

SIMPLE Wedding Ceremony (RELIGIOUS) – SAMPLE

(Adapted from Island Mike – <http://stthomasweddingofficiant.com>)

Prelude

Processional (Bridal Party)

We are gathered here today to celebrate one of life's greatest relationships – the union between man and woman and this union we call marriage. As you, _____ and _____, are joined together in this marriage, I ask you both to search your hearts for the wisdom of this covenant, which has from ancient times been expressed with those ideas that come from the heart.

Presentation of the Bride:

Who gives this woman to wed this man?

Since the laws of this community governing marriages have been met, the joining of these two people shall now take place. Before the vows are taken, however, it is my responsibility to remind each of you of the significance and importance of the relationship you are on the threshold of entering.

The promises you are about to make to each other are ones of irrevocable love, fidelity, cooperation, and understanding through life and all of life's difficult challenges. I urge each of you to live up to the commitments you are now making to one another.

Marriage is a commitment to life—to the best that two people can find and bring out in each other. It offers opportunities for sharing and growth no other relationship can equal, a physical and emotional joining that is promised for a lifetime.

Please join hands and look into each other's eyes.

Declaration of Intent:

(You'll first ask the groom to declare his intent and then follow with his vows. Then you'll ask the bride to declare her intent and then follow with her vows.)

Do you Groom have this woman to be your wedded wife and will you be faithful to her as long as you shall live?

Groom: "I do."

Do you Bride have this man to be your wedded husband and will you be faithful to him as long as you shall live?

Bride: "I do."

Vows:

(To Groom) repeat after me:

I, Groom, take you, Bride, to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part.

(To Bride) repeat after me:

I, Bride, take you, Groom, to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part.

Exchange of Rings:

May I have the rings?

These rings are symbols of eternity and the unbroken circle of love. Love freely given has no beginning and no end. Today you have chosen to exchange rings, as a sign of your love for each other, and as a seal of the promises you make this day.

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

With this ring, I give you my heart. I promise from this day forward, you shall not walk alone. May my heart be your shelter, and my arms be your home.

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

With this ring, I give you my heart. I promise from this day forward, you shall not walk alone. May my heart be your shelter, and my arms be your home.

Benediction:

Your two lives are now joined in one unbroken circle. Wherever you go, may you always return to one another in your togetherness. May you two find in each other the love for which all men and women long for. May you grow in understanding and compassion. And may these two rings symbolize the spirit of undying love in the hearts of both of you.

Before I pronounce you husband and wife, I want you to take a few seconds to look into each other's eyes. Think about the happiness you're feeling...at this moment. Let those feelings sink deep into your hearts.

I hope this moment and these feelings will stick with you all the days of your lives.

And with that, inasmuch as you, Groom, and you, Bride, have announced the truths that are already written in your hearts, by the power vested in me by _____, I now pronounce you husband and wife.

Groom, you may kiss your Bride!