

## **NON TRADITIONAL WEDDING CEREMONY REVEREND SARAH BRELVI**

### **PROCESSIONAL**

**Minister and Groom will be preset for start of wedding processional.  
Parents of the Groom enter and sit in the front row on the right side.  
Bride enters with her Mother.**

**As they reach altar, Minister gestures for Mother to kiss Bride and  
then Groom.**

**Mother takes seat in front row on left side.**

**Couple is brought together and the ceremony begins.**

### **GREETING**

Good afternoon, family and friends.

What a joy it is to welcome you here,

for we have come together to celebrate the miracle of love and to witness  
the union of [BRIDE] and [GROOM]

[BRIDE] and [GROOM], every experience you have ever had,  
everything you have ever done and learned, has brought you to this  
incredible moment.

Your love is the miracle of who you both are, and who you are becoming.  
New experiences lie before you with opportunities to grow deeper in love  
with each other.

As you walk hand in hand into the future, cherish each moment as a gift –  
a gift, given to strengthen the bond between you.

May the years bring you happiness and contentment, and may you enter  
each other's sorrow by empathy; into each other's joy with gladness;  
into each other's hope with faith and trust; and into each other's lives with  
enthusiasm and embracing.

May your life together be full of kindness and understanding, houghtfulness  
and rejoicing.

### **RECOGNITION**

As [BRIDE] and [GROOM] come before us to be married they wish to  
acknowledge and thank their Parents – for the endless love and support  
that they have given them throughout the years, and for all they  
have done in bringing [BRIDE] and [GROOM] to this special moment.

### **REMEMBERENCE**

As we celebrate this wedding today, [BRIDE] and [GROOM] would like to honor the memory of those family members that could not be with them today.

At this time [BRIDE] and [GROOM] will light two special memorial candles to remember their family members.

**(Couple light memorial candles)**

Although they are not physically present today, they are with us in spirit and forever in our hearts.

Let us remember them and all of our departed loved ones in a special moment of silence.

**(Pause for a moment of silence)**

Please be seated.

**INVOCATION**

[BRIDE] and [GROOM], today you are taking into your care and trust, the happiness of the one person in this world whom you love with all your heart – each other.

You are agreeing to share life's deepest and richest experiences.

You are adding to your life not only the affection of each other, but also the companionship and blessing of mutual respect.

You have invited these guests to share in the celebration of your love, a love that now culminates in your union as husband and wife.

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

It is a gift, given to bring comfort when there is sorrow, peace when there is unrest, laughter when there is happiness, 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 marriage partner, than your own needs and desires.

Love makes burdens lighter because you divide them.

It makes joys more intense because you share them.

It 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 you are apart.

A successful marriage is not something that just happens.

It takes work and it takes effort.

Most importantly, it takes a commitment from both of you.

A good marriage must be created.

## **READING**

The Bride & Groom have asked (FOR EXAMPLE - [Bride's Sister] to read 1st Corinthians, Chapter 13, out of their Dad's favorite bible.)

## **AFFIRMATION FROM FAMILY AND FRIENDS**

This marriage will draw strength from the support of family and friends. No couple lives in isolation.

They will need your love and attention, just as they will love and attend to you.

Therefore, I ask those of you gathered here, their family and friends, to affirm your willingness to support [BRIDE] and [GROOM], by responding, "We will" to each of the following questions.

**Minister:** Will you encourage [BRIDE] and [GROOM], in their marriage?

**All: We will.**

**Minister:** Will you celebrate with them the decision they have made to choose each other?

**All: We will.**

**Minister:** Will you remain steadfast in your support in times of trouble, and generous in your joy when they experience success and happiness?

**All: We will.**

## **DECLARATION OF INTENT**

[BRIDE] and [GROOM], a marriage ceremony represents one of life's greatest commitments.

However, it is also a declaration of love.

As the two of you come into this marriage, uniting you as husband and wife, and as you affirm your faith and love for one another,

I would ask that you always remember to cherish each other as special and unique individuals and that you respect the thoughts, ideas and suggestions of one another.

