



Rev. Ann Fuller

I hear the phrase “we’re spiritual, but not really religious” quite a bit when I meet with couples to discuss their expectations for their wedding. I’ve found quite a few couples these days would like a ceremony that evokes a religious feel, but isn’t explicitly connect with a particular religion. The ceremony below was written for just such a couple.

- Presentation of the Bride
- Words of Welcome
- Declaration of Intent
- Reading: *We Need One Another*
- Affirmation of Marriage
- Exchange of Vows
- Exchange of Rings
- The Gift of the Vessel and the Rose
- Marriage Blessing
- Declaration of Marriage

Presentation of the Bride

Who presents this woman at her wedding this day? ~ *Escort Responds*

(Bride) and (Groom), please turn towards one another, join hands and in so doing, join your hearts.

Words of Welcome

It is with great pleasure we come together at this hour to witness the joining of these two hands, and two hearts in holy matrimony. (Bride) and (Groom) have fallen in love so deeply, so completely, that today, they make a bond, a sacred covenant, whereby their hearts, their bodies, and their souls shall be united as one in marriage for the rest of their days. (Groom) and (Bride) are about to enter a relationship of assumed mutual responsibilities and a promise of undying devotion. Nothing is easier than saying words, nothing harder than living them day-by-day. Love between a husband and wife means caring as much about the welfare and happiness of our partner as about ourselves. Burdens will be lighter because they divide them—joys more intense because they share them. (Bride) and (Groom) would like to take this moment to express their appreciation to you for being with them this day. Thank you for sharing in the great joy of this precious moment.

Declaration of Intent

The sacred covenant of marriage is not to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly; but reverently and deliberately. Therefore I ask you to state your intention. (Groom) and (Bride), have you come here joyfully and without reservation to be united as one in holy matrimony? ~ *We have.*



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Reading

We Need One Another

By George E. Odell

We need one another when we mourn and would be comforted. We need one another when we are in trouble and afraid. We need one another when we are in despair, in temptation, and need to be recalled to our best selves again. We need one another when we would accomplish some great purpose, and cannot do it alone. We need one another in the hour of success, when we look for someone to share our triumphs. We need one another in the hour of defeat, when with encouragement we might endure and stand again. We need one another when we come to die, and would have gentle hands prepare us for the journey. All our lives we are in need, and others are in need of us.

Affirmation of Marriage

(Bride) and (Groom) have shared with me a beautiful view of marriage that I would like to in turn share with you. They believe “Marriage is a time to reveal yourself fully and openly to someone, not in fear they will reject you but in hopes it will make them love you more. It’s a lifelong commitment and a responsibility, a promise between two people that they will forever love, respect, support and thrive for one another. Marriage is the ultimate confession that the measure of one’s life is inexorably linked to the other.”

(Bride) and (Groom) cherish one another’s patience, kindness, passion and intelligence. When two people believe the other brings out their best parts and enables one another to evolve to their highest purpose, the gifts they are to one another can truly never be measured. As life is full of its share of challenges and absurdities, these qualities they admire in one another will surely help them create a marriage of beauty and delight. (Bride) and (Groom), it is our hope you remain ever mindful of the gifts you are to one another. May you be ever grateful for the presence of this precious person who has chosen to make a life with you.

Exchange of Vows

(Groom) and (Bride), the shared potential of your union is great and now falls upon your shoulders the task of choosing values and making real the commitment you make this day. Your marriage begins with the exchange of pledges between you. Your union endures by the strength of your commitment as you endeavor to keep these vows fresh and vibrant from this day forward.



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(Bride), please look into (Groom's) eyes as you repeat after me.

*You, (Groom), are the love of my life,
my reason for living,
the inspiration I have always sought.
I pledge my undying dedication to you
for the rest of my life.
I love you with all of my heart and soul
and know that as long as you are next to me
I give my life to you
to ensure your happiness and well-being.
I, (Bride), take your hand
and hold you to be, my husband.
I vow to look upon you forever
with dedication, understanding, and unconditional love.*

(Bride), please look into (Groom's) eyes as you repeat after me.

*You, (Bride), are the love of my life,
my reason for living,
the inspiration I have always sought.
I pledge my undying dedication to you
for the rest of my life.
I love you with all of my heart and soul
and know that as long as you are next to me
I give my life to you
to ensure your happiness and well-being.
I, (Groom), take your hand
and hold you to be, my wife.
I vow to look upon you forever
with dedication, understanding, and unconditional love.*

Exchange of Rings

May I have the rings please?

Let us bring blessings to these rings, symbols of eternity and forgiveness. They are a reminder that love is never ending, but instead can be renewed at any time and place of our choosing. May these rings grace the loving hands of (Bride) and (Groom) with a joyful and nurturing presence, symbolic of the eternal love and faithfulness they pledge to one another.



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

*As this ring has no end or beginning,
it signifies the continuation of true love.
As I place it on your finger
with a pledge of love and faithfulness,
I give you all that I am and ever hope to be.*

(Bride), please look into (Groom's) eyes repeating after me as you place the ring on his finger.

*As this ring has no end or beginning,
it signifies the continuation of true love.
As I place it on your finger
with a pledge of love and faithfulness,
I give you all that I am and ever hope to be.*

The Gift of the Vessel and Rose

(Groom) and (Bride) have chosen to share two symbolic gifts, The Marriage Vessel and the Rose, to symbolize their life-long commitment to one another.

The spiritual roots of this ceremony grow out of an understanding of creation, one gift (presenting the vessel) crafted lovingly by human hands, the other (holding up the rose) brought forth by the glories of nature.

This vessel is a symbol of love's strength and endurance. The miracle of the vessel is that it not only protects, but is enriched and ennobled by that which it holds.

Likewise, the rose born of the tiniest of seeds, symbolizes both the beauty and the potential of love that blooms and grows through time. Both the vessel and the rose are individually unique, yet when combined, they create an object of even greater beauty.

(Groom), please present the vessel to (Bride) as you repeat after me:

*This vessel represents the strength I see in you.
I thank you for the person you are
and the person I am becoming
because of your love for me.*



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(Bride), please present the rose to (Groom) as you repeat after me:

*This rose represents the beauty I see in you.
I thank you for the love and care you have given me
and for all we will share together in this life.*

Please place the rose in the vase, hold it together and repeat after me.

*As our gifts bring beauty
and purpose to each other
may our lives continue
to enrich and strengthen one another.*

(Bride) and (Groom) as you share each passing day and as your days become years remember this tradition you have created. On each wedding anniversary, place an additional rose in your marriage vessel to demonstrate your ever growing love for one another. May this gift always be a visual symbol of the beauty and strength you bring to your life together.

Blessing of the Marriage

Life and love are the greatest gifts bestowed upon humanity.
May your union grant you patience, tolerance, and understanding
as well as the passion and excitement every marriage should possess.
May you need one another, as a sign of strength.
May you hunger for one another, as a sign of fulfillment.
May you enchant one another, as a sign of harmony.
May you embrace one another, as a sign of unity.
May you support one another, as a sign of mutual independence.
May you continually rediscover your love in one another, as the greatest gift of all.

Declaration of Marriage

(Bride) and (Groom) you have pledged your faith and declared your unity with the exchange of vows and the giving and receiving of rings. As you are now joined together in mutual esteem and devotion, it is my joy and privilege, as a duly ordained minister in the state of Florida, to pronounce you husband and wife. You may kiss your bride.