

## **Wedding Ceremony**

**Composed and Collected by Rev. Gordon McGregor**

## **Opening Words**

I would like to start by telling you an ancient story about soul mates. It is said when two souls are created in heaven and an angel cries out “This man is made for this woman, this woman is for this man.” Now should these two souls, these two people meet on earth, and recognize each other for who they truly are, they will fall in love. From that moment on they shall become as one. Soul mates reunited. We are here to day because soul mates have been reunited, Bride and Groom.

**Welcome** Welcome everyone. Welcome to this very special occasion. Take a moment to look at each other. Take a deep breath and allow yourself to be right here, right now.

Now look at this community of family gathered here for you. You are truly surrounded by those you love and those who love you.

**Dear family**, on behalf of Bride and Groom I welcome you and thank you for being here. Today, before all of you, their most cherished family and friends Bride and Groom will say the most powerful words two people can say to one another. They will take their wedding vows. And you will witness something miraculous. In a few minutes, through the power of the spoken word, two people, two families will be transformed and a new family will be born right here before your eyes. Bride, you will become a wife and Groom, you will become a husband, and you will embark on perhaps the ultimate life adventure together. It is so important that we all gather this day to celebrate and mark this moment of life transformation.

### **Ministers Address**

Bride and Groom, it is great joy to be here with you today, to formally join your lives and unite your futures. Marriage is the bonding of those who were strangers, made familiar through the miracle of love. Two strangers destined to meet, to find a path to friendship and joy in one another's company. A journey to the

growing feelings of love for each other, a recognition that you had found your soul mate. A decision to marry and spend your lives together. This wedding ceremony does not mark the start of a relationship, but recognizes and deepens the bond that already exists. The commitment to love that forms the heart of marriage doesn't mean that you'll never feel angry with each other. It doesn't mean that life together will always be easy. It does mean that every argument or misunderstanding will be followed by forgiveness, and that the challenges and sorrows of life will be eased by the tenderness you feel in each other's arms and the safety you feel in each other's hearts. And it means that you will walk through the rest of your days with a true friend beside you, one you can laugh with and cry with, grow old with and feel forever young with. And so out of this tangled world two souls have come together. Drawn together by love, nurtured by respect and deep caring. They have recognized their soul mate in one another. And we gather here today to formalize that bond, celebrate this love, and transform these two individuals into one family.

## **Foundation:**

Bride and Groom, you are about to make promises to one another. Today, these vows are beautiful words representing even more beautiful intentions. But you will find that as you live these vows over the years, investing your time and your love and your commitment to one another, the happy times of your life will be twice as joyous, because there will be someone to share those joy with. And when life gets tough, it will only be half as bad, because there will be someone by your side to help carry the burden. For those times when life presents all of us with challenges, I would like to offer you the serenity prayer to remember: God grant you the serenity to accept the things that you cannot change, the courage to change the things you can, and the wisdom to know the difference.

May we be filled with loving kindness.

May we be well.

May we be peaceful and at ease.

May we be happy.

## **Apache Blessing**

“Now you will feel no rain, for each of you will be shelter for the other.

Now you will feel no cold, for each of you will be warmth to the other.

Now there will be no loneliness, for each of you will be companion to the other.

Now you are two persons, but there is only one life before you.

May beauty surround you both in the journey ahead and through all the years.

May happiness be your companion and your days together be good and long upon the earth.”

“Treat yourselves and each other with respect, and remind yourselves

often of what brought you together. Give the highest priority to the tenderness,

gentleness and kindness that your connection deserves.

When frustration, difficulties and fear assail your relationship,

as they threaten all relationships at one time or another,

remember to focus on what is right

between you, not only the part which seems wrong.

In this way, you can ride out the storms

when clouds hide the face of the sun in your lives --

remembering that even if you lose sight

of it for a moment, the sun is still there.

And if each of you takes responsibility for the quality

of your life together, it will be marked by abundance and delight.”

Intent - With all this said, I think the time has come to get you two married. If you are indeed ready to make this legal, please turn to face one another and join hands and in doing so join hearts.

