

Marriage Ceremony

The Wedding of Bride and Groom

Gathering Time and Announcements:

Word of Welcome:

Welcome family and friends to this celebration of love, life and commitment.

Address to Assembly:

Today, **Groom's** and **Bride's** relationship changes. All of us hope it will grow, develop and become better and better. Indeed this is a day of hope. It is a day in which **Groom** and **Bride** demonstrate their faith in and love for each other.

This occasion is a special celebration not only for **Bride** and **Groom** but for every person who has had a part in shaping their lives thus far.

All of us are witnesses to these vows. You who have gathered here as witnesses are called to continue to support, nurture, and encourage as **Groom** and **Bride** unite in marriage.

You are called to try, with the great love and wisdom you can command, to support this new family and help in every way you can.

Statement of Support for **Bride** and **Groom**:

And so I ask you as friends and family, will you support and encourage **Bride** and **Groom** in their new life together? (*I will*)

Address to Couple:

Bride and Groom

Marriage is more than two people repeating vows. It is certainly more than a piece of paper. There is an art to any creative activity. So too in marriage.

Part of the art of marriage is finding room for things of the spirit. Join together in your search for the good and the beautiful in life. Part of the art of marriage is being flexible, giving each other space to grow. So cultivate flexibility, patience, giving each other room to grow. As you cultivate flexibility, patience, understanding, also develop a sense of humour in your relationship. Finally, develop your capacity to forgive and heal differences day by day.

This ceremony today declares publicly that this relationship is not just any relationship. It is a most serious covenant before all of us as witnesses.

Today a new family is born and our world will be the better for its birth. For that we celebrate.

Reading:

A man from ancient times by the name of Paul wrote, "Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant nor rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it

is not irritable or resentful, it does not rejoice at the wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.”

Questions:

1. **Groom** you have chosen **Bride** 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? (answer “*I will.*”)
2. **Bride** you have chosen **Groom** 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? (answer “*I will.*”)
3. **Bride & Groom** : Do both of you promise to make the necessary adjustments in your personal lives in order that you may live in a harmonious relationship together? (answer “*We will.*”)

Exchange of Vows:

Groom: In the presence of these witnesses I **Groom** choose you **Bride** to be my wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, in joy and in sorrow, to love and to cherish, and to be faithful to you alone. This is my solemn vow.

Bride: In the presence of these witnesses I **Bride** choose you **Groom** to be my husband, and to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, in joy and in sorrow, to love and to cherish, and to be faithful to you alone. This is my solemn vow.

The Giving and Receiving of Rings:

Groom says: **Bride**, as an equal partner, I **Groom** give myself to you. I accept you as you are. I will not seek to change you to my own desire. I pledge you my love, my laughter and my tears and I give you this ring as a symbol of that pledge.

Bride says: **Groom**, as an equal partner, I **Bride** give myself to you. I accept you as you are. I will not seek to change you to my own desire. I pledge you my love, my laughter and my tears and I give you this ring as a symbol of that pledge.

Blessing of the Rings:

Let these rings continue to you both a symbol of the value, the purity, the constancy of true wedded love, and a seal of the vows you have now made.

Sand Ceremony

(Optional)

_____ and _____, today you join your separate lives together. The two separate bottles of sand symbolize your separate lives, separate families and separate sets of friends. They represent all that you are and all that you'll ever be as an individual. They also represent your lives before today. As these two containers of sand are poured into the third container, the individual containers of sand will no longer exist, but will be joined together as one. Just as these grains of sand can never be separated and poured again into the individual containers, so will your marriage be.

Signing of the Register:

Blessing of the Couple:

Wishing you always -

Walls for the wind

And a roof for the rain

And tea beside the warmth of the fire.

Laughter to cheer you

And those you love near you,

And all that your heart might desire!

OR:

Now you will feel no rain, For each of you will be shelter for the other.

Now you will feel no cold, For each of you will be warmth for the other.

Now there is no loneliness for you, Now you are two persons but there is only one life before you.

Go now to your dwelling place to enter into the days of your togetherness and may your days be good and long together. Amen. *(taken from an Apache Indian Wedding benediction)*

Declaration of Marriage:

Groom and **Bride** we have heard your promise to share your lives in marriage. We recognize and respect the covenant you have made this day. So in honesty and sincerity of what you have said and done here before friends and family and by the power vested in me by the Province of New Brunswick I now pronounce you husband and wife and wife and husband.

You may kiss.

Introduction of the Couple:

I present to you

Best Man:

Maid of Honour:

Place and Time:

Officiant: Rev. Terrance R. Trites, 004734