

We have come together today to share in the joy of [BRIDE] and [GROOM]'s love for each other. It is this day they take a giant step of courage, commitment, communication to their lives, understanding, and growth. When a commitment this strong is made by two people, the force of that commitment, of that love, of that courage touches all of us so that our lives are changed and we share a part of that love. Love is the reason why a day was chosen by you both to begin your lives together and love is the reason why you both will give with all your hearts for the good of each other. Love is the reason that together you will become one. One in hope, one in believing in life, and one in sharing the coming years. Everyday you live, learn how to receive love with as much understanding as you give. Find things within yourself, and then, you can share them with each other. Have an open heart and sincere mind. Be constant and consistent with your love. All that we deeply love becomes a part of us.

Please face each other and join hands.

**HAND BLESSING (+):** These are the hands of your best friend, young and strong and full of love for you, that are holding yours on your wedding day, as you promise to love each other today, tomorrow, and forever. These are the hands that will work alongside yours, as together you build your future. These are the hands that will passionately love you and cherish you through the years, and with the slightest touch, will comfort you like no other. These are the hands that will hold you when fear or grief fills your mind. 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 tenderly hold your children. These are the hands that will help you to hold your family as one. These are the hands that will give you strength when you need it. And lastly, these are the hands that even when wrinkled and aged, will still be reaching for yours, still giving you the same unspoken tenderness with just a touch.

Do you [BRIDE] take [GROOM] to be your wedded husband? Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him in sickness and health, for better or worse, and forsaking all others be faithful to him so long as you both shall live. [I DO]

Do you [GROOM] take [BRIDE] to be your wedded wife? Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her in sickness and health, for better or worse, and forsaking all others be faithful to her so long as you both shall live. [I DO]

What tokens of love and respect do you offer each other? [RINGS]

The ring is a continuous circle. Unbroken, precious metal, It represents two hearts joined in eternal love. The ring by its shape is a symbol of the undying love that exists between you. Let it be a sign to the world of the love and devotion that you both have for one another.

[GROOM] Please place the ring on [BRIDE]'s finger and repeat after me:

[BRIDE] as a sign from my heart, accept this ring and know that I have chosen you above all others to share my life with.

[BRIDE] Please place the ring on [GROOM]'s finger and repeat after me:

[GROOM] as a sign from my heart, accept this ring and know that I have chosen you above all others to share my life with.

**ROSES (+):** [BRIDE] and [GROOM], you will remember this day for the rest of your lives. Those of us who are already married know that marriage, like life, brings with it many joys and also many challenges. We also know that love, while beautiful, does not always show its prettiest face. There are days when we may find it hard to express the depth of our love for one another. It is my hope and prayer that the two of you will set aside a special place in your home for roses, ancient symbols of love. When words fail you, or when the challenges of life or marriage begin to weigh on you, go out and get a rose, and put it in that special place in your home, so that the other will be reminded of this moment, and of the love you feel for one another. As a token of that love, I would like to ask you to make these roses your first gifts to one another as a married couple.

There is nothing more lovely in life than the union of two people whose love for each other has grown. May the love that you have found grow in meaning and strength until its beauty is shown in a common devotion to all that is compassionate and life giving. May the flow of your love touch and bless us all with its grace and courage.

And now by the authority granted to me by the state of Ohio, I now pronounce that you are Husband and Wife.

Congratulations, you may kiss the Bride.

And now, to all the friends and family who have come to celebrate this marriage, I would like to present, for the first time anywhere, Mr. & Mrs. [Groom's Full Name].

Dearly beloved, we are gathered here in the sight of God. And in the face of this company. To join together this man and this woman in Holy Matrimony which is an honorable estate, instituted of God, and therefore not to be entered into lightly or unadvisedly, but reverently, discreetly, and in the love of God. Into this holy estate, these two persons present come now to be joined in marriage.

**+ BLESSING:** Let us pray. God, we ask for your blessings upon this man and woman, as we celebrate this momentous occasion in their lives. Grant them happiness and contentment as they establish their new home, create a new family and explore the depths of their love for one another and for you. Bless their families and friends and the relationships, which have supported, strengthened and sustained them, throughout their lives. Bless their home as a place of love and of peace. And if times grow hard and tempers grow short, help them to look into their hearts and remember the love that brought them here today.

Amen

[BRIDE] will you have this man to be thy wedded husband, to live together according to God's command, in the holy estate of matrimony? Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him in sickness and in health, and forsaking all other's, keep only to him for as long as you both shall live?

[GROOM] will you have this woman to be thy wedded wife, to live together according to God's command, in the holy estate of matrimony? Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her in sickness and in health, and forsaking all other's, keep only to her for as long as you both shall live?

What tokens do you offer each other? [Bride / Groom respond "RINGS"]

Bless Oh Lord these rings, that each who gives it, and each who wears it, may abide in thy peace, and continue in thy favor. Those, whom God has joined together, let no man separate.

[GROOM], please take the ring and place it on [BRIDE]'s finger and repeat after me: With this ring I thee wed.

[BRIDE], please take the ring and place it on [GROOM]'s finger and repeat after me: With this ring I thee wed.

**+ COMMUNITY SUPPORT:** As these two people join together in marriage, they ask for the support and love of not only their families, but of their friends as well. On this day, they ask that you be more than only friends of [BRIDE] or only friends of [GROOM]. They ask that you recognize their special union and welcome them both as your friends in your lives. Do you, who are the family and friends of this couple, affirm your continuing support of and love for [BRIDE] and [GROOM] as they stand poised on the threshold of their new life together? "We do."

For as much as [BRIDE] and [GROOM] have consented together in holy wedlock. Have witnessed that same before God and this company. And hereto, have given and pledged their troth, each to the other, and have declared the same by giving and receiving rings, and by joining hands, I pronounce that they are Husband and Wife.

Congratulations, you may kiss the Bride.