

Names  
Date & Time  
Location

### Opening Statement

We are gathered here today in the sight of God and in the presence of this company to witness the union of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in Christian marriage. May our Heavenly Father look down on upon this event with his smile of approval. May the Lord Jesus Christ be present and add his blessing. May the Holy Spirit attend and seal these vows in love. For marriage is a gift given by God to promote social order and to increase human happiness.

When God created man and placed him in the Garden of Eden, he saw immediately that it was not good for man to live alone. So he prepared a helper and a companion for man. In this act of creation, God didn't take woman from man's head, lest she should rule over him, nor from his feet, lest he should trample upon her – but from his side, that she should be equal with him, and from close to his heart, that he should love, cherish, and honor her. Then he presented woman to man to serve as his helper and companion. Marriage is God's good gift to deliver us from our isolation and loneliness. This is why the book of Genesis declares, "Therefore, a man will leave his father and his mother, and will cleave to his wife: and they will be one flesh" (Genesis 2:24).

Therefore, I require and charge you both, as a minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ, that here now in the presence of God, that if either of you know any reason why you may not be united in marriage lawfully, and in accordance with God's word, you do now confess it.

### Scripture Reading

I encourage you both to remember that:

Love is patient and kind; Love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.  
(1 Corinthians 13:4-7, RSV)

### Opening Prayer

Let us Pray: Eternal God, creator and preserver of all life, author of salvation, giver of all grace: Bless and sanctify with your Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ who come now to join in marriage. Grant that they may give their vows to each other in the strength of your steadfast love. Enable them to grow in love and peace with you and with one another all their days, that they may reach out in concern and service to the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Questions of Intent

*(Minister to the persons who are to marry:)*

I ask you now in the presence of God and these people to declare your intention to enter into union with one another through the grace of Jesus Christ, who has called you into union with himself through baptism.

*Minister to the woman:*

\_\_\_\_\_, will you have \_\_\_\_\_ to be your husband, to love together in holy marriage? Will you love him, comfort him, honor him, and keep him in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others, be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?

*Woman:* I Will.

*Minister to the man:*

\_\_\_\_\_, will you have \_\_\_\_\_ to be your wife, to love together in holy marriage? Will you love her, comfort her, honor her, and keep her in sickness

and in health, and forsaking all others, be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

*man:* I will.

### Leave Taking

The marriage of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ unites two families and creates a new one. They ask for your blessing.

*To Groom's Family:* Do you give your blessing to this marriage? (We Do)

*To Bride's Family:* Do you give your blessing to this marriage? (We Do)

\*\*\*Who presents this women to be married to this man? *The father answers Her mother & I*

### The Ministry of the Word

Ruth 1:16-17

Do not persuade me to leave you or go back and not follow you. For wherever you go, I will go, and wherever you live, I will live; your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord do this to me, and even more, if anything but death separates you and me.(HCSB)

### The Vows

*face each other and join hands*

*The man says:* I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wedded wife; and I do promise and covenant; before God and these witnesses' to be your loving and faithful husband; in plenty and in want; in joy and in sorrow; in sickness and in health; as long as we both shall live.

*The woman says:* I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wedded husband; and I do promise and covenant; before God and these witnesses' to be your loving and faithful wife; in plenty and in want; in joy and in sorrow; in sickness and in health; as long as we both shall live.

## Ring exchange

### *Rings given to minister*

Though small is size, these rings are very large in significance. Made of precious metal, they remind us that love is not cheap nor common, indeed, love may cost us dearly. Made in a circle, their design tells us that love must never come to an end; we must keep it continuous. As you wear these rings, whether together or apart for a moment, may they be constant reminders of the covenant before God that you gladly promise to enter into and to fulfill today.

Bless, O Lord, the covenant these rings symbolize, that they may remain in your peace, and continue in your favor, until their life's end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

*To the man, repeating after the minister:* This ring I give you; in token and pledge of my constant faith; and abiding love.

*To the woman, repeating after the minister:* This ring I give you; in token and pledge of my constant faith; and abiding love.

## Lighting the Unity Candle

*Minister shall say:* The two outside candles have been lighted to represent your lives to this moment. They are two distinct lights, each capable of going its separate way. To bring joy and radiance into your home, there must be the merging of these two flames into one.

From this time onward may your thoughts be for each other rather than for your individual selves; may your plans be mutual, your joys and sorrows shared.

*go to the candles*

As you each take a candle and together light the center one, you will extinguish your own candles, thus having the center candle represent the union of your two lives into one flesh. As this center light can not be divided, let not your

lives be divided, but instead be the united testimony of a Christian home, as Christ gives you the light.

### Prayer

Our Father, we come today asking Your blessing upon these two lives and this home being established. You have made us so that we are incomplete without the other so that we yearn for someone whom we can love and whose love we can receive.

We are thankful for the love we see here, and even more, for the love we feel from You. May we never take your love for granted. We pray that Your love will be the shield and stay for \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. When joy comes, may they share it together. When sorrow threatens, may they bear it together. In gladness or in tears, in sunshine or shadow, may they ever draw closer to each other and nearer to you.

Grant them patience, gentleness, forbearance and understanding. O father, protect their home from those forces that would break it apart. We ask for health, for long life, for the fulfillment of every good dream. May their love continue through life and finally blend into the life eternal.

Through Christ we pray, Amen.

### Declaration of Marriage

For as much as you \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, Have covenanted together according to God's Holy ordinance of marriage, and have confirmed the same by making solemn vows before God and this company and by joining hands, and by giving and receiving a ring, I pronounce husband and wife; in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit in accordance with the laws of God and the laws of the state of Washington.

**Those whom God has joined together let no one separate.**

You may kiss your Bride.

### **Benediction**

Let us pray: Almighty and everlasting Father, who has given to humankind the ordinance of marriage, and made it holy with your blessings: bless your servants \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ now joined together as husband and wife; and grant that, bearing one another's burdens, sharing one another's joys and together fulfilling the duties of their home, they may ever be faithful to each other in love and obedience to your word; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Bride and Groom Exit)