

# 2 Friends Events

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## Sample Ceremony

**Officiant should motion everyone to stand before bride walks out and sit prior to starting ceremony.**

**OPENING WORDS OF THE OFFICIANT**—The wedding should begin by welcoming your guests.

*Dearly Beloved, we are gathered here today in the presence of these witnesses, to join \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in matrimony, which is commended to be honorable among all men; and therefore is not by any to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly, but reverently, discreetly, advisedly and solemnly. Into this holy estate these two persons present now come to be joined. If any person can show just cause why they may not be joined together, let them speak now or forever hold their peace.*

Another variation is:

*Friends, we have been invited here today to share with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ a very important moment in their lives. In the years they have been together, their love and understanding of each other has grown and matured, and now they have decided to live their lives together as husband and wife.*

### **THE GIVING IN MARRIAGE (optional)**

The traditional wording is "Who gives this woman to be wedded to this man" but in modern weddings many couples opt for something such as "Who supports this couple in their marriage?" or "Who supports this woman in her marriage to this man?" or choose to leave it out altogether.

### **AN OPENING PRAYER OR READING**

This will generally set the tone of your wedding. It could be serious, humorous, sentimental, or elegant. Typically, it says something about love, relationships, or marriages.

### **DEFINITION OF MARRIAGE**

Here the officiant says some words about marriage in general. He or she will most likely talk about the seriousness of the solemn vow you are about to make, and the new life together you are creating.

### **WEDDING VOWS**

### **SECOND READING OR SONG**

### **EXCHANGE OF RINGS OR GIFTS**

The bride and groom say something like "I (name) give you (name) this ring as an eternal symbol of my love and commitment to you."

### **LIGHTING OF UNITY CANDLE OR OTHER UNITY CEREMONY (optional)**

Many couples are choosing to add a unity ceremony. They may choose to do this in silence, with music playing or they may create vows to say about the joining of their families.

### **CLOSING**

This could be a poem, a prayer, or a sanctioning of the marriage. It is generally the "final thoughts" of the officiant.

### **DECLARATION OF MARRIAGE**

The officiant typically says something akin to "By the power vested in me by the State of \_\_\_\_\_, I now pronounce you husband and wife". This is followed by the first kiss of the newly married couple. The officiant traditionally says, "You may now kiss the bride". Modern couples often find it strange for someone else to be giving permission to kiss a grown woman. So now, either the couple kiss immediately after the declaration of marriage or the officiant says something like "you may now kiss each other."

### **INTRODUCTION OF NEWLYWEDS**

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