

WEDDING CEREMONY

AFCM

Processional / Giving of the Bride

(Bride is escorted down the aisle and joins the Groom at the front.)

OFFICIANT:

Who gives this woman to be married to this man?

ESCORT RESPONSE:

Her mother and I do. (or appropriate response)

(Escort places Bride's hand in Groom's hand and is seated.)

OFFICIANT TO GROOM:

Take your Bride and step forward, please.

OFFICIANT TO GUESTS:

You may be seated.

Opening Remarks

Dearly beloved, we are gathered here today in the sight of God and in the presence of family and friends to celebrate one of life's greatest moments — the joining together of [Bride] and [Groom] in holy matrimony.

Marriage is a sacred covenant created and ordained by God. It is a union of love, commitment, and faithfulness that reflects the relationship between Christ and His Church. Today we celebrate the love these two share and ask God's blessing upon their life together.

Charge to the Couple

Today is a joyful and meaningful day, as you begin your life together as husband and wife.

Marriage is more than a legal contract — it is a covenant of love and commitment. As you walk through life together, remember that the foundation of a strong marriage is love, patience, forgiveness, and faith in God.

Scripture reminds us that “God is love,” and it is love that has brought us together here today to witness the joining of two lives into one.

Reading

“The Hands of the Bride and Groom”

OFFICIANT:

[Bride] and [Groom], please face one another and hold hands.

TO BRIDE:

These are the hands of your best friend that hold yours on your wedding day, as he promises to love you for the rest of his life. These are the hands that will work alongside yours as you build your future together, sharing dreams, laughter, and the journey of life.

TO GROOM:

These are the hands of your best friend that hold yours today as she pledges her love and commitment to you. These are the hands that will support you, encourage you, and walk beside you through every season of life.

TO COUPLE:

Together, as a team, the dreams you share can become reality.

Prayer for the Couple

Lord, bless these hands that you see before you this day. May they always be held by one another. Give them strength in times of challenge and tenderness in times of need. Help them to build a marriage rooted in Your grace and filled with love, faith, and commitment.

Guide them, protect them, and walk beside them throughout their life together.

Amen.

Profession of Intent

TO GROOM:

[Groom], do you take [Bride] to be your wedded wife, to live together in marriage? Do you promise to love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health, for richer or poorer, and forsaking all others remain faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

GROOM:

I do.

TO BRIDE:

[Bride], do you take [Groom] to be your wedded husband, to live together in marriage? Do you promise to love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health, for richer or poorer, and forsaking all others remain faithful to him as long as you both shall live?

BRIDE:

I do.

Vows

TO GROOM:

Please repeat after me.

I, [Groom], take you, [Bride], to be my wife.

I promise to nurture your dreams and grow with you in the life we build together.

I promise to help carry our challenges, because together we can face anything.

I promise to walk beside you as your partner and friend.

And I promise to love and trust you all the days of our lives.

TO BRIDE:

Please repeat after me.

I, [Bride], take you, [Groom], to be my husband.

I promise to nurture your dreams and grow with you in the life we build together.

I promise to help carry our challenges, because together we can face anything.

I promise to walk beside you as your partner and friend.

And I promise to love and trust you all the days of our lives.

Exchange of Rings

OFFICIANT TO GUESTS:

Wedding rings are an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace. The unbroken circle symbolizes eternal love and the unity of this man and woman in marriage.

TO GROOM:

Place the ring on [Bride]'s finger and repeat after me.

I give you this ring as a sign of my love and commitment to you.

May it always remind you that I am yours and you are mine.

TO BRIDE:

Place the ring on [Groom]'s finger and repeat after me.

I give you this ring as a sign of my love and commitment to you.

May it always remind you that I am yours and you are mine.

Scripture Blessing

“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 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things. Love never ends.”

(1 Corinthians 13)

Cherish one another as the unique individuals God created you to be. Respect one another, forgive quickly, and live each day thankful that you share life together.

Final Prayer

May God keep you in love with one another so that the peace of Christ fills your home. May your family and friends support you, and may your life together be filled with faith, joy, and enduring love.

Amen.

Pronouncement

Because you have pledged your love and faithfulness to one another before God and these witnesses, and by the authority vested in me by God and according to the laws of this state, I now pronounce you husband and wife.

[Groom], you may kiss your bride.

Presentation

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my honor to present to you for the first time:

Mr. and Mrs. [Last Name]