

Wedding Ceremony (Religious) – SAMPLE

INTRO MUSIC (can be instrumental or sung)

PROCESSIONAL (w/Music): Parents / Grandparents of Bride and Groom

MOTHER’S LIGHT CANDLES

(After mother’s process to front – they together walk toward candles – and light the individual ones representing their families.)

PROCESSIONAL (w/Music): Bridal Party

The union of husband and wife in heart, mind, body and soul is intended by God for their mutual joy, and for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity. Therefore, marriage is not to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly, but reverently, deliberately, and in accordance with the purposes for which it was instituted by God.

Into this holy union, **BRIDE** and **GROOM** now come to be joined.

Who gives **BRIDE** to be married to **GROOM**?

GROOM, will you have this woman to be your wife; to live together in the covenant of marriage? Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

Response: **I DO.**

BRIDE, will you have this man to be your husband; to live together in the covenant of marriage? Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?

Response: **I DO.**

INVOCATION

(All sit)

READINGS

OT Reading #1: Genesis 2:18, 21-24 (Message): *“God said, “It’s not good for the Man to be alone; I’ll make him a companion…” God put the Man into a deep sleep. As he slept he removed one of his ribs and replaced it with flesh. God then used the rib that he had taken from the Man to make Woman and presented her to the Man. The Man said, “Finally! Bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh! Name her Woman for she was made from Man.” Therefore a man leaves his father and mother and embraces his wife. They become one flesh. (Other examples: Ruth 1:16-17; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; Song of Solomon 2:10-13; 8:6-7)*

SONG (performed by family or friend – or hired singer)

NT Reading #2: Ephesians 5:25-32 (Message): *“Husbands, go all out in your love for your wives, exactly as Christ did for the church—a love marked by giving, not getting. Christ’s love makes the church whole. His words evoke her beauty. Everything he does and says is designed to bring the best out of her, dressing her in dazzling white silk, radiant with holiness. And that is how husbands ought to love their wives. They’re really doing themselves a favor—since they’re already “one” in marriage.*

No one abuses his own body, does he? No, he feeds and pampers it. That’s how Christ treats us, the church, since we are part of his body. And this is why a man leaves father and mother and cherishes his wife. No longer two, they become “one flesh.” This is a huge mystery, and I don’t pretend to understand it all. What is clearest to me is the way Christ treats the church. And this provides a good picture of how each husband is to treat his wife, loving himself in loving her, and how each wife is to honor her husband.” (Other examples: I Corinthians 12:31-13:8a; Romans 8:31-35, 37-39; I John 3:18-24; Revelations 19:1, 5-9)

HOMILY – OFFICIANT

VOWS

HUSBAND and WIFE have written their own vows, and they will read them to each other.

HUSBAND, will you take WIFE'S right hand and read your vow.

WIFE, will you read your vow.

EXCHANGING OF RINGS

The wedding ring signifies to all the uniting of this man and woman in holy matrimony and symbolizes the never-ending nature of their love for each other.

May I have the rings please?

HUSBAND, repeat after me: *"I give you this ring WIFE, as a symbol of my vow, and with all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you."*

WIFE, repeat after me: *"I give you this ring HUSBAND, as a symbol of my vow, and with all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you"*.

UNITY CANDLE

At this point in the ceremony, HUSBAND and WIFE are going to light the Unity Candle, and celebrate Communion together as husband and wife.

SONG

(While song is sung – HUSBAND and WIFE light the Unity Candle, than share Communion together)

PRAYER OVER COUPLE

Now that David and Laura have given themselves to each other by solemn vow, with the joining of hands and the giving and receiving of a ring in the presence of this company, by the authority of the State of New Jersey, and that of almighty God, I pronounce that they are husband and wife. Those whom God has joined together, let no one put asunder.

HUSBAND – You may now kiss your bride.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am very happy and honored to present for the first time –
Mr. & Mrs. _____.