

Traditional Vows (With Prayer and Unity Ceremony)



~ **AND** ~
(DATE AND LOCATION)

Dearly beloved, we are gathered here today in the sight of God and in the presence of these witnesses to join this man and this woman in holy matrimony, which is an honorable estate and is not to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly, but reverently, discreetly, and in respect for God.
_____ and _____, into this holy estate, you have come now to be joined.

Let us pray:

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 may live their lives more according to your plan. Bless this union with your bounties, happiness and prosperity, and may their lives together be good and long upon the earth, Our father, in your name, these things we pray. AMEN.

Who is here to give this woman to be married to this man?

_____, 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 live? If this is your intent, 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 live? If this is your intent, please say, ***“I will!”***

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

(2)

_____, please say after me:

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, until death us do part.

_____, please say after me:

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, until death us do part.

~ *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 now 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.*”

~ *The Unity Service* ~

_____ and _____ will now perform a *unity service*, symbolizing the joining of their lives and families:

_____ and _____, the two smaller candles were lit by your mothers to show their approval of your decision to marry. Please now, each take a burning candle in hand. Like your lives until today, these two flames are self-sustaining and exist separately. The single, larger candle that you will light in a moment, symbolizes the joining of your lives, and the new unity of family and friends which is thus created. Please now, together, light the larger candle. The single, greater flame you create is now inseparable, and is more radiant, reflecting the greater purpose that you now possess in one another. Now, demonstrating that your lives are so joined, please extinguish the smaller flames.

(3)

Closing Prayer:

Heavenly father, we turn again to you 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.

Pronouncement of Wedlock

_____ and _____, you have thus consented together to holy wedlock, and you witnessed the same before God and in the presence of these witnesses. You have given and pledged their loyalties sacred promises one to the other, and have evidenced this by the giving and receiving of 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:

I now have the privilege to introduce to you, and for the very first time,

Mr. and Mrs. _____ and _____!