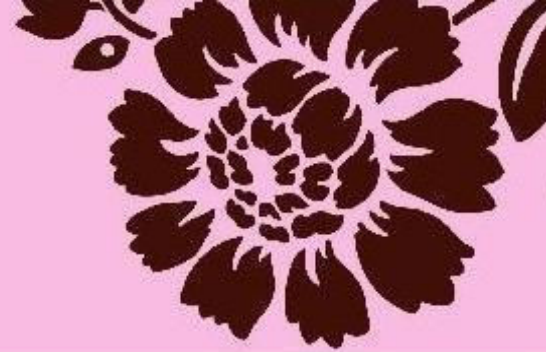


Wedding Bells Are Ringing

Creative Custom Ceremonies For All Occasions



Short & Sweet: 'Handfasting Ceremony'

Gathering Words

Greetings and welcome to you all! We are gathered here today to witness and to celebrate one of life's greatest moments, to give recognition to the worth and beauty of love, and to add our best wishes and blessings to the union of <Bride Full> and <Groom Full>. We have come here this day to share in their joy as they come now to be united in the state of holy matrimony.

In Europe, until the mid 1700's, few unions were sanctified in a church or synagogue. Rather, they were celebrated by a simple handfasting ceremony in which the two partners joined hands over the village anvil, in the fields, or in the groves of trees. The couple would link hands to form an infinite circle, and then, their hands or wrists would be bound together, symbolizing the binding together of their two lives into one. It is from this practice that the expression "tying the knot" comes from. <Bride> and <Groom> have chosen this day to engage in a traditional handfasting ceremony to commemorate their entering, together, into the union of marriage.

Handfasting

Handfasting cord is taken from the altar.

<Groom> and <Bride>, this cord is a symbol of the lives you have chosen to lead together. Up until this moment, you have been separate in thought, word and action. As your hands are bound together by this cord, so too, shall your lives be bound as one.

If you would, please turn to face each other, and join your right hands.

The Bride and Groom's hands and wrists are bound with Handfasting Cord.

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Just as your hands are now bound together, so too, are your lives. May you be forever one, sharing in all things, in love and loyalty for all time to come.

Bride and Groom's hands and wrists remain bound as they take your wedding vows.

Vows

<Groom>, if you would, please repeat after me:

I, <Groom Full>, choose you, <Bride Full>, to be my wedded wife; to live with you and to laugh with you; to work by your side and to dream in your arms; to fill your heart and to feed your soul; to always seek out the best I can in you; and to always love you with all my heart, until the end of our forever.

<Bride>, if you would, please repeat after me:

I, <Bride Full>, choose you, <Groom Full>, to be my wedded husband; to live with you and to laugh with you; to work by your side and to dream in your arms; to fill your heart and to feed your soul; to always seek out the best I can in you; and to always love you with all my heart, until the end of our forever.

Rings

As it is, you cannot always be physically joined.

The Handfasting Cord is removed, without untying it, and is replaced on the altar.

And so, we use the wedding ring to symbolize that connection. It is a constant reminder of the sacred bond shared between a husband and a wife.

Who holds the rings?

The rings are given to the Bride and Groom.

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<Groom> and <Bride>, you hold here in your hands the wedding rings that you will exchange with one another. When you give a ring to someone in marriage, you are giving them a symbol of your eternal love, a love that, like the circle formed by each of these rings, has no beginning and no end.

As you understand this, and wish to affirm the love that the giving and receiving of these rings represents, please, exchange your rings with one another, and state for each, "With this ring, I thee wed".

Beginning with you, <Groom>:

<Groom> places the ring on <Bride>'s finger and states, "With this ring, I thee wed."

And now you, <Bride>:

<Bride> places the ring on <Groom>'s finger and states, "With this ring, I thee wed."

Pronouncement

<Groom> and <Bride>, now that you have joined yourselves in matrimony, may you strive always to meet this commitment with the same spirit you now are now exhibiting. Inasmuch as you have consented together to enter into the holy bonds of marriage; and having pledged, and sealed your vows by the giving and receiving of rings, it gives me great pleasure to pronounce that you are now husband and wife.

Congratulations! You may kiss the bride!

Presentation

It is with great pleasure and honor that I now present to you, for the very first time, Mr. and Mrs. <Bride> and <Groom Full>!

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