

## **CIVIL UNION CEREMONY REVEREND BRELVI**

### **PROCESSIONAL**

**Minister, Couple and Guests gather for start of ceremony.**

### **GREETING**

Good evening, dear friends.

We are gathered here this evening to join in uniting together  
[GROOM] and [GROOM].

What greater thing for two persons than to feel that they are joined together,  
to strengthen each other in all labor, to rest on each other in all sorrow, to help each  
other in all need, to share all joy, and to be one with each other.

### **INVOCATION**

[GROOM] and [GROOM], today you are vowing to continue sharing life's deepest and  
richest experiences.

You are continuing through your life the affection of each other, and also the  
companionship and blessing of mutual respect.

When you enter into this union, you enter into life's most important relationship.

It is a gift given to bring comfort when there is sorrow, peace when there is  
restlessness, laughter when there is unhappiness, and love when it is shared.

Real love goes far beyond the feelings of romance and bliss.

It is caring more about the well-being and happiness of your life partner than your own  
needs and desires.

Love makes burdens lighter because you divide them.

Love makes you stronger so you can become involved with life in ways

You dare not risk alone.

Real love says you are stronger together than when apart and with it you are  
establishing a relationship in which the independence is equal, dependence is mutual,  
and the obligation is reciprocal.

It is not only making your commitment to the right partner – it is being the right partner.

### **DECLARATION OF INTENT**

[GROOM] and [GROOM], please face each other and join hands as you now declare  
your intentions to one another.

Do you [GROOM], take this man, [GROOM], to be your lawfully joined partner,  
to love honor and cherish him, through sickness and in health, through times of  
happiness and sorrow, until death do you part?

**Response: I do.**

Do you [GROOM], take this man, [GROOM],  
to be your lawfully joined partner, to love, honor and cherish him, through sickness and  
in health, through times of happiness and sorrow, until death do you part.

**Response: I do.**

### **READING**

[GROOM] & [GROOM] have invited their dear friend to now give a special wedding  
reading by the poet Pablo Neruda.

I love you without knowing how, or when, or from where.  
I love you straightforwardly, without complexities or pride.  
So I love you because I know no other way than this:  
Where I does not exist, nor you;  
so close that your hand upon my chest is my hand;  
so close that your eyes close as I fall asleep.

### **INTRODUCTION TO VOWS/VOWS**

[GROOM] & [GROOM], you are about to make promises to one another.

These vows are words representing your intentions.

You will find that as you live by these vows over the years, investing your time and love, and your commitment to one another, the happy times of your life will be more joyous because there will be someone with whom to share those joys.

[GROOM] & [GROOM], please look into one another's eyes and repeat after me your vows.

[GROOM]:

[GROOM], I join my life to yours, to be my partner in life.

To love and honor you; to be honest and faithful to you; to stand by you and care for you; all the rest of my life.

[GROOM]:

[GROOM], I join my life to yours, to be my partner in life.

To love and honor you; to be honest and faithful to you; to stand by you and care for you; all the rest of my life.

### **MINISTER'S BEST WISHES**

[GROOM] & [GROOM], before you exchange rings, and I declare you partners for life, I want to wish you both much love and happiness as you continue your journey together.

Remember to keep lots of laughter in your life and love will never be far behind.

May all that you are always be in love.

May all that is love, always be in you.

May your love be as beautiful on each day you share, as it is on this day of celebration.

May each day you share be as precious to you as the day you first fell in love.

May you always see and encourage the best in each other.

May the challenges life brings your way make your union even stronger, and may you always be each other's best friend and greatest love.

### **GIVING AND RECEIVING OF THE RINGS**

May I have the rings please.

#### **(Rings given to Minister by Best Man)**

The circle has long been a symbol of commitment.

It is believed that the circle was a symbol of eternity, completeness, holiness and peace; a sign that life, happiness and love have no beginning or end.

As often as either of you look upon these rings, may you be reminded of this moment and the love you have promised.

[GROOM], please place this ring on [GROOM'S] finger and repeat after me:

[GROOM], I give you this ring, with the pledge to love you, today, tomorrow and forever.

[GROOM], please place this ring on [GROOM'S] finger and repeat after me:

[GROOM], I give you this ring, with the pledge to love you, today, tomorrow and forever.

[GROOM] & [GROOM], please join your ring hands together for the blessing of the rings:

Bless O God, these rings that [GROOM] & [GROOM], wear, and may they ever abide in thy peace, living together in unit, in love and in happiness.

Amen.

### **THE NUPTIAL BLESSING**

[GROOM] & [GROOM], today we celebrate a sacred agreement between you.

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord strengthen your consent and fill you with his grace.

May the joy of this day remain with you always.

Amen.

### **DECLARATION OF MARRIAGE**

[GROOM] & [GROOM], by the act of joining hands, you take to yourself the relation of partners in life, and solemnly promise to love, honor, comfort and cherish each other, so long as you both shall live.

Therefore, in accordance with the law of New Jersey, and by virtue of the authority vested in me, I now pronounce you partners in life.

Congratulations.

**The couple embraces and then greet guests for congratulations.**