

RELIGIOUS WEDDING CEREMONY

Reverend Sarah Brelvi

PRELUDE Music

PROCESSIONAL

GREETING

Welcome family and friends.

[BRIDE] and [GROOM] are happy that so many of you who mean so much to them are here to share and celebrate this, their wedding day.

I welcome you and bless you with these words:

Blessed be you who have come here in dedication to all that is loving, good and sacred.

We bless you and welcome you in joy.

May the source of life sustain you in life.

May all that is noble and true in the universe inspire your lives together and bring peace to all humankind.

Blessed are you, O God, for giving life, sustaining us and bringing us to this joyous time.

REMEMBRANCE

At this time, I would like to mention that there are those close to the [BRIDE] and [GROOM] who could not travel here today, but whose thoughts and blessings are with them; and there are loved ones who are no longer here in body, but who are here in spirit.

Especially remembered are xxx

A special memorial candle has been lit prior to the start of the ceremony in their honor.

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

(Pause for moment of silence)

RECOGNITION OF PARENTS/PRESENTATION OF ROSES TO MOTHERS

As [BRIDE] and [GROOM] come before us to be married, they wish to acknowledge and thank their Parents – xx

for the endless love and support that they have given them throughout their years and for all that they have done in bringing them to this incredible moment.

At this time they would like to present a token of their love to their Mothers.

(Couple present roses to Mothers)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF DIFFERENT TRADITIONS

Out of two different and distinct traditions,

[BRIDE] and [GROOM] have come together to learn the best of what each has to offer, appreciating their differences and confirming that being together is far better than being apart.

Example:

We bless this marriage under a Chuppah, the Jewish symbol of the new home being consummated here;

have the sharing of a Kiddish Cup/Unity Chalis; and will later light the Unity Candle, a Christian symbol of two people becoming one in marriage.

Let us pray.

Blessed are you who come here in the name of God.

Serve God with joy,

Come into God's presence with song.

O most awesome, glorious and blessed God,

Grant your blessings on this loving Bride and Groom.

Amen.

INVOCATION

[BRIDE] and [GROOM] today is one of the happiest days of your lives.

A marriage is a promise to be kind and understanding,
to be thoughtful, considerate, and to share one life together.

The love you share will grow with caring, kindness, compassion and tenderness.

Your love for one another will bond you body, spirit and soul.

Marriage begins a life of giving and sharing, nurturing and support.

So allow each other the freedom to change and grow as individuals, while developing your mutual spirit as time goes on.

Happiness in marriage is not something that just happens.

A good marriage must be created.

In the art of marriage:

The little things are the big things.

It is never being too old to hold hands.

It is remembering to say I love you at least once a day.

It is never going to sleep angry.

It is at no time taking the other for granted;

for the courtship shall not end with the honeymoon,

it shall continue through all your years together.

It is having a mutual sense of values and common objectives.

It is standing together facing the world;

forming a circle of love that gathers in the whole family.

It is speaking words of appreciation and demonstrating gratitude in thoughtful ways.

It is not looking for perfection in each other.

It is cultivating flexibility, patience, understanding and a sense of humor.

It is doing things for each other, not in the attitude of duty or sacrifice, but in the spirit of joy.

It is establishing a relationship, in which the independence is equal,
dependence is mutual, and the obligation is reciprocal.

It is not only marrying the right partner, it is being the right partner.

For example:

Two thoughts are suggested by this cup of wine.

The first is that wine is a symbol of the sweetness we wish for your life.

There will be times when you drink from other cups, from bitter ones;
but life offers opportunity to savor the sweetness.

The awareness of the possibility of a life filled with true meaning is what we toast –the good that is life. The second is that wine is a symbol of sharing – a sharing of the love which has brought you to this day, when you confirm your commitment to share your lives.

As you continue to share in each other's life, you will, as a symbol of this enduring union, share this cup of wine.

Blessed are you O Lord, Creator of the fruit of the vine.

Watch over and protect this couple - [BRIDE] and [GROOM]as they begin a new life together.

Amen.

Groom shares the cup of wine with Bride first; and then Bride shares it with Groom

READING #1

Let me not to the marriage of true minds admit impediments.

