

## **Ceremony of the Hands.**

With whose blessings does Bride come this day to be married?

Her mother's and I  
Her father's and I  
Our family's on behalf of her/our parents.

Please be seated.

Welcome, we are here today to celebrate love. This is the day that Bride and Groom have chosen as their wedding day. Many of you have given them much happiness, love, warmth, and guidance through the various stages of their lives. They would like to sincerely thank you all for being here to celebrate their big day as they stand before you to make this declaration of love and loyalty.

As we share this most important moment in their lives, let us surround Bride and Groom with our love and best wishes for them, their wedding day and their journey in their new life together.

Groom and Bride, you have chosen this day to be married and this ceremony serves both as an exchange of promises to each other as well as a celebration of your love for each other. It symbolizes the magic of your two hearts joining as one with a love that burns bright.

A marriage means more than two people have come together. It says and shows that they love each other. That their enjoyment of life together is more than it is when they are apart.

The light of your love is instilled with a unique spirit which characterizes both of you, and now when fused together shines twice as bright. May the eternal flame of your love continue to burn brightly for as long as you both shall live.

There are five things that a marriage should have. They are commitment, trust, communication, patience and humor. These become a strong foundation of a successful partnership.

With the love you have for each other, everything is possible.

Paul wrote in his letter to the Corinthians that Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love

does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails...

This kind of love enriches each part of life and marriage enriches love. Two lives shared with this kind of love can hold more fulfillment and happiness than either life alone." "Groom, are you ready to enter into this marriage with Bride, believing the love you share and your faith in each other will endure all things?"

Groom "I am."

Officiant "Bride, are you ready to enter into this marriage with Groom, believing the love you share and your faith in each other will endure all things?"

Bride "I am."

Bride and Groom please face each other.

Bride please take Groom's hands in yours palms up, so you may see the gift that they are to you.

These are the hands of your best friend, young, strong and vibrant with love, that are holding yours on your wedding day, as he promises to love you all the days

of his life. These are the hands that will give you strength when you need it, support and encouragement to pursue your dreams, and comfort through difficult times.

These are the hands that will work alongside yours, as together you build your future, as you laugh, cry, as you share your innermost secrets and dreams.

These are the hands that will countless times; wipe the tears from your eyes, tears of sorrow, and tears of joy.

These are the hands that will tenderly lift your chin and brush your cheek as they raise your face to look into his eyes, eyes that are filled completely with his overwhelming love for you.

Groom please take Bride's hands in yours, palms up, so you may see the gift that they are to you.

These are the hands of your best friend, smooth, young and carefree, that are holding yours on your wedding day, as she pledges her love and commitment to you all the days of her life.

These are the hands that will give you strength when you need it, support and encouragement to pursue your dreams, and comfort through difficult times.

These are the hands that will comfort you when you are sick, or console you when you are grieving.

These are the hands that will passionately love you and cherish you through the years, for a lifetime of happiness.

These are the hands that will give you support as she encourages you to chase down your dreams.

Bride and Groom these hands you hold will be those that when aged and wrinkled will still be reaching for yours with unspoken love and tenderness.

Together as a team, everything you wish for can be realized.

Officiant

God, bless these hands that you see before you this day. May they always be held by one another. Give them the strength to hold on during the storms of stress

and the dark of disillusionment. Keep them tender and gentle as they nurture each other in their wondrous love. Help these hands to continue building a relationship founded in your grace, rich in caring, and devoted in reaching for your perfection.

May Groom and Bride see their four hands as healer, protector, shelter and guide. We ask this in your name. Amen.

Groom and Bride now it's time to exchange your vows. You are about to make promises to each other. These vows are beautiful words representing even more beautiful intentions. No other human ties are more tender. No other vows more important than those you are about to pledge. The miracle lies in the path you have chosen to take together, and the true magic of love is the ability to stay the course.

Groom, do you take Bride to be your wife, your partner in all that life brings, to share in her moments of glory and achievement, to marry your voice with hers when it rings out with laughter, and to comfort her when she is in pain, for as long as you both shall live?

Groom "I do."

Groom please repeat after me. (This may an alternative wording you may like to read or incorporate "If I could reach up and hold a star for every time you've made me smile, the entire evening sky would be in the palm of my hand") Bride I ask you to be my wife, I promise to stand beside you always, in celebration and sadness, for richer, for poorer, to love and to cherish, for now and forevermore.

Bride, do you take this Groom to be your, husband, your partner in life, to share in his moments of glory and achievement, to marry your voice to his when it rings out with laughter and to comfort him when he is in pain, for as long as you both shall live?

Bride: "I do"

Bride please repeat after me. (Another alternative wording idea that you may like to use or to incorporate: "Groom, I am like a falling star who has finally found her place next to another in a lovely constellation, where we will sparkle in the heavens forever") Groom I ask you to be my husband, I promise to stand beside you always, in celebration and sadness, for richer, for poorer, to love and to cherish, for now and forevermore.

Ring exchange:

These rings symbolize the unbroken circle of love. Love freely given has no beginning and it has no end, it has no giver and it has no receiver. For both are the giver and both are the receiver. Groom and Bride may these rings always remind you of the promises you have made here today.

Groom: Please place the ring on Bride's, finger and repeat after me.

With this ring I pledge to you my faithful love. I take you to be my wife and promise to share my life with you, to speak the truth to you in love. I promise to honor and tenderly care for you forever.

Bride: Please place the ring on Groom' finger and repeat after me.

Bride: With this ring I pledge to you my faithful love. I take you to be my husband and promise to share my life with you, to speak the truth to you in love. I promise to honor and tenderly care for you forever

Groom and Bride, Above you are the stars, below you are the stones. As time passes, remember that, like a stone, your love should be firm. Like a star, your love should be constant. Let the strength of your wills bind you together. Let the power of love and desire make you happy and the strength of your dedication make you inseparable. Be close, but not too close. Possess one another, yet be understanding. Have patience with one another, for storms will come, but they will pass quickly. Find the humor in the moment.

Now you will feel no rain, for each of you will be shelter to the other. Now you will feel no cold, for each of you will be warmth to the other. Now there is no more loneliness. Now you are two persons, but there is only one life before you.

As we prepare to leave here this evening, let each of us take the love and laughter that we have shared and tuck them in our hearts.

Bring a bit of this love to the rest of the world and light the dark nights of the soul with the love that has been shared here today.

Groom and Bride, because you have expressed your love and commitment through the vows you have taken today, and with the exchanging of rings, it now gives me great joy and pleasure to pronounce you husband and wife. Kiss now and seal your love.

It is with a great honor and joy that I introduce to you for the first time as husband and wife....