

Wedding Service of

Groom 1

&

Groom 2

Same Sex Wedding Service Example

Opening Words

On behalf of Groom 1 and Groom 2 I welcome you to this special moment in their lives. When two people gather together with their families and friends to participate in a wedding ceremony, it is to celebrate what in fact has already occurred. Emotionally, they have been married before today, but they are here now to publicly declare the love already present and guiding their relationship into the future. This public declaration is neither an end nor a beginning, but rather a time of momentary pause before continuing and changing and growing over the months and years to come.

It is fitting and appropriate that you, the families and friends of Groom 1 and Groom 2 are here to witness and participate in their wedding, for the ideals, the understanding, and the mutual respect which they bring to their marriage, have their roots in the love, friendship and guidance given to them by you. Marriage makes us aware of the changes wrought by time, but the new relationship will continue to draw much of its beauty and meaning from the intimate associations of the past. Let us celebrate the now and future of their love.

Invocation

As we stand here at the altar of life, where life is touched by love, and love by life, we share with these two who are taking their marriage vows, their new-found happiness. We see the door open for comradeship and mystery, for growth and fulfillment.

We pray that they may each bring their whole and best self to the other. May they bring intelligence as well as faith, to the task that is set before them. May they maintain enduring trust and respect, remembering that to understand all is ever to forgive all.

Chalice Lighting

As the flame burns brightly in this chalice, may love burn brightly in our hearts.

Interrogation

Groom 1 and Groom 2 have you come here freely and without reservation to give yourselves to each other in marriage?

Groom & Groom: We have.

Son, you have come with your father for his marriage to Groom 2. Your life will be changed in untold ways by this moment. Do you say yes to this marriage, and do you welcome Groom 2 as part of your family?

Son: Yes, I do.

Readings

We now take the time for readings, each chosen by Groom 1 and Groom 2 to express how they feel about this day and their journey together.

Reading for Groom 2 from Groom 1, read by a person of Groom 1's choice -

from "The Little Prince" by Antoine de Saint-Exupery, adapted

"Come and play with me," proposed the little prince.

"I cannot play with you," the fox said. "I am not tamed."

"What does that mean, tame?"

"It is an act too often neglected," said the fox. "It means to establish ties.... if you tame me, then we shall need each other. To me, you shall be unique in all the world. To you, I shall be unique in all the world.... One only understands the things that one tames.... If you want a friend, tame me...."

"What must I do to tame you?" asked the little prince.

"You must be patient," replied the fox. "First you will sit down at a little distance from me--like that--"

in the grass. I shall look at you out of the corner of my eye, and you will say nothing. Words are the source of misunderstandings. But you must sit a little closer to me, every day... [and you must] come back at the same hour. ...if you come at just any time, I shall never know at what hour my heart is to be ready to greet you.... One must observe the proper rites."

So the prince tamed the fox.... [It was then that the fox shared a secret with the little prince].

"And now here is my secret, [said the fox] a very simple secret: it is only with the heart that one can see rightly, what is essential is invisible to the eye."

Reading for Groom 1 from Groom 2, read by a person of Groom 2's choice - from "A Bridge Across Forever" by Richard Bach

A soulmate is someone who has locks that fit our keys, and keys to fit our locks. When we feel safe enough to open the locks, our truest selves step out and we can be completely and honestly who we are; we can be loved for who we are and not for who we're pretending to be. Each unveils the best part of the other. No matter what else goes wrong around us, with that one person we're safe in our own paradise. Our soulmate is someone who shares our deepest longings, our sense of direction. When we're two balloons, and together our direction is up, chances are we've found the right person. Our soulmate is the one who makes life come to life.

Homily

Groom 1 and Groom 2 you have freely chosen one another. When, in loving encounter, you come face to face with the one whose gaze answers the desire expressed in your own, a kind of completion is possible through all of the senses. At such moments you see in the eyes, feel in the touch, and hear in the voice of the other, something which is prior to words: the acceptance and affirmation of who you are, and what you may become. It is this acceptance and affirmation--freely given and received as a gift

from the other--which can serve as the foundation for your life together.

But the freedom which is essential to love also renders it precarious. Be aware that the attempt to ensure love by demanding it destroys that which it seeks to preserve. Let your awareness of love's fragility inspire you: never take each other for granted, but rather nurture each other with care and concern so that you may grow together.

Song:

Love Song (originally written by The Cure; performed by friends of the couple in the style of Adele)

**During the song is the lighting our unity candle and share cakes and wine*

Charge to the Couple

That a marriage endures and prospers is due to the level of commitment that both individuals bring to the relationship. By loving each other, by creating an atmosphere of care and consideration and respect, by facing the tensions and anxieties that underlie human life, may you create a marriage that will sustain and nurture both of you.

