

## Sample Wedding Readings

#1

### OFFICIANT:

Good evening, and welcome to the ceremony that will unite The groom and The Bride in marriage.

We gather here today to celebrate their union, and to honor their commitment

to not just gazing at one another, but to looking outward together in the same direction.

Today The groom and The Bride proclaim their love to the world, and we rejoice with and for them.

In marriage, we give ourselves freely and generously into the hands of the one we love, and in doing so, each of us receives the love and trust of the other as our most precious gift. But even as that gift is shared by two people who are in love, it also touches the friends and family members who in various ways support and contribute to the relationship. All of you are The groom and The Bride's community, and each of you has played some part in bringing them to this moment. This is why gathering as a community is such an important part of a wedding ceremony. Because The groom and The Bride are now taking a new form as a married couple, and in this form, they become part of their community in a new way.

(NOTE: If you want to insert something personal, such as a favorite poem or song, a statement made to one another or to your family, a rose ceremony,, a unity candle, or anything else "theatrical,"this is the spot for it).

The groom and The Bride, we are here to remember and rejoice with you

and to recount with one another that it is love that guides us on our path,

and to celebrate as you begin this journey together

It is in this spirit that you have come here to today to exchange these vows.

### VOWS

The groom, repeat after me:

I The groom take you The Bride to be my wife /

I promise above all else to live in truth with you/

and to communicate fully and fearlessly/

I give you my hand and my heart /

as a sanctuary of warmth and peace/

and pledge my love, devotion, faith and honor

as I join my life to yours.

(REPEAT SAME FOR THE BRIDE, OR MODIFY IF YOU WISH)

### RINGS

For thousands of years lovers have exchanged rings as a token of their vows.

These simple gold bands are not of great value in themselves,

but are made precious by our wearing of them.

Your rings say that even in your uniqueness you have chosen to be bound together.

Let these rings also be a sign that love has substance as well as soul,

a present as well as a past, and that, despite its occasional sorrows,

love is a circle of happiness, wonder, and delight.

The groom, take The Bride's ring and put it on her finger, and repeat after me:

Just as this circle is without end, my love for you is eternal/

Just as it is made of indestructible substance/

my commitment to you will never fail/

With this ring I take you to be my trusted confidante

and partner for life.

(REPEAT SAME FOR THE BRIDE, OR MODIFY IF YOU WISH)

### PRONOUNCEMENT

The groom and The Bride, although I'm officiating here today,

it is not truly in my power to sanctify, legitimize or bless your relationship in any way,

because the two of you have already done that in your hearts.

So, by joining hands right now and looking into each other's eyes,

let it be known that you are joined, body and soul in this lifetime,  
and that this bond is sacred and eternal.

And now that you have stood before me and exchanged these rings and these vows,  
and have agreed to be married according to the laws of the state of Minnesota,  
it gives me gives me great pleasure to pronounce that you are Husband and Wife.

#2

Civil Ceremony

Simple Wedding Ceremony

The step which you are about to take is the most important into which human beings can come. It is a union of two people founded upon mutual respect and affection. Your lives will change, your responsibilities will increase, but your joy will be multiplied if you are sincere and earnest with your pledge to one another.

\_\_(Groom)\_\_\_\_\_, will you have this woman to be your wedded wife, to love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, and forsaking all others, keep you only unto her, for so long as you both shall live?

\_(Bride)\_\_\_\_\_, will you have this man to be your wedded husband, to love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, and forsaking all others, keep you only unto him, so long as you both shall live?

Take hands and repeat after me: I, \_\_(Groom)\_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_(Bride)\_\_\_\_\_, to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, to love and to cherish, from this day forward.

I, \_\_(Bride)\_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_(Groom)\_\_\_\_\_, to be my wedded husband, to have and to hold, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, to love and to cherish, from this day forward.

Do you have a ring for the bride? Please place the ring on the bride's finger and say: With this ring, I thee wed.

Is there a ring for the groom? Please place the ring on the groom's finger and say: With this ring I thee wed.

Let these rings be given and received as a token of your affection, sincerity and fidelity to one another.

In as much as \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ have consented together in wedlock and have witnessed the same before this company, and pledged their vows to each other, by the authority vested in me by the State of Minnesota, I now pronounce you husband and wife. (You may now kiss .)

#3

Modern Civil Ceremony:

Welcome to family and friends:

You are here to witness a wedding. Today we unite \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ as husband and wife. What we do today is done in conformity to the laws of Louisiana and in the historical Western tradition of the act of marriage.

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, you have requested that I marry you. Do you both do this of your own desire and free will?

Groom & Bride answer "We do."

Do any of the witnesses know of any reason why we may not legally continue with this wedding?

Witnesses answer "We do not."

Vows:

Then let us continue. \_\_\_\_\_, if it is your desire to become the husband of \_\_\_\_\_, then repeat after me.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wife. In this moment I promise before these witnesses to love you and care for you all of our days. I accept you with your faults and your strengths, even as I offer myself with my faults and strengths. I promise to support you when you need support and to turn to you when I need support. I choose you as the one with whom I will spend my life.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my husband. In this moment I promise before these witnesses to love you and care for you all of our days. I accept you with your faults and your strengths, even as I offer myself with my faults and strengths. I promise to support you when you need support and to turn to you when I need support. I choose you as the one with whom I will spend my life.

