

Meaningful ceremonies



A sample of a Same Sex Ceremony - (10 -12 minutes)

Let us Begin:

(Opening words)

Friends and family, your presence is welcome on this glorious evening. We have come to celebrate the joining of _____ and _____ in a life commitment.

Since time immemorial, people have performed ceremonies to mark a transition, a change of status. Today we gather for that happiest of ceremonies – the change of status from single individuals to a married couple.

It is one of life's richest surprises when the fateful meeting of two individuals leads them to proceed together along a common path. It is indeed one of life's finest experiences when a chance relationship grows into a permanent bond of love.

This meeting and this love are what bring us together today. The uniting of these two friends to establish a new family is an important and memorable event. It brings together two separate families and backgrounds and creates a union that is a sign of hope in the midst of a troubled society.

In their love for each other, which they publicly express in this ceremony, _____ and _____ demonstrate not only their joy in the present but their commitment to share the future together. This is a time of celebration for all of you who know and love them.

(Declaration of Intent)

Before you, _____ and you, _____, are joined together in marriage in my presence and in the presence of these, your family, friends and community, I am bound to remind you publicly of the solemn, the serious and the permanent nature of the relationship into which you are now about to enter.

_____ and _____, do you come here freely, and without reservation, to enter a marriage as companions living together as one, enjoying equality? Do you promise to love, respect, assist and look after each other for the rest of your lives? Are you prepared to live in harmony, and jointly strive for the welfare of your family, and for a just and equal society?

(Answer) We do.

(Vows)

(To first participant)

_____, please take _____'s hand while i recite these vows.

Will you _____, take _____, to be no other than himself.
Loving what you know of him, trusting what you do not yet know,
will you respect his integrity and have faith in his abiding love for you,
through all your years, and in all that life may bring you.

(Answer) I will

To second participant)

_____, please take _____'s hand while i recite these vows.

Will you _____, take _____, to be no other than himself.
Loving what you know of him, trusting what you do not yet know,
will you respect his integrity and have faith in his abiding love for you,
through all your years, and in all that life may bring you

(Answer) I will

(Blessing)

Above you are the stars, below you are the stones.
As time passes, remember...
Like a star should your love be constant,
Like the earth should your love be firm.
Possess one another, yet be understanding.
Have patience with each other,
For storms will come, and they will go quickly,
Forced to dissipate in the light of your love.
Be free in giving of affection and of warmth.
Have no fear, and let not the ways or words of the unenlightened give you unease.
For the Old Gods are with you,
Now and always!

(Exchange of Rings)

Traditionally, the passage to the status of married couple is marked by the exchange of rings. These rings are a symbol of the unbroken circle of love. Love freely given has no beginning and no end, no giver and no receiver for each is the giver and each is the receiver.

(To first participant)

_____please repeat these vows phrase by phrase after me.

With this ring I take you, _____, as my spouse.
I offer all that I am in return,
and pledge to remember, over every day of our lives together,
why we were united here today."

(To second participant)

_____please repeat these vows phrase by phrase after me.

With this ring I take you, _____, as my spouse.
I offer all that I am in return,
and pledge to remember, over every day of our lives together,
why we were united here today.

(Proclamation)

And now, _____and _____ have declared before all of us that they will live together in marriage. They have made special promises to each other. They have symbolized it by joining hands, taking vows, exchanging rings and by signing their wedding certificate.
By the authority vested in me by the State of _____,, I pronounce that you are now and forever, legally married..

You may kiss each other!

(Presentation)

Therefore, on your behalf and on the behalf of the community, I introduce the newly-weds _____ & _____!