Handfasting

Officiant: Groom 1 and Groom 2 have chosen to incorporate the ancient ritual of handfasting in their wedding ceremony today. Handfasting is a declaration of intent where the couple clearly states their intentions for the marriage and their feelings on it.

Groom 2 and Groom 1, know now before you go further that since your lives have crossed in this life, you have formed eternal bonds. With full awareness, know that within this circle you are declaring your intent before your friends and family as witnesses.

The promises made today and the ties that are bound here greatly strengthen your union and will cross the years and lives of each soul's growth. Groom 1 and Groom 2, please look into each other's eyes.

Groom 1 and Groom 2: (Hold hands, one partner with his or her left hand and the other with his or her right hand.)

Officiant: Groom 2, will you share in Groom 1's pain and seek to alleviate it?

Groom 2: I will.

Officiant: Groom 1, will you share in Groom 2's pain and seek to alleviate it?

Groom 1: I will.

Officiant: And so, the binding is made.

Officiant: Groom 2, will you share in Groom 1's laughter and look for the brightness and the positive in her? (I will.)

Groom 1, will you share in Groom 2's laughter and look for the brightness and positive in him? (I will.)

And so the binding is made.

Officiant: Groom 2, will you share in Groom 1's burdens so that your spirits may grow in this union? (I will.)

Groom 1, will you share in Groom 2's burdens so that your spirits may grow in this union? (I will.)

And so the binding is made.

Officiant: Groom 2, will you share in Groom 1's dreams? (I will.)

Groom 1, will you share in Groom 2's dreams? (I will.)

And so the binding is made.

Officiant: Groom 2, will you take the heat of anger and use it to temper the strength of this union? (I will.)

Groom 1, will you take the heat of anger and use it to temper the strength of this union? (I will.)

And so the binding is made.

Officiant: Groom 2, will you honor Groom 1 as an equal in this union? (I will.)

Groom 1, will you honor Groom 2 as an equal in this union? (I will.)

And so the binding is made.

Groom 1 and Groom 2, as your hands are bound together now, so your lives and spirits are joined in a union of love and trust. Above you are stars and below you is earth. Like stars your love should be a constant source of light, and like the earth, a firm foundation from which to grow. Know that this cord, which is made from half your lengths and represents your relationship, is not bound, for it is you who hold the making or breaking of this union.

Vows

It is now time for the traditional vows. Please repeat after me:

I, _____, take you, _____, to be no other than yourself. Loving what I know of you, trusting what I don't yet know, with respect for your integrity, and faith in your abiding love for me, through all our years, and in all that life may bring us, I accept you as my husband and partner.

Rings

I will now ask you to seal the vows you share with each other by the giving and receiving of rings. The perfect circle of the ring symbolizes eternity – that which has no beginning or end. The

precious metal came from the ground as a rough ore and was heated and purified, shaped and polished. Something beautiful was made from raw elements. Love is like that. It comes from humble beginnings, made by imperfect beings. It is the process of making something beautiful where there was once nothing at all.

Repeat after me: With this ring I thee wed, and with it I pledge my honor, my love and my life.

Prayer

Spirit of Life and Love, may these two souls find a communion of ideal being and perfect grace. May their love reach the level of every day's most quiet need. By sun and candlelight, may they love freely as those who strive for right. May they love purely as those who turn from praise. May they find strength to meet adversity; tolerance to resist prejudice; reverence for all that is beautiful; respect for the truth; and faith to meet the uncertainty which will come their way. May their days together be strong in promise, full of beauty and blessed with love. Amen and Blessed Be.

Admonition

Just as all people need love and support, a marriage cannot exist alone. You, as those closest to Groom 1 and Groom 2 , share a responsibility to help provide a supportive environment to help their marriage grow. If you do so agree, please say “we do” now:

ALL: We do.

Jumping of the Broom and Sword

In ancient times, it was the job of the best man to be the savior of the day if need be. He stood by the groom's side to protect the bridal party, to carry both his sword and that of the grooms should the party be ambushed. The sword represents protection and security. The job of the maid of honor

was to be a decoy to confuse would be attackers as to who was the bride, and she made sure that the home the bride and groom were coming back to was prepared for the wedding night. The broom represents the home, hearth and heart of the couple. In our modern times, we look at this as a blessing and promise as by leaping the crossed sword and broom, they promise to protect and care for one another.

(couple leaps the broom) Huzzah!

Benediction

Now you will feel no rain,
for each of you will be shelter to the other.
Now you will feel no cold,
for each of you will be warmth to the other.
Now there is no loneliness for you,
For each of you will accompany the other,
Now you are two persons,
but there is only one life before you.
Go now to your dwelling place
to enter the days of your years together.
And may your days be good and long upon the earth.

May I be the first to present Mr. Groom 1 and Mr. Groom 2. You may seal this with a kiss!

Kiss and Recessional

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