

## **TYPICAL ORDER OF SERVICE**

(Insert songs where desired)

Aisle runner pulled back by \_\_\_\_\_

Groom's grandparents seated by \_\_\_\_\_

Bride's Grandparents seated by \_\_\_\_\_

Groom's parents seated by \_\_\_\_\_

Bride's mother seated by \_\_\_\_\_

Candles lighted

Clergy, Groom, Best Man Enter

Entry of Bridal Party

Bride Enters

### A. CEREMONY INTRODUCTION

a. Giving of Bride

b. Ascend Stairs

### B. SCRIPTURE

### C. PLEDGE

### D. RING CEREMONY INTROOUCTION

### E. RING EXCHANGE & VOWS

a. Prayer

i. (Communion)

b. Lighting of Unity Candle (Unity Sand)

### F. PRONOUNCEMENT

a. Recessional

## A. CEREMONY INTRODUCTION

1. You stand here today before God and these friends ready to be united in the bonds of holy matrimony. Today your separate lives with their own memories, achievements and aspirations will be merged into one. You stand on the threshold of a fresh and exciting life, where years will unfold like the petals of a rose, ever growing in beauty and fragrance. You will find new dimensions and higher plains of love that only a God-centered union can know.
2. We are gathered together 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 commanded by Scripture to be honorable among all men; and therefore is not by any to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly; but reverently, discreetly, advisedly, soberly, and in the fear of God. Into this holy estate these two persons present come now to be joined.
3. We are assembled in the sight of God and before this company to join together this man and this woman in holy matrimony. Traditionally, marriage ceremonies have said that each should love, honor and cherish the other until death parts them. In the light of the deeper meaning of the Scriptures, we would like to go a step further and state that a true Christian marriage means intimacy, openness, tenderness, respect, appreciation, self-giving, and at times, self-sacrifice for each other's welfare and happiness. With this attitude a union is formed that only death could sever. Marriage is a joyous occasion. It is connected in our thoughts with the magic charm of home, and with all that is pleasant and attractive in the most tender and sacred relations of life. Marriage is an institution of God. It is the uniting of two hearts and lives, and is not to be entered into inadvertently or lightly, but reverently and discreetly.
4. Divine revelation has declared marriage to be honorable in all. It is an institution of God, ordained in the time of man's innocence, before he had sinned against his Maker, and been yet banished from Paradise. It was given in wisdom and in kindness to repress irregular affection, to support social order and to provide that, through well-ordered families, truth and holiness might be transmitted from one age to another. Earlier, therefore, than all laws of merely human origin, it lies at the basis of all human legislation and civil government, and the peace and well-being of the nation and land.

We learn from the history of our Savior that He honored a marriage festival with His presence, and wrought there the beginning of His miracles. And by His Holy Spirit, speaking through His apostle, He has selected the union thus formed as an apt emblem of union, endeared and indissoluble, which binds together Himself and His own ransomed Church.

A relation that is thus consecrated, should not be formed thoughtlessly and irreverently; but advisedly, in the fear of God, and as for the purposes for which He, its Divine Author, ordained and blessed matrimony.

## B. SCRIPTURE AND SERMONETTES

1. God's Word is very explicit concerning marriage. It is an institution established by heaven in the wisdom and kindness of God. He said at the very dawn of creation, "It is not good that man should be alone. I will make a helpmate for him. Therefore, shall a man leave his father and mother and shall be joined unto his wife, and they shall be one flesh."
2. In creation' Adam was the last and the most excellent of all God's creative works. Then Eve was formed out of Adam's side. The man was dust refined... and the woman was dust doubly refined, removed one step further from the earth. The Scripture sets an honor upon the woman as being the glory of the man. She was not taken from man's head in order to dominate him. Nor was she taken from his feet to be trampled upon by him. But rather, God took her out of man's side to walk hand in hand with him; from under his arm to be protected by him; and from near his heart to be loved by him for the remainder of their lives
3. There are some tremendous words of commitment expressed by Ruth in the Old Testament book that bears her name. They are most applicable to marriage. Ruth 1:16-17 in the Living Bible speaks of Ruth replying to her mother-in-law, Naomi, "...Don 't make me leave you for I want to go wherever you go, and to live wherever you live; your people shall be my people, and your God shall be my God. I want to die where you die, and be buried there. May the Lord do terrible things to me if I allow anything but death to separate us."
4. One of the most outstanding passages in the Bible on the relationship in which you are about to enter is Ephesians 5:21–23 (NIV84) <sup>21</sup> Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. <sup>22</sup> Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior."
5. I love this Paraphrase of 1 Corinthians 13, the love passage in scripture.

Love is the greatest gift in the world. And, of all human love the wedded love between a man and a woman is the highest and most tender. Love can only be fulfilled in self forgetfulness and it's essence is sacrifice... to give up its treasure for another to find in such self surrender its richest blessing. Love is very patient and kind, never jealous or envious, never boastful or proud, never haughty or selfish or rude. Love does not demand its own way. It is not irritable or touchy. It does not hold grudges and will hardly even notice when others do it wrong. It 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 cost. You will always believe in them...always, expect the best of them, and always stand your ground in defending them. All the special gifts and powers from God will some day come to an end, but love goes on forever.

Remember what Christ taught and let his word enrich your lives and make you wise; teach them to each other and sing them out in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing to the Lord with thankful hearts, and whatever you do or say, let it be as a representative of Jesus, and come with Him into the presence of God the Father to give Him your thanks.

6. Now, this is what the Scripture teaches regarding the duty of the husbands to their wives and of wives to their husbands: (<sup>22</sup> Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

<sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her <sup>26</sup> to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, <sup>27</sup> and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. <sup>28</sup> In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup> After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church— <sup>30</sup> for we are members of his body. <sup>31</sup> “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” ) (Ephesians 5:22-31)

7. Colossians 3:12-17 says: "Since you have been chosen by God who has given you this new kind of life, and because of His deep love and concern for you, you should practice tenderhearted mercy and kindness to others. Don't worry about making a good impression on them, but be ready to forgive; never hold grudges. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. Most of all, let love guide your life. Let the peace of heart which comes from Christ be always present in your hearts and lives, for this is your responsibility and privilege as members of His body. And, always be thankful.

Remember what Christ taught and let His Word enrich your lives and make you wise; teach them to each other and sing them out in Psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing to the Lord with thankful hearts, and, whatever you do or say, let it be as a representative of the Lord Jesus, and come with Him into the presence of God the Father to give Him your thanks."

### C. PLEDGE AND/OR VOWS

1. GROOM: \_\_\_\_\_, will you have this woman to be your wedded wife, to live together according to God's holy ordinance of marriage? Will you love, honor, sustain, cherish and mutually submit to one another through joy and sorrow, health and sickness, prosperity and adversity, forsaking all others? Will you keep only to her, as long you both will live? "I will."

BRIDE: \_\_\_\_\_, will you have this man to be your wedded husband, to live together according to God's holy ordinances of marriage? Will you love, honor, sustain, cherish and mutually submit to one another through joy and sorrow, health and sickness, prosperity and adversity, forsaking all others? Will you keep only to him, as long as you both will live? "I will."

2. GROOM: \_\_\_\_\_, will you take \_\_\_\_\_ to be your wife? Will you love and respect her? Will you be honest with her always? Will you stand by her through whatever may come? Will you make whatever adjustments are necessary so that you can genuinely share your life with her? "I will."

BRIDE: \_\_\_\_\_, will you take \_\_\_\_\_ to be your husband? Will you love and respect him? Will you be honest with him always? Will you stand by him through whatever may come? Will you make whatever adjustments are necessary so that you can genuinely share your life with him? "I will."

3. GROOM: \_\_\_\_\_ before your friends and relatives here today, do you take \_\_\_\_\_ to be your wife? "I do." Will you solemnly promise that you will love, honor and cherish her, and forsaking all others for her alone, perform all that a husband should for his wife? "I will."

BRIDE: \_\_\_\_\_ before your friends and relatives here today, do you take \_\_\_\_\_ to be your husband? "I do." Will you solemnly promise that you will love, honor and cherish him, and forsaking all others for him alone, perform all that a wife should do for her husband? "I will."

4. I \_\_\_\_\_ take you, \_\_\_\_\_ to be my wedded 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, honor and cherish, as long as we both shall live, according to God's holy ordinance, and thereto, I give you my love.

I \_\_\_\_\_, take you \_\_\_\_\_ to be my wedded husband to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and health, to love, honor, cherish and obey, as long as we both shall live according to God's holy ordinance, and thereto, I give you my love.

#### **D. RING CEREMONY INTRODUCTION**

1. The ring is a symbol of the covenant between you. It is an endless circle signifying unending and unqualified love. It is made of gold, a metal which when tried by fire, becomes purer, as will your love. In the giving and receiving of these rings, you are pledging before God and these friends that you will keep the covenant and perform the vows that you have made
2. Now that you have taken these vows, there is an additional rite that is part of this solemn and significant moment...the giving and receiving of rings.
3. As a symbol of this covenant you will now give and receive the marriage rings
4. Now that you have taken these vows, we come to the significant moment of giving and receiving your rings. These rings are the outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual bond, which unites your two hearts in endless love. Fittingly, these rings are endless circles. They symbolize the unbroken union, which is to continue...only to be broken by death. Let these rings continue to you both as a symbol of the value, the purity and the constancy of true wedded love, and a seal of the vows, which you have made

