

**TRADITIONAL STYLE VOWS
(modified)**



~ _____ and _____ ~
Date and Location

Greeting of guests:

Ladies and gentlemen, dearly beloved we have come together here today to celebrate the gift of wedlock. In our presence here and now, _____ and _____ will declare their intentions and join their lives as one.

You, family members and dear friends, are here at their request because of what you mean to them in their lives. They understand that for each of us, our families and friends help shape our own identities. Your influence has contributed to their well being, and helped them to grow, to mature and to become who they are. They are thrilled that you are here, and they want you each to know how honored they are that you took the time to be here, and to share with them,
this most important day in their lives.

(Please be seated.)

Charge to the betrothed:

_____ and _____, in presenting yourselves to be joined in marriage, you perform an act of faith, built on a spiritual bond that already exists. Treasure the dreams you bring here today, and honor the new possibilities, and expectations that now exist for you both. In this spirit, you will forge a life together that will endure the uncertainties of our world, and stand the test of time.

Opening Prayer:

Heavenly father, we are grateful to you for uncountable blessings in our lives. You provided safe passage for us to meet here today in celebration of the gift of wedlock – the joining of these two lives, greater as one and reverently sealed in your presence. On behalf of _____ and _____, we ask that you continue to guide them in their understanding of your purpose for them, that day by day they might travel more closely to your intended path. Bless this union with your bounties, happiness and prosperity, and may their days together be good and long upon the earth, Our father, in your name, these things we pray. AMEN.

Presentation of the Bride:

Who gives this woman to be married to this man?

(2)

Declaration of Intent:

_____, will you have _____ to be your lawfully wedded wife, to live together in the holy estate of matrimony? Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others, will you keep only unto her, for as long as you both shall live? If this is so, please say, ***“I will!”***.

_____, will you have _____ to be your lawfully wedded husband, to live together in the holy estate of matrimony? Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others, will you keep only unto him, for as long as you both shall live? If this is so, please, ***“I will!”***.

Exchange of Vows:

_____ and _____, please now face each other and join hands, as you will now seal by spoken words, your sacred promises to each other:

_____, ***please say this to _____:***

I _____ take you _____, to be my lawfully 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, for as long as we both live.

_____, ***please say this to _____:***

I _____ take you _____, to be my lawfully wedded husband ~ 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, for as long as we both live.



The Exchange of Rings:

_____ and _____, you chose these rings as symbols of your marriage covenant. They are made of a precious metal that is most enduring and will never tarnish...and, they are formed into perfect circles.

From the earliest of times, the circle has been known as a symbol of completeness and continuous renewal. Your rings also demonstrate eternity, having no beginning and no end.

_____ as you now give this ring to _____ and place it on her finger, please say after me:

“_____, I give you this ring as a symbol of my vows. With all that I am and all that I have, I honor you in the name of God. *With this ring I thee wed.*”

_____, as you give this ring to _____ and place it on his finger, please say after me:

_____, I give you this ring as a symbol of my vows. With all that I am and all that I have I honor you in the name of God. *With this ring I thee wed.*”

(3)

Blessing of betrothed:

_____ and _____,

May this day shine eternally in your lives.

*May it add brilliance to every achievement and cast a
healing light over any misfortune.*

May you give strength to each other in times of trial.

May you cheer each other's achievements, great or small.

May you give vitality to each other in all undertakings.

*May all that is virtuous, beautiful and honest,
remain with you always.*

Closing Prayer:

*Heavenly father, we turn again to you, and ask your blessings upon these two lives
and this home being established. We are thankful for the love we see here, and even
more, for the love we feel from you. We pray that your presence in their lives will be
the shield and stay for _____ and _____ in their new path. May their joys in life
be thus multiplied, and when sorrow threatens, together may they bear it. In
gladness or in tears, in sunshine or shadow, may they draw closer to each other and
nearer to you. We ask for good health, for long life, for the fulfillment of their
dreams. May their love grow and flourish in their days in this world,
finally to coalesce in the life eternal.*

Thank you, God, for loving us. Thank you, Lord, for everything. AMEN.

Declaration of Marriage:

_____ and _____, you have thus consented together to holy wedlock, and you
witnessed the same before God and in our presence. You have given and pledged your
loyalties and sacred promises one to the other, and you evidenced this by
giving and receiving rings and by joining hands.

Therefore, by the power vested in me by the state of South Carolina,

I now pronounce that you are husband and wife!

Ladies and gentlemen, it is now my pleasure to introduce to you, for the very first time,

Mr. and Mrs. _____ and _____ !