The two smaller candles represent their individual selves burning singularly and apart from the other. They will together light the larger, single wedding candle, signifying that the flame which once burned alone is now joined by the others brightness in the unity of marriage.

Special Song

Prayer

Declaration of Marriage

_____ and _____, inasmuch as you have declared your willingness and intention to enter the state of marriage with each other, and have declared the same in the company of God and these witnesses, and have give to each other a symbol of this commitment these rings, by virtue of the authority vested in me as a minister of the Gospel, and according to

the laws of this state, I pronounce you husband and wife. What God has joined together, let no man put asunder.

Go forth from this place as wife and husband with the blessing of Christ's church. Be loving, patient and kind. And above all, forgive one another as Christ has forgiven you.

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you:
The Lord make His face to shine upon you,
And be gracious to you;
The Lord lift up His countenance on you,
And give you peace.

Embrace and Kiss

_____ you may now kiss the bride.

It is my pleasure to introduce to you for the first time,

Mr. and Mrs. _____