

# Introductions

*The author has put this collection together as a result of many requests from couples to provide suggestions for something different for ceremonies. This book is the accumulated experience of over fourteen years of being a civil celebrant. The author has selected sections of ceremonies that have appealed to her.*

*She hopes that couples find it a useful, workable model from which to build their own ceremony. There are also included suggestions for music. The final section is on special ceremonies that can be worked into the order of ceremony.*

*There are five ceremonies which can be mixed and matched that are contained in this document.*

*The Introduction section explains how the couple view their marriage.*

*For information about my services please visit my website, I also have other useful tools that will make your day special.*

*Janet*

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### **Option One**

I hope this day marks a beautiful beginning of the first day of the rest of your life, with renewed commitment to do the things that are important to you; the things that keep you healthy, happy and safe from harm. May you carry on with love in your heart, wings for your flight, and endless possibilities to reach your goals.

I hope this day reminds you of what a gift your life is , to yourself and to others. I hope you can grasp this significance because you are so special, and I hope the love and care you have given others will be returned to you today. Get prepared to receive.

May every problem you have make clear a promise of solution, every question an answer, every goal a method of achievement. May loves wonder and protection blanket you with perfection and the inspiration to do wonders on the road to your dreams.

May no fear touch your doorstep, may no doubts cloud the windows of your soul. May every impossibility be turned into a working blueprint that will enhance your confidence to finish what ever task your engaged in.

I wish you boundless energy and passion and gardens of plenty with brightly coloured wonders as you look into the mirror of tomorrow and seize the day today. It is yours ! Celebrate! This is the marriage of (grooms name) and (brides name).

### **Option Two**

(Groom's name) and (Bride's name) have come here to make public their love for each other: to give notice of their truth; to declare their choice to live and partner and grow together – out loud, and in your presence, out of their desire that we will all come to feel a very real and intimate part of their decision, and thus make it even more powerful.

This is the time that (Groom's name and Bride's name) have chosen to become husband and wife. We are here today to witness their commitment to each other in the special bond of marriage and to wish them happiness, abundance and joy in their life together.

Within its framework of commitment and loyalty, marriage enables the ever-growing tolerance, patience and respect for each other to sustain a deep , lasting and life-affirming relationship. We who are witnessing your marriage today hope that it is above all, one that enables each of you, and as one, to be the grandest version of the greatest vision ever you held about who you are.

### **Option Three**

Friends, we have come together here in celebration of the joining of (Groom's name and Bride's name). There are many things to say about marriage. Much wisdom concerning the joining together of two souls has come our way through all paths of belief, and from many cultures. With each union, more knowledge is gained and more wisdom gathered. Though we are unable to give all this knowledge to these two who stand before us, we can hope to leave them with the knowledge of love and its strengths and the anticipation of the wisdom that comes with time. The law of life is love unto all beings. Without love, life is nothing. If we learn no more in life, let it be this.

This is not the first cycle of their lives together. Rather than start new, this ceremony represents to (Groom's name) and (Bride's name) a new season. Just as spring is a time of planting, and summer a time of growth, this cycle represents the harvest of growth, maturity and abiding respect. Past success, failures, disappointments and joy simply nourish this harvest, providing a rich and stable place from which to grow together as the cycle of life continues.

A union such as this unites not only these two people, but brings together two halves of a circle. When a man and a woman pledge their hearts to each other, they not only create a home and family of their own, they also carry with them the support, good will and hopes of all that care for them as individuals.

This union is a confirmation to the families from which you come that they are worthy and that their contribution to your lives shall be continued in the home that you have created.

In a close and personal way, your marriage is a unity of these two families that bore and raised you. By uniting together, each of you join the family of each other, to bear its strengths and promise into the future as it lies within your ability to do. Having this acknowledged is an important matter.

### **Option Four**

(Groom's name) and (Bride's name) have invited you, their family and friends, to be here today to witness their declaration of love and commitment and to share their joy at being married.

From this day forward, they will be husband and wife and they are honored that you, their most cherished friends and family, have joined them to help celebrate this great love they share.

**Option Five**

Dear friends, welcome! We are here to bear witness to the joining of (Groom's name) and (Bride's name) in marriage , to celebrate their love for each other, and to share the joy of this memorable occasion. (Groom's name) and (Bride's name) stand here before us to proclaim their love, devotion and commitment to each other.

Marriage is one of the most important relationships that two people can commit to in their lifetime. Marriage offers the greatest challenges to overcome but in return, it gives us the love, strength and friendship. Marriage deepens and enriches every facet of life. Happiness is fuller, memories are fresher, commitment is stronger and even anger is felt more strongly and passes away more quickly. In marriage we marry a mystery, an other, a counterpart.

The person we marry is someone we love, but their depths and intricacies we will come to know only in the long unraveling of time. We know enough about our beloved to know that we love the other, and to imagine , as time goes on, we will come to love them even more. To our knowledge we add our willingness to embark on the journey of getting to know each other ever so wonderfully more. Swept up by a sense of love, warmth, hope, awareness and adventure, we agree to come together for the mysterious future, to see where the journey will take us.

Throughout the memory of man, the founding of a new home has been noted as an act of a high and holy order. it has been celebrated with a service of marriage in sacred groves, in humble meeting houses, under vaulted arches, in temples with ancient rites, and in bombed out cellars with hurried words. Yet neither state , church, nor family relations can, by the sole weight of tradition, ceremony or expectation, create a genuine joining of man and woman. Such a wedlock comes only through the ripening of love freely given.

(said to the couple) It is in your power, therefore, and your power alone to bless this service, by the sincerity of your purpose, the strength of your common devotion, and the enduring character of your dedication.