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, you have shared promises in our presence. Do you have a rings that you wish to exchange?

Couple replies "We do."

Rings

\_\_\_\_\_, will you give your ring to \_\_\_\_\_ and repeat these words:

I give you this ring as a reminder of the promises we exchanged today.

\_\_\_\_\_, will you give your ring to \_\_\_\_\_ and repeat these words:

I give you this ring as a reminder of the promises we exchanged today.

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, you have exchanged your promises and given and received rings in my presence.

By these acts you have become husband and wife. According to the laws of the state of Minnesota, I hereby pronounce you are husband and wife. You may now kiss.

#4

Wedding Ceremony

Celebrant

On behalf of \_\_\_ and \_\_\_ welcome to their wedding. For these two people marriage involves a loving honest and open relationship based on the equal freedom and identity of both partners. It means a sincere commitment to share each others joys and sorrows, to give support and encouragement and to grow and change together in the years to come.

\*\*\*optional giving away

Celebrant

Who gives this woman to be married today?

(answer from any close relative or friend who the couple think is suitable including the parents or children of the bride)

"I do" (reading from the celebrant or other person chosen by the couple)

VOWS

Celebrant

to each of the couple in turn

Please repeat after me:

I call upon these people present to witness that I \_(groom/bride)\_ take you \_(groom/bride)\_ to be my wife/husband to share with you a relationship of love and of tenderness and laughter.

I will stand by you through all our tomorrow's respecting you as a person your individuality, your needs your changes and enjoy your love through out our lives

\*\*\*Reading\*\*\* from the celebrant or other person selected by the couple (from any other source chosen by the couple)

RINGS a ring may be given and accepted or rings exchanged

Celebrant

May I have the ring/rings please.

Please repeat after me

I give you this ring as a token of my love and a sign of my promise

I accept/ give you this ring as a token of my love and a sign of my promise

PRONOUNCEMENT OF MARRIAGE

Celebrant

\_(groom)\_\_\_ and \_(bride)\_\_\_ you have made solemn promises to each other today in front of these witnesses may we wish you love and strength in all the trials and triumphs that life has to offer you. By the powers vested in me by the people and laws of our nation, as a civil celebrant I now pronounce you husband and wife. You may kiss the bride.

#5

## A Traditional Marriage Ceremony

Statement from Minister:

Marriage is an institution of divine appointment and is commended as honorable among all men. It is the most important step in life and should not therefore be entered into unadvisedly or lightly, but discreetly and soberly. In this estate these two persons come now to be joined. If any person present can show cause why they may not lawfully be joined together, let him now speak or else hereafter forever hold his peace.

(Addressing the couple the minister continues)

I, solemnly require and charge you both, as you hope for joy and peace in the marriage state, if either of you know any just cause why you may not be lawfully joined together in matrimony, you do now confess it.

(minister waits for response, then continues)

It is then your will to proceed?

(The parties must now join right hands)

To the man:

Do you sir, take this woman to be your lawful wife and do you promise before God and these witnesses, to love her, comfort her, honor and keep her in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others keep thee only unto her so long as you both shall live?

The man shall answer, I do.

To the woman:

Do you take this man to be your lawful husband; and do you solemnly promise before God and these witnesses that you will love, honor, and keep him in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others keep thee only unto him so long as you both shall live?

The woman shall answer, I do.

RING:

(If the parties wish to use the ring, the minister shall instruct the man to place the ring on the third finger of the woman's left hand and hold as he repeats after the minister):

"With this ring I thee wed and with all my worldly goods I thee endow, in God's name. Amen." (or according to the creed of the parties contracting.)

Inasmuch as this man and this woman have in the presence of God and these witnesses consented together to be joined in the lawful bonds of matrimony and thereto have given and pledged their troth each to the other (and if a ring is used: have declared the same by giving and receiving a ring),

I now according to the ordinances of God and in the name of the State of Minnesota, pronounce them husband and wife.

"What therefore God hath joined together let not man put asunder."

And now may the God of peace prosper and bless you in this new relation, and may the grace of Jesus Christ abound unto you now and always. Amen.....you may kiss the bride.

#6

## A SAMPLE CEREMONY

(Approximately 10-15 minutes in length)

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#### VOWS

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and to communicate fully and fearlessly/  
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as a sanctuary of warmth and peace/  
and pledge my love, devotion, faith and honor  
as I join my life to yours.

(REPEAT SAME FOR THE BRIDE, OR MODIFY IF YOU WISH)

#### RINGS

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but are made precious by our wearing of them.  
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Let these rings also be a sign that love has substance as well as soul,  
a present as well as a past, and that, despite its occasional sorrows,  
love is a circle of happiness, wonder, and delight.  
The groom, take The Bride's ring and put it on her finger, and repeat after me:  
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Just as it is made of indestructible substance/  
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and partner for life.

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#### PRONOUNCEMENT

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And now that you have stood before me and exchanged these rings and these vows,  
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