



Rev. Ann Fuller

Some Christian denominations have specific wedding liturgies while others provide their clergy with great latitude in constructing wedding ceremonies. Couples who wish to honor their Christian beliefs in the context of their wedding can do so through the inclusion of prayer, scripture readings, religious music, and desired references to their faith in virtually any element of the ceremony.

The ceremony below is provided as an example of a non-denominational Christian ceremony in that it does not conform to a particular denomination's liturgical requirements or reference any specific Christian theology. This particular wedding was written for a couple raised in two different Christian denominations, but not currently active in a congregation within either tradition.

- Presentation of the Couple
- Declaration of Intent
- Words of Welcome
- Opening Prayer
- Reading from Paul's Letter to the Colossians 3:12-14
- Affirmation of Marriage
- Exchange of Vows
- Blessing of the Rings
- Exchange of Rings
- Unity Candle
- Reading from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 3:12-14
- Community Vow of Support
- Blessing of the Marriage
- Declaration of Marriage

Presentation of the Bride

Truly blessed is the couple who come to the marriage altar with the approval and blessings of their families and friends. Who has the honor of presenting this woman to be married this day? ~ *Escort responds*

(Bride) and (Groom), please join your hands, and in so doing, join your hearts.

Declaration of Intent

The bond and covenant of marriage was established by God and therefore is not to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly; but reverently, deliberately, and in accordance with the purposes for which it was instituted. (Bride) and (Groom), have you come here joyfully and without reservation to be united as one in holy matrimony for the rest of your days? ~ *We have.*



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Words of Welcome

Dear friends and family, with great affection for (Groom) and (Bride), we have gathered together to witness and bless their union in marriage. To this sacred moment they bring the fullness of their hearts as a treasure and a gift from God to share with one another. They bring the dreams which bind them together in an eternal commitment. They offer to one another their gifts and talents, their unique personalities and spirits, which God will unite together into one being. We rejoice with them in thankfulness to the Lord for creating this union of hearts, built on friendship, respect and love.

Opening Prayer

Let us pray. Heavenly Father, (Groom) and (Bride) are about to vow their unending loyalty to each other. We ask you to accept the shared treasure of their life together, which they now create in your presence. Grant them everything they need, that they may increase in their knowledge of you and live lives full of goodness and love. May your blessing be on this wedding service. Protect, guide, and bless (Groom) and (Bride) in their marriage. Surround them and us with your love now and always. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Reading

A Reading From Paul's Letter to the Colossians 3:12-14

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.

Affirmation of Marriage

(Groom) and (Bride), your marriage is a partnership, founded in love and dependent upon mutual commitment, trust, and responsibility. Each of you will share in both the struggles and joys found in life and love. When one is saddened, both are sad, and when you share happiness, it will be multiplied. For what was separate has now become whole and complete. Remember the strength of your marriage relies on mutual consideration, patience, kindness, and affection. You are charged to dedicate your lives to one another in the sight of God. Giving loyalty and reverence to the Father through Jesus Christ, thus uniting with him, and living your lives by his compassionate example, will bring you true happiness as your eternal reward.



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Love between man and woman, like any other love, is a love generous in giving and generous in receiving. It is full of laughter, compassion and rejoicing. Love nourishes but it does not possess; in love we affirm one another and do not dominate. To love is not to win or lose, but to help and be helped. Trust that this love will stay, trust that you two will work to support, cherish and encourage each other. Trust that you can be strong enough to let your paths be different, to allow distances to come between you, knowing this freedom of spirit will draw you back together again. Love with an open hand and consequently in giving, you shall receive.

Exchange of Vows

(Groom) and (Bride), as you stand together in God's presence, remember love and loyalty serve as the foundations of a happy and enduring home. If your solemn vows are kept permanently, and you steadfastly seek to do the will of your Heavenly Father, your lives will be full of peace and joy, and the home you are establishing will abide through every change.

(Bride), please look into (Groom's) eyes as I ask; Do you (Bride) take (Groom) to be your wedded husband pledging to give all the love, faith, compassion, respect and effort a holy ordained union demands, dedicating yourself in mind, body, heart and soul to (Groom) until death you do part? ~ *I do.*

(Groom), please look into (Bride's) eyes as I ask; Do you (Groom) take (Bride) to be your wedded wife pledging to give all the love, faith, compassion, respect and effort a holy ordained union demands, dedicating yourself in mind, body, heart and soul to (Groom) until death you do part? ~ *I do.*

Exchange of Rings

May I have the rings please?

Dear Lord, bless these rings (Groom) and (Bride) have set apart to be visible signs of the inward and spiritual bond which unites their hearts. This circle will now seal the vows of their marriage and will symbolize the purity and endlessness of their love. As they give and receive these rings, may they testify to the world of the covenant made between them now and forever.

(Groom), please look into (Bride's) eyes, repeating after me as you place the ring upon her hand.

*I give you this ring as a symbol,
not only of my love for you
and my promise to be your faithful husband,
but as a reminder God is also part of our marriage,
to be honored and praised every day of our lives.*



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(Bride), please look into (Groom's) eyes, repeating after me as you place the ring upon her hand.

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Unity Candle

(Bride) and (Groom) you have just sealed your vows with the giving and receiving a ring. Today your union is further symbolized by the union of two flames.

(Bride) and (Groom) as you light your separate candles, you honor your separate selves: your uniqueness and your autonomy. These flames represents the light of your being: your special talents, needs, visions and gifts--all that make you the person the other has come to cherish most in this world.

As you blend your flames to light the third candle, you celebrate the power of separate lights to ignite a common flame of passion and commitment, and to come together as one. The mystery shall be fulfilled and the two shall become one flesh. As this center light cannot be divided, let not your lives be divided. May your first thoughts be for each other; your plans be mutual, your joys and your sorrows shared. May the light of God's love shine forth from your union and reflect the light of his love for us.

Reading

A reading from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians:

Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.

Community Vow of Support

Today, (Bride) and (Groom), who began on separate paths, have been joined as one. You, their family and friends are a community of support surrounding (Bride) and (Groom). Each of you, by your presence here today, is being called upon to uphold them in loving each other. I ask that you always stand beside them, never between them. Offer them your love and your support and refrain from judgment. Encourage them when encouragement is needed and listen carefully when they seek your advice. In these ways, you can honor this marriage. Therefore I ask, now that you have heard (Groom) and (Bride) exchange their marriage vows, do you, their family and friends, promise from this day forward, to encourage them and love them, and to help guide and support them in being steadfast in the promises they have made?" If you agree, please say, "We do."



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Blessing of the Marriage

Let us pray. Lord, help (Bride) and (Groom) to always remember when they first met and the strong love that grew between them. To work that love into practical things so nothing can divide them. May they always speak words both kind and loving, and may their hearts be always ready to ask forgiveness as well as to forgive. Dear Lord, we place their marriage into your hands. Amen.

Declaration of Marriage

Because (Groom) and (Bride) have desired each other in marriage, witnessing this before God, sealing their vows in the giving and receiving of rings, I do proclaim they are husband and wife in the sight of God and man. Let all people here and everywhere recognize and respect this holy union, now and forever. You may kiss your bride.

Brevard Minister