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Traditional Ceremony

Dearly beloved: We have come together in the presence of God to witness and bless the joining together of this man and this woman in Holy Matrimony. The bond and covenant of marriage was established by God in wisdom and kindness and scripture commends it to be honored among all people. The union of husband and wife in heart, body, and mind is intended by God for their mutual joy; for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity; and, when it is God's will, for the procreation of children and their nurture in the knowledge of truth and justice, and love of all creation. Therefore marriage is not to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly, but reverently, deliberately, and in accordance with the purposes for which it was instituted by God. Into this holy union Groom/Bride now come to be joined. If any of you can show just cause why they may not lawfully be married, speak now; or else forever hold your peace.

In honor of the sacred pledge you are about to make, and symbolizing its unbroken perpetuity, please join right hands.

Groom/Bride, will you have this woman/man to be your wife/husband; to live together in the covenant of marriage: Will you love her/him, comfort her/him, honor and keep her/him, in sickness and in health; and forsaking all others, be faithful to her/him so long as you both shall live?

The Bible says: *If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. Love is patient: love is kind: love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful: it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.*

Please face one another and join all your hands together.

I, Groom/Bride, take you Bride/Groom, to be my wife/husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and cherish, until we are parted by death. This is my solemn vow.

Bless, O Lord, these rings to be signs of the vows by which this man and this woman have bound themselves to each other. Amen.

Groom/Bride, I give you this ring as a symbol of my vow, and with all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you, in the Name of God.

Now that Groom and Bride have given themselves to each other by solemn vows, with the joining of hands and the giving and receiving of a ring. I pronounce that they are husband and wife. Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder.

Let us pray: Eternal God, creator and preserver of all life, look with favor upon the world you have made and upon Groom and Bride who you make one flesh in Holy Matrimony... Give them wisdom and devotion in the ordering of their common life, that each may be to the other a strength in need a counselor in perplexity, a comfort in sorrow, and a companion in joy. Give them grace, when they hurt each other, to recognize and acknowledge their fault, and to seek each other's forgiveness and yours. Grant that their wills may be so knit together in your will, and their spirits in your spirit, that they may grow in love and peace with you and one another all the days of their lives. AMEN.

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Moderately Religious

We have come together today to celebrate your marriage; Groom and Bride. Marriage has been said to be the highest state two humans can achieve. The Bible tells us it was given by God, in wisdom and in kindness, for the joy of the participants and the good of mankind. Through this unique joining of two complimentary viewpoints, each partner becomes stronger, each becomes wiser, each becomes more loving. But marriage is a garden which needs to be tended every day; the benefits we receive through marriage are not free. The sacraments of marriage are loving and forgiving, and we must do both, over and over for all the days of our lives, if we are to stay married and stay happy.

In honor of the sacred pledge you are about to make, will you please join right hands. Do you Groom/Bride, take Bride/Groom to be your wedded wife/husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, in sickness or in health, in prosperity as well as in adversity, to love and to cherish, so long as you both may live?

READING FROM THE PROPHET

May I have the rings, please?

Bless, O Lord, these rings to be signs of the vows by which Groom and Bride have bound themselves to each other. These rings are reminders of the covenant you make today before myself, these witnesses and God. They are never-ending; like your commitment. They are precious and untarnishing; like your love. Please place these rings and honor each other in their giving.

Repeat after me: I Groom/Bride, take you, Bride/Groom, as my wedded wife/husband, and I promise you love, honor and respect; to be faithful to you, and not to forsake you until death us do part. So help me God.

From this day forward, may you live together in peace. May you grow each day in understanding and compassion. When you are apart, may you return to each other in togetherness. May the home you establish be a place of sanctuary, where many will find a friend. Inasmuch as you, Groom and you, Bride, have demonstrated your intentions by the joining of hands, the giving and receiving of a ring, and have promised yourselves to each other in the face of God and these witnesses-- and are joined together in mutual esteem - in accordance with the laws of the State of Florida, and more importantly by the highest power of the land and the seas; I pronounce that you may henceforth and hereafter be known to all as husband and wife.

Let us pray: Eternal God, creator and preserver of all life, look with favor upon the world you have made and upon Groom and Bride who you make one flesh in Holy Matrimony... Give them wisdom and devotion in the ordering of their common life, that each may be to the other a strength in need a counselor in perplexity, a comfort in sorrow, and a companion in joy. Give them grace, when they hurt each other, to recognize and acknowledge their fault, and to seek each other's forgiveness and yours. Grant that their wills may be so knit together in your will, and their spirits in your spirit, that they may grow in love and peace with you and one another all the days of their lives. AMEN.

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Civil Ceremony

You have come here today, Groom and Bride, because you believe that by being together your lives will be better and more productive than they would be apart. In marriage a new perspective is created by the joining of male and female views of life and the world. Through this partnership, each partner becomes stronger, each becomes wiser, each becomes more loving. But marriage is a garden which needs to be tended every day: the benefits we receive through marriage are not free. If we don't make time to tell our partner how much we value what we have together, we will begin to take each other for granted and lose the very special quality that we originally united to enjoy. The importance of marriage to humans is so great, that it is the oldest rite or ritual of any kind recorded in history; its scope so great that it is virtually the only custom recognized by every human government and religion.

It is into this dynamic and wonderful state of partnership that you two come, today, to be joined. In honor of the solemn pledge you are about to make, and symbolizing its unbroken perpetuity, please join right hands.

Groom/ Bride, do you take Bride/Groom to be your lawfully wedded wife/husband; to have and to hold from this day forward, for richer for poorer, in prosperity or adversity, to love and to cherish, so long as you both may live?

READING FROM THE PROPHET

May I have the rings please, and join all your hands together.

Throughout human tradition, when you make a pledge, it has been deemed good to have a token to remind you of that pledge. For this purpose you have chosen rings. They are appropriate to the task because they are circles never ending, like the promises you make to each other today. And they are made of precious metal, never to be tarnished, like the love you express before myself and these witnesses. Please place these rings, and honor each other in their giving.

Repeat after me: I Groom/ Bride, take you Bride/Groom to be my wife/husband. I promise you love, honor and respect; to be faithful to you, and not to forsake you, until death us do part.

From this day forward, may you live together in peace; may you grow each day in understanding and compassion. When you are apart, may you return to one another in togetherness. May the home you establish be a place of sanctuary, where many will find a friend. And what we have joined together, let no one put asunder.

Because you two came here today intending to marry. Because you joined hands and made solemn vows, and exchanged rings to remind you of those vows, and you are now joined as partners in mutual love and respect: according to the powers vested in me by the State of Florida, and the highest power of the land and the sea; I pronounce that your wedding vows are sealed and you may henceforth be known to all as husband and wife. You may officially kiss each other.

ON MARRIAGE-

You were born together, and together you shall be forevermore.
You shall be together when the white wings of death scatter your days.
Ay, you shall be together even in the silent memory of God.
But let there be spaces in your togetherness,
And let the winds of the heavens dance between you.
Love one another, but make not a bond of love:
Let it rather be a moving sea between the shores of your souls.
Fill each other's cup, but drink not from one cup.
Give one another of your bread but eat not from the same loaf.
Sing and dance together and be joyous, but let each one of you be alone,
Even as the strings of a lute are alone,
Though they quiver with the same music.
Give your hearts, but not into each other's keeping.
For only the hand of life can contain your hearts.
And stand together yet not too near together:
For the pillars of the temple stand apart,
And the oak tree and the cypress grow not in each other's shadow.

From- THE PROPHET By- Kahlil Gibran