And I remind you, this ceremony and the wedding day are just one brief moment in time. The vows you will speak, the rings you will exchange are done in a matter of minutes. The promises and the tokens of your love will last a lifetime. Please answer I Do after the following questions I ask you both:

Will you Groom in your heart, body, soul and spirit for which you are standing here today take Bride to be your loving and blessed wife to share your life together, to laugh, live and celebrate the joys that await you and remain steadfast when faced with sorrow and adversity?

Groom: "I will"

Will you Groom also always show up and honor the divine light and presence of love in Bride the rest of your life, and most importantly Groom will you surrender to God your oneness and honor the gifts and desires of your life and love together?

Groom: "I will."

Will you Bride in your heart, body, soul and spirit for which you are standing here today take Groom to be your loving and blessed husband, to share your life together to laugh, live and celebrate the joys that await you and remain steadfast when faced with the sorrow and adversity?

Bride: "I will."

Will you Bride also always show up and honor the divine light and presence of love in Groom the rest of your life, and most importantly Bride will you surrender to God your oneness and honor the gifts and desires of your life and love together?

Bride: "I will."

## **May I have the rings please?**

These rings made of precious metal will endure forever. The circular form of your rings symbolize a circle unbroken without beginning or end. As you wear these rings let them be the enduring symbol of your promise to each other, to create a partnership that is whole and unbroken, a partnership for your lifetime. Please repeat after me;

### **Groom**

I Groom take you Bride to be my wife. To love and to cherish, in good time and in bad, for better, for worse, in sickness and in health. I promise my love, faithfulness and friendship for as long as we both shall live. With this ring I thee wed.

### **Bride**

I Bride take you Groom to be my husband. To love and to cherish, in good time and in bad, for better, for worse, in sickness and in health. I promise my love, faithfulness and friendship for as long as we both shall live. With this ring I thee wed.

**Dear Family and friends,** Bride and Groom have asked you here to witness this ceremony, their vows to one another, and they want you to know this is not a one-time engagement. No relationship happens in a vacuum. You have been the community that has birthed, nurtured, loved and support Bride and Groom as individuals and as a couple. Now you are being asked to enter into this covenant with them. You are being asked to continue to serve as their companions and advisors as they move into this new phase of their partnership.

So family and friends; To the best of your ability, do you promise to love and support this couple, to laugh with them, to cry with them, counsel and care for them. If so answer I do. "I do."

## **HANDS CEREMONY:**

Now take a moment to look at your hands. They are the same as they were a moment ago, but now carry the rings that symbolize your commitment to each other.

These are the hands tentatively reached out to hold you on your first date. These are the hands that hold you now and hold the promise of love for today, tomorrow, and forever. These are the hands that work alongside yours as together you continue to build your family and your future. These are the hands that even when wrinkled and aged will still be reaching for yours, still giving you the same unspoken tenderness with just a touch. As you go forward into life together, these hands will change, but it is our wish for you that your relationship remains like the rings on your hands, always pure, shining, strong and precious.

**Gordon:** There is a spiritual teaching that says, “From every human being there rises a light that reaches straight to heaven. And when two souls that are destined for each other find one another, their streams of light flow together, and a single brighter light shines forth from their united being.”

Bride and Groom, truly your souls have found and recognized each other. You have come to see and honor the precious light that shines within each of you. And have come to understand that together you can shine far brighter than either of you ever could alone. What you have pledged to one another today is both a culmination and beginning. You are truly joined together in love – a love that with continued time and attention, kindness and care, laughter, listening, courage and faith, can lead you to a richness, depth and fulfillment beyond all imagination.

**Blessing** Dear God, we ask for your blessings for this couple.

Please make their relationship a great and holy adventure. Join them together in heart, mind, body and soul. Guide their way and help them to grow and prosper together. Please grant them the many blessings of togetherness. May this bond be a channel of healing for them, their families and for our world. We thank you for this gift of love. Amen

**Pronouncement** Bride and Groom, as you have openly and honestly committed yourselves to each other in the bond of marriage before all those gathered here and because you have pledged yourselves to meet the joys and challenges of life as one family, it is my great privilege and honor as a minister of God and by the power vested in me by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts that I now pronounce you husband and wife in the eyes of this community and in the eyes of people everywhere. You may kiss and rejoice. Let us all rejoice