Love is not love which alters when it alteration finds,
or bends with the remover to remove:

O no! it is an ever-fixed mark

That looks on tempests and is never shaken;

it is the star to every wandering bark,

whose worth's unknown, although his height be taken.

Love's not time's fool,

though rosy lips and cheeks within his bending sickle's compass come:

Love alters not with his brief hours and weeks,

but bears it out even to the edge of doom.

If this be error and upon me proved,

I never writ, nor no man ever loved.

READING #2

Jesus said to his disciples, "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you.

Now remain in my love.

If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love,

just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love.

I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

INTRODUCTION TO WEDDING VOWS

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

These vows are words representing your intentions.

But, 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 twice as joyous, because there will be someone to share them with in marriage.

As you take these vows, I would have you remember the following words:

To love is to come together from the pathways of our past and then move forward;

hand in hand, along the uncharted roads of our future; ready to risk, to dream, and to dare.

Always believe that all things are possible with faith and love in God and in each other.

EXCHANGE OF WEDDING VOWS

[BRIDE] and [GROOM] will now share their own wedding vows with one another.

(Bride first and Groom second)

LIGHTING OF THE UNITY CANDLE

Marriage brings together two people in a unique relationship.

In their togetherness, xx and xx will share many experiences as if they were one.

But, each will retain his or her own identity.

The miracle of love is that it allows us to overcome our sense of incompleteness, yet continues to permit us our uniqueness as individuals.

I would now like to call up [BRIDE] and [GROOM] Parents – who will now light the taper candles for the Unity Candle Ceremony.

Marisa and Adam, the two candles that your Parents are about to light symbolize your individual spirits, memories, hopes and dreams – a single light that shines within you.

(Parents light taper candles then return to their seats)

I will now ask that each of you takes your individual candle, and that together you light the center unity candle.

(Couple light center unity candle)

The center candle represents a symbol of your unity,

It's the one radiant light of eternity that shines from within you,

the light that you share with each other, and your family, friends and the world.

It's the strength and beauty you will bring to one another, as husband and wife as one in spirit.

MUSICAL SELECTION

EXCHANGE OF RINGS

The circle has long been a symbol for marriage.

These circles are made of precious metal to represent the precious nature of your relationship.

Being unbroken circles, each represents unending love.

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

What do you give each other as a symbol of this pledge?

(The Best Man gives the rings to the Minister)

Groom, I give you this ring, as a symbol of my love, and that I am choosing to share my life's journey with you.

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

Bride, I give you this ring, as a symbol of my love, and that I am choosing to share my life's journey with you.

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

Bride & Groom join their hands together for the Blessing of the Rings.

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

Amen.

MINISTER'S BEST WISHES/READING

[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

DECLARATION OF MARRIAGE

xx and xx, because you have committed yourselves to each other in marriage, and demonstrated this by exchanging your vows and giving each other rings, it is with great joy and happiness that I now pronounce you husband and wife.
xx, you may now kiss your beautiful Bride.

(Kiss and applause)

For example:

BREAKING OF THE GLASS

The traditional breaking of the glass is a joyous ceremony celebrated in the Jewish religion.

Since this is an interfaith marriage, which brings together two people from different religious backgrounds, let us, with this symbol, become especially mindful of the barriers that people erect between one another, and try to think, with the breaking of the glass, of breaking down some of those barriers and helping create a world of love, unity and peace.

The breaking of the glass also signifies remembering the past, and moving to the future.

It also warns us that love, like glass, is fragile and must be protected.

Even the strongest love is subject to disintegration.

The glass is broken to protect this marriage,

so that the glass will break, but the marriage will not.

Once broken, a glass is forever changed and cannot be restored exactly to its former state.

Likewise, marriage is a transforming experience that leaves the Bride and Groom forever changed.

As groom breaks the glass, the couple invites their family and friends to shout: "Mazel Tov,"

which means Congratulations and Good Luck.

[BRIDE] and [GROOM] may your bond of love be as difficult to break

as it would be to put together all the pieces of this glass.

Groom places the glass at his feet and breaks the glass.

Everyone: Mazel Tov.

PRESENTATION OF COUPLE

It gives me great pleasure to introduce to you – [BRIDE] and [GROOM]
in their new relationship as husband and wife.

RECESSIONAL VIVALDI—SPRING (FROM THE FOUR SEASONS)