Be able to forgive, do not hold grudges, and live each day that you may share together – as from this day forward you shall be each other's home, comfort and refuge; your marriage, strengthened by your love and respect for each other.

Please join hands as you now declare your intentions to one another.

[BRIDE] and [GROOM], have you come here freely and without reservation to give yourselves to each other in marriage?

**Response: We have.**

Will you love and honor each other as husband and wife for as long as you both shall live?

**Response: We will.**

## **INTRODUCTION TO WEDDING VOWS**

[BRIDE] and [GROOM], you are about to make promises to one another. These vows are words representing your intentions.

You will find that as you live your lives by these vows, investing your time and love and your commitment to each other, the happy times of your life, will be twice as joyous, because there will be someone to share those joys with in marriage.

Please join hands and repeat after me:

## **WEDDING VOWS**

[BRIDE], in joining my life with yours today,  
I pledge to be your devoted husband, lover, and best friend.

With an open and trusting heart,  
I promise to keep you as my only true love,  
to stand by your side,  
to listen when you speak,  
to live in truth with you,  
to share with you fully,  
to respect who you are,  
to comfort you when you cry,  
to join your laughter with my own,  
to warm your body and soul,  
through good times and bad,  
from this day forward.

Where ever the road may lead us,  
we'll be there always together.

Today, I promise my love and dedication  
for as long as we both shall live.

[GROOM], in joining my life with yours today,  
I pledge to be your devoted wife, lover, and best friend.

With an open and trusting heart, I promise to keep you as my only true love, to stand by your side, to listen when you speak, to live in truth with you, to share with you fully, to respect who you are, to comfort you when you cry, to join your laughter with my own, to warm your body and soul, through good times and bad, from this day forward.

Where ever the road may lead us, we'll be there always together.

Today, I promise my love and dedication for as long as we both shall live.

## **MUSICAL SELECTION**

For Example - The Bride and Groom have invited Groom's Sister to sing xxxx

## **GIVING AND RECEIVING OF RINGS**

May I have the rings please.

### **(Rings handed to Minister by Groom)**

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 the circle of these rings knows no end, may your love for each other also be endless.

In so keeping with the vows you have made here today, you give and receive these rings by which you symbolize and bind your eternal love, enduring loyalty and faithful commitment; a union, which is ordained and sanctioned by God.

## **BLESSING OF THE RINGS**

Bless O God these rings, that the giver and wearer may dwell in the richness of your love, and may they ever abide in thy peace, living together in unity, love, and happiness, and in growing appreciation and respect for one another.

May this marriage be held in your hands and ministered unto by your angels.

May their hands always be held by one another.

Give them the strength to hold on during the storms of stress and the dark of disillusionment.

Keep them tender and gentle as they nurture each other in their wondrous love.

May these rings be a symbol of their true faith in each other, and always remind them of their love and the vows they have promised today.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

## **RING VOWS**

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

[BRIDE], I give you this ring,  
as a symbol of my love,  
and my choice to share,  
my life and dreams with you.

I give you this ring,  
with the pledge to love you,  
today, tomorrow, and always.

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

[GROOM], I give you this ring,  
as a symbol of my love,  
and my choice to share,  
my life and dreams with you.

I give you this ring,  
with the pledge to love you,  
today, tomorrow, and always.

### **MINISTER BLESSING**

[BRIDE] and [GROOM], I want to wish you both much love and happiness as you begin your new journey as husband and wife.

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

I leave you now with the following words:

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; and 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 marriage even stronger,  
and may you always be each other's best friend and greatest love.

### **NUPTIAL BLESSING**

[BRIDE] and [GROOM], today we celebrate a sacred agreement between the two of you.

May the Almighty God, Creator of Heaven and Earth, bless you and keep you.

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

May the joy of this day remain with you always.

Amen.

### **DECLARATION OF MARRIAGE**

[BRIDE] and [GROOM], you have committed yourselves to each other in marriage.

Having pledged your faith and love to one another in the presence of God and these witnesses, by the exchange of your wedding vows and the giving and receiving of rings.

It is with great joy and happiness, and by the power vested in me, that I now pronounce you husband and wife.