

## CHRISTIAN BEACH CEREMONY

### Declaration of Intent:

(Bride) and (Groom), please turn towards one another, join your hands and in so doing, join your hearts.

The bond and covenant of marriage was established by God and therefore is not to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly; but reverently, deliberately, and in accordance with the purposes for which it was instituted. (Bride) and (Groom), have you come here joyfully and without reservation to be united as one in holy matrimony for the rest of your days? ~ We have.

### Words of Welcome:

Dearly beloved, (Bride) and (Groom) bid you welcome and express their gratitude for your presence as they pledge their love and fidelity in the holy estate of matrimony on this joyful day. We gather on this beach where the pounding of the surf, the light of the sun and the glory that is nature represent the strength, power and grandeur they wish to bring to their union. The strength of their commitment, the power of their spirits and the wonder of their love bring us to this hour. May they always feel the depth of these emotions like the depths of these waters and their marriage endure in beauty and in faith.

At joyous occasions such as these, it is right and fitting to remember those who are important in (Bride's) and (Groom's) lives but are unable to be with us this day. We hold their absent loved ones fondly in our hearts at this hour of commitment.

### Opening Prayer:

Let us pray. Dear Lord, our hearts are filled with great happiness on (Bride's) and (Groom's) wedding day, as they come before you pledging their hearts and lives to one another. Grant that they may be ever true and loving; living together is such a way as to never bring shame or heartbreak into their marriage. Temper their hearts with kindness and understanding and rid them of all pretense of jealousy. Help them to remember to be each other's sweetheart, helpmate, friend and guide, so together they may meet the cares and problems of life more bravely. And with the passage of time, may the home they are creating today,

truly be a place of love and harmony, where your spirit is ever present.

We ask these things in Jesus' name; Amen.

Affirmation of the Couple:

Our setting at the beach today reminds us of the inevitable changes life will bring to (Bride) and (Groom). Just as the shoreline changes shape from the forces of wind, water and sand, but this beach remains, they will inevitably change as individuals and as a couple from the forces of time and fortune, yet their marriage shall endure. Our blessings abound for (Bride) and (Groom) that they may be granted the beauty and strength we see around us today. (Bride) and (Groom) you have both shared with me that a generous spirit is one of the things you appreciate most about one another. You value your easy companionship, your open and honest communication and how willing you are to sacrifice for the other.

Your mutual esteem is admirable, for the giving of yourself in love is difficult, for you must give of your love without total submission of yourself. Therefore, in your giving, give your joy, your sadness, your interest, your understanding, your knowledge -- all expressions that make up life. But in this giving, remember to preserve yourself -- your integrity, your individuality. This is the challenge of love within marriage. The union of husband and wife in heart, body and mind is intