

Forever Yours Weddings



Welcome to the ceremony that will unite **Groom** and **Bride** in marriage.

We gather here today to celebrate their union, and to honor their commitment to not just gazing at one another, but to looking outward together in the same direction. Today they proclaim their love to the world, and we rejoice with and for them.

Four Blessings

In times past it was believed that the human soul shared characteristics with all things divine. It is this belief which assigned virtues to the cardinal directions; East, South, West and North. It is in this tradition that a blessing is offered in support of this ceremony.

- ♥ Blessed be this union with the gifts of the East.
 - Communication of the heart, mind and body. Fresh beginnings with the rising of each Sun. The knowledge of the growth found in the sharing of silences.
- ♥ Blessed be this union with the gifts of the South.
 - Warmth of hearth and home, the heat of the heart's passion, the light created by both to lighten the darkest of times.
- ♥ Blessed be this union with the gifts of the West.
 - The deep commitments of the lake, the swift excitement of the river, the refreshing cleansing of the rain, the all encompassing passion of the sea.
- ♥ Blessed be this union with the gifts of the North.
 - Firm foundation on which to build Fertility of the fields to enrich your lives, a stable home to which you may always return.

Each of these blessings from the four cardinal directions emphasizes those things which will help you build a happy and successful union. Yet they are only tools. Tools which you must use together in order to create what you seek in this union.

Vows

Do you **Bride**, accept this man as your husband to join with him today in matrimony, to offer your friendship and loving care, to honor his growth and freedom, to cherish and respect him, and to love and embrace him in times of adversity and times of joy?

Do you **Groom**, accept this woman as your wife to join with her today in matrimony, to offer your friendship and loving care, to honor her growth and freedom, to cherish and respect her, and to love and embrace her in times of adversity and times of joy?

Ring Exchange

Groom, take **Bride's** ring and put it on her finger, and repeat after me:

Just as this circle is without end, my love for you is eternal. With this ring I take you to be my trusted confidante and partner for life.

Bride, take **Groom's** ring and put it on his finger, and repeat after me:

Just as this circle is without end, my love for you is eternal. With this ring I take you to be my trusted confidante and partner for life.

For thousands of years lovers have exchanged rings as a token of their vows. These simple bands are not of great value in themselves, but are made precious by our wearing of them. Your rings say that even in your uniqueness you have chosen to be bound together. Let these rings also be a sign that love has substance as well as soul, a present as well as a past, and that, despite its occasional sorrows, love is a circle of happiness, wonder, and delight.

Pronouncement

In the presence of your family and friends who have joined you to share this moment of joy, you have declared your deep love and affection for each other. You have stated your wish to live together, always open to a deeper, richer friendship and partnership. You have formed your own union, based on respect and honor. Therefore, it is my joyful pleasure to officially acknowledge your union as “Husband and Wife.”

YOU MAY NOW KISS YOUR BRIDE!

May I introduce to you
Mr. and Mrs. _____