

Romantic Weddings

Rev Christopher Gleeson

A CONTEMPORARY WEDDING CEREMONY

CELEBRANT

Good evening, and welcome to the ceremony that will unite John and Susan in marriage. We gather here today to celebrate their union, and to honor their commitment to not just gazing at one another, but to looking outward together in the same direction. Today John and Susan proclaim their love to the world, and we rejoice with and for them.

In marriage, we give ourselves freely and generously into the hands of the one we love, and in doing so, each of us receives the love and trust of the other as our most precious gift. But even as that gift is shared by two people who are in love, it also touches the friends and family members who in various ways support and contribute to the relationship. All of you are John and Susan's community, and each of you has played some part in bringing them to this moment. This is why gathering as a community is such an important part of a wedding ceremony. Because John and Susan are now taking a new form as a married couple, and in this form, they become part of their community in a new way.

(NOTE: If you want to insert something personal, such as a favorite poem or song, a statement made to one another or to your family, a rose ceremony, a unity candle, or anything else "theatrical", this is the spot for it).

John and Susan, we are here to remember and rejoice with you and to recount with one another that it is love that guides us on our path, and to celebrate as you begin this journey together. It is in this spirit that you have come here today to exchange these vows.

VOWS

John, repeat after me:

I, John take you Susan to be my wife /
I promise above all else to live in truth with you/
and to communicate fully and fearlessly/
I give you my hand and my heart
and pledge my love, devotion, faith and honor
as I join my life to yours.

Susan, repeat after me:

Romantic Weddings

Rev Christopher Gleeson

I, Susan take you John to be my husband/
I promise above all else to live in truth with you/
and to communicate fully and fearlessly/
I give you my hand and my heart /
as a sanctuary of warmth and peace/
and pledge my love, devotion, faith and honor
as I join my life to yours.

RINGS

For thousands of years lovers have exchanged rings as a token of their vows. These simple gold bands are not of great value in themselves, but are made precious by our wearing of them. Your rings say that even in your uniqueness you have chosen to be bound together. Let these rings also be a sign that love has substance as well as soul, a present as well as a past, and that, despite its occasional sorrows, love is a circle of happiness, wonder, and delight.

John, take Susan's ring and put it on her finger, and repeat after me:

Just as this circle is without end, my love for you is eternal/
Just as it is made of indestructible substance/
my commitment to you will never fail/
With this ring I take you to be my trusted confidante
and partner for life.

Susan, put the ring on John's finger and repeat after me:

Just as this circle is without end, my love for you is eternal/
Just as it is made of indestructible substance/
my commitment to you will never fail/
With this ring I take you to be my trusted confidante and partner for life.

PRONOUNCEMENT

Inasmuch as you have consented together in this ceremony to live in wedlock and have sealed your vows in the presence of this assembly and by the giving of these rings, it gives me great pleasure to pronounce that you are Husband and Wife.

Romantic Weddings

Rev Christopher Gleeson

SIGNING THE REGISTER

PRESENTATION

It is my great joy to present to you Mr and Mrs

OTHER VOWS

_____, do you take _____ to be your husband, to love him, to cherish him, and to continually bestow upon him your heart's deepest devotion? {I do.}
And _____, do you take _____ to be your wife, to love her, to cherish her, and to continually bestow upon her your heart's deepest devotion? {I do.}

Please join hands, face one another and repeat after me: _____, you are my beloved, to love and to cherish, and to have and to hold, for richer, for poorer, for better, for worse, in sickness and in health, in sadness and in joy, to share our lives together, from this day forward. (Both bride and groom repeat these vows individually)

_____, I take you as my wife/husband. I pledge to share my life openly with you, to speak the truth to you in love; I promise to honor and tenderly care for you, to cherish and encourage your own fulfillment through all the changes of our lives.

EXCHANGE OF RINGS

May these rings be blessed as a symbol of this affectionate unity. Your two lives are being joined today in one unbroken circle. Wherever you go, may you always return to one another in your togetherness. May you find in one another the love for which all men and women yearn. May you grow in understanding and compassion. May the home which you establish together be such a place of sanctuary that all who are here today and others through the years will find there true friends. May these rings, soon to be on your fingers, symbolize the touch of the spirit of love that is in both your hearts.

_____, in placing the ring on _____'s left hand, please repeat after me: _____, I give you this ring as a pledge of my love, and as a symbol of our unity.

Romantic Weddings

Rev Christopher Gleeson

BENEDICTIONS OR BLESSINGS AT THE CLOSE OF A SERVICE

Benediction: Give to one another new experiences of joy. Challenge one another so that you may grow. May the love you hold for each other, now sealed in marriage, continue to mature with the passing years. May you never take each other for granted, but always experience the wonder of your union. Be slow to anger, quick to forgive, leaving no tracks of resentment behind each day. May your love consist not only in gazing into each other's eyes, but in looking outward in the same direction. May your life together be a source of strength and inspiration to yourselves, your families, your friends, and to all whose lives you touch.

Declaration and Benediction From the Book of Common Worship:

For as much as _____ and _____ have consented together to holy wedlock, and have witnessed the same before God and before this company, I pronounce that they are Husband and Wife, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen. What God has joined together, let not man put asunder. Let us pray. May God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, bless, preserve and keep you; the Lord mercifully with His favor look upon you, and fill you with all spiritual benediction and grace; that you may so live together in this life, that in the world to come you may have life everlasting. Amen.

Alternative Benediction:

May the Lord bless you and keep you. And may the Lord make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you. May God give you His peace in your going out and in your coming in, in your lying down and in your rising up, in your labor and in your leisure, in your laughter and in your tears, until that day when you come to stand before Jesus in that day in which there is no sunset and no dawning. Amen.