#### **E. RING EXCHANGE**

1. GROOM & BRIDE: With this ring, I pledge my love to you and receive you as my loving wife (husband). With this ring I promise to be true to you until death shall part us in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord
2. GROOM & BRIDE: With this ring, I thee wed, and with all my worldly goods I thee endow, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

## F. PRONOUNCEMENT

1. For as much as you \_\_\_\_\_ and you, \_\_\_\_\_ have consented together in holy wedlock, and have pledged your faith and love to each other in the presence of God and this company, and have confirmed the same by giving and receiving a ring; now, therefore, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, I pronounce you husband and wife. What, therefore, God hath joined together let not man put asunder

Henceforth, you go down life's pathway together. Let love be the charmed word in the dialect of your home and hearts. And may heaven's constant benediction crown your union with ever increasing joy and blessedness, and unite your hearts and lives by all the grace and true affection of a happy marriage.

2. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ we have heard you promise to share your lives in marriage. We recognize *and respect* the covenant you have made. It is not a minister standing before you that makes your marriage real, but the honesty and sincerity of what you have said and done here before your friends and parents and in the sight of God. On behalf of all those present, I take your hands and acknowledge that you are husband and wife, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit

Now the ceremony is over, and the experience of living day by day as married people is about to begin. Go forth to meet it gladly. Love life so that life will love you. The blessing of God be with you. So be it.

3. For as much as \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ have consented together in holy wedlock, and have witnessed the same before God, their families and friends pledging their vows to each other, and have declared the same by giving and receiving rings, I do, by the virtue of the authority bestowed upon me as a minister of the Gospel, by the ordinance of God and the laws of the state of Washington, pronounce you husband and wife, in the name of the Father, the Son and in the Holy Spirit

4. During your life together, may there be enough tears to keep you tender, enough hurts to keep you human, enough of failure to keep your hands tightly in God's. And enough of success to make sure you walk with God. May you never take each other's love for granted, but always experience that breathless wonder that exclaims...that out of this entire world, you have chosen me. Then, when life is done and the sun is setting, may you be found then as now, still hand in hand, still very proud, still thanking God so much for each other. May you serve God happily, faithfully together...till life's pathway has ended

Now having committed yourselves to each other in openness, love and permanency, and having sealed these vows by giving and receiving rings, I do, by virtue and authority bestowed upon me as a minister of the Gospel, by the ordinances of God and the laws of the State of Washington, pronounce you husband and wife, in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

## **BITS AND PIECES (POEMS, PROSE, ETC.)**

- 1) You might say... I don't know if I'm looking for a wife or not, but I do know that I'm looking for-

Two hands to hold up,  
A face to tip up  
Eyes to light up  
A load to life up  
A Burden be pick up,  
A cross to take up,  
A defense to tear up,  
A spirit to perk up,  
A heart to warm up,  
and dreams to fill up...  
And I said, "I do"

- Myron Clopine –

- 2) Poem: ~What Is Marriage~

Marriage is the beautiful blending  
Of two lives, two loves and two hearts  
It's the wonderful magical moment  
When a beautiful love story starts!

Marriage is caring and sharing  
From the moment you first say "I do"  
It's learning or life's little troubles  
And all of its happiness, too

*Marriage* is respecting each other,  
It's a bond made in heaven above,  
It's finding the world in each other--It s laughter. it's joy...,it's love.

- 3) The Candle Ceremony

The candle ceremony represents the individual lives of two people joined together in holy matrimony, as ordained by God. The ceremony also represents the unity of the Bride and Groom in oneness with the Lord Jesus Christ, and recalls the words of Scripture. . "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven."



4) A Lifetime of hands:

Marriage is a lifetime of hands.

It's a shaking hand sliding a shiny gold band onto the finger of another shaking hand

It's an anxious hand tugging on a suddenly shy hand

It's hands touching in sudden tenderness or swinging together down a crowded street  
or fingers interlocking in the darkness of a theater

It's expressive hands- the playful pat on the cheek, the beckoning wave, the rumpled hair, the  
"help me please" gesture

And sometimes, the clenched fist.

It's two ecstatic hands being grasped by tiny brand-new hands

It's hurrying hands setting dinner for hungry hands

It's angry hands pushing away angrier hands

It's an optimistic hand, patting a discouraged hand

It's a panicky hand clutching a calm hand

It's a proud hand, introducing an embarrassed hand

It's joyous hands, grabbing happy hands, and hands sharing sadness with a touch

It's healthy hands, holding sick hands

It's a strong hand supporting a grief stricken hand

It's also tear-stained hands entwining other tear-stained hands

It's hands joined in prayer

And finally, it's a shaking hand sliding a dull gold band off the ringer of a very still hand

Marriage is a lifetime of hands