

bride & _groom_

date

Procession

Parents (with candles, down the aisle)
Officiant, Groom and Groom's Party
Bridal Party
Bride and Groom's Father (down the aisle)

Welcome/Intent

We have come together here in celebration of the joining together of _bride_ and _groom_. Marriage is a central rite of passage, a ceremony marking the movement of two people, each of whom was once on a different path, to join together and follow the same path. Where before they chose their path based on their own feelings and desires, they have now made a conscious choice: as one, they will decide where the path of their life leads. Today, _bride_ and _groom_ will embark on this journey, each becoming a part of the other's family, while together they will become a family of their own.

Who is it who joins these families?

***Father of the Groom:** I do. (seats himself in the first row after handing her forward)*

Marriage is a bond to be entered into only after considerable thought and reflection. As with any aspect of life, it has its cycles, its ups and its downs, its trials and its triumphs. With full understanding of the meaning of this partnership, _bride_ and _groom_ have come here today to be joined as one in marriage.

You are aware of the reality of the vows you are about to speak to one another; of the responsibility and reciprocity that comes when a partnership is created. If there is any reason within your hearts that this ceremony should not continue at this time, I charge you to voice it now, for marriage is based in honesty and trust, and only with those things can you successfully take the first steps on this path.

Lighting the Candles

Each of your mothers have brought their light to this place, a light carried by their mothers before them and their mothers before them. They are the fires of your families, carried in the hearts of each of your ancestors and kept safe until they can

be given to you. Each of these lights represents the love they have for you, and the joy they have on this day. As your ancestors have lit your individual ways, so do they now call out to help light the way of the other as well, sharing their light with the one with whom you share your heart.

bride, the first candle is yours. Light it with the flame of your family, accept the fire that your ancestors have given to you, and speak your vows to the man you have chosen.

bride: As I light this flame from this candle / I ask you, *_groom_* / to be my husband. I vow to you / my love and partner / to be honest and understanding / compassionate and loving / supportive and helpful / even as I ask these things of you / May this fire burn brightly / in you as it does in me.

Candle lit.

groom, *_bride_* has spoken vows over the fire of her family. It is your turn to speak unto her. Light the candle with the fire of your family, and speak your vows to her.

groom: As I light this flame from this candle / I ask you, *_bride_* / to be my wife. I vow to you / my love and partner / to be honest and understanding / compassionate and loving / supportive and helpful / even as I ask these things of you / May this fire burn brightly / in you as it does in me.

Candle lit.

Now that you have chosen each other with vows spoken over the fires of your ancestors, you are bound together. Take these flames and light one united, sacred fire to light your way along this new path.

Candle lit.

I call out to the ancestors of both families to hear the vows of these two; to the spirits of nature who can carry word of this union on the winds; and to the shining ones to bless the union. May the fire lit today be always at your center to guide your way, and let the voices spoken over it resound in the deepest depths and be lifted to the highest heights.

Exchange of Rings

As you have spoken of your intent, it is time to seal these vows with the gift of rings, the first of many gifts given to each other in your new life.

By the exchange of these tokens of your love for one another, so are your lives interlaced. What one experiences, so shall the other; as honesty and love build, so will your bond strengthen and grow.

bride: This ring I give to you is a symbol of our love, and of the promises I have spoken to you on this day.

groom: I shall wear this ring as a symbol of our love, being always mindful of the vows we have spoken on this day.

groom: This ring I give to you is a symbol of our love, and of the promises I have spoken to you on this day.

bride: I shall wear this ring as a symbol of our love, being always mindful of the vows we have spoken on this day.

Kiss

Let these rings, endless circles each, remind you of the many turns of the Wheel through which you and your love shall pass, and may everything that is touched by your hand be touched also by love. With lives bound together and hearts tied as one, this couple has declared their love to one another.

groom and *_bride_*, with joy and love, enflame this union with your kiss.

[kissing]

Blessing/Benediction

By the waters that support and surround us, by the sky that stretches out above us, and by the land that stretches out about us do I bless this union. May the fire that burns at the center of all things burn as one within your hearts for all your days.

Closing

You have bound yourselves to one another's lives and made them one. Step forth into that new life, and rejoice in your love.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am pleased to present Mr. and Mrs. *_name_*!

Recession