

WEDDING CEREMONY TEMPLATE

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(Welcome Message)

Dear friends and family ... it is my pleasure to welcome you as we celebrate the wedding day of (Bride) and (Groom) ... as they join together in devoted bond.

We are all truly honored that they have selected us to witness this day ... as their maiden voyage of marriage now sails forth ... steadfast in their love for one another ... as also held aloft by all of *your* love and hopes for them.

(Opening Words Option)

(See <http://islandweddings.us/RitesVows.pdf>)

(Acknowledgement)

(Bride and Groom), your beloved family and friends have gathered today in celebration of you. As you make your pledges to one another, may we all pledge ourselves to you ... ever dedicated to your happiness and your success.

(Remembrance Option)

And we bid a special welcome for those absent today ... family members who will always be present and cherished in your memories, if not at your tables. They are a part of the foundation that makes (bride and groom) the people they are today. May we always remember (names) ... and may we hold dear all absent loved ones who will always live on in our hearts.

(The Wedding Party)

As your loved ones have joined in this day, we have standing here beside you (Groomsmen, Bridesmaids). As you (Wedding Party) stand with (Bride and Groom) now, may you always be near to their left and their right ... faithful beacons as they navigate through life.



(Ceremony Options)

(Select Reading, Hand Rite, Sand Ceremony, Family Pledge, Unity Candle, and other ideas at <http://islandweddings.us/RitesVows.pdf>)

(Wedding Pledges)

(Bride and Groom), as you stand here today, you have reached a transformational waypoint in your lives.

Your future is an adventure about to depart. It is a new dawn, a new horizon, a new commitment, a new life.

The pledges you make at this moment will impact every turn and tack from this day on.

The formal exchange of your wedding vows is the most essential part of this ceremony.

These are the words that couples have spoken to one another for ages past. And while they may be very simple words, they have extraordinary meaning and importance.

As you speak them to one another, remember these are sacred promises, and such promises must be kept.

And so you publicly declare your vows – loud and amplified ...

(Bride and Groom Pledge Option)

Let us all now witness, as (Bride and Groom) offer their pledges to one another:

Groom Recites Pledge
Bride Recites Pledge

(See sample pledges at <http://islandweddings.us/RitesVows.pdf>)



(Exchange of the Rings)

Do you, (Groom), offer yourself to (Bride); to be your lawfully wedded wife, thru rough seas and calm; in sickness and in health; for rich times and poor; for better and for worse; to care for and to nurture; for long as you both shall abide?

“I do”

As you place the ring on her finger, please repeat after me:

With this ring, I marry you ...
And bind my life to yours ...
It is a symbol of my enduring love ...
My everlasting friendship
And the promise of all my tomorrows.



Do you, (Bride), offer yourself to (Groom); to be your lawfully wedded husband, thru rough seas and calm; in sickness and in health; for rich times and poor; for better and for worse; to care for and to nurture; for long as you both shall abide?

As you place the ring on his finger, please repeat after me:

With this ring, I marry you ...
And bind my life to yours ...
It is a symbol of my enduring love ...
My everlasting friendship
And the promise of all my tomorrows.

(Blessing of the Rings Option)

Now we have heard the vows that have been shared by (bride and groom) – but words, once spoken, are sometimes carried away like seabirds on a breeze.

Therefore, the wedding ring is a physical reminder of the promises that have been made today.

May these rings be blessed as testament of their loving unity.

Where there were two lives, may these rings join as one.

May (Bride) and (Groom) grow in understanding and in compassion.

May the home they build together be a safe sanctuary where many visitors will find a friend.

May these rings on their fingers, symbolize the binding love in their hearts.

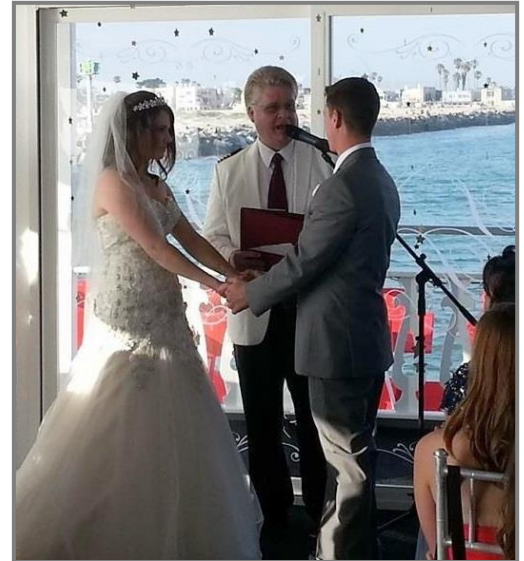
(Joining)

With the wedding rings now upon your fingers, please join hands ... What you take into your hands, you take into your heart. Cherish one another ... keep one another. And what love has joined together, let no one put apart.

(Captain's Blessing)

Frequently sea captains and chaplains are called to bestow a blessing upon a new vessel.

Such a blessing is well appropriate for your worthy vessel of marriage now about to depart -- may it carry you to wondrous destinations ... safely within one another's care ... and may it bear you to home ports often, for happy stays with those many who love and watch for you.



(Pronouncement)

And so, by the powers vested in me by the State of California, by captaincy and chaplaincy, I now pronounce you husband and wife. You may share your first wedded kiss.

(Presentation)

And now please allow me now to present: (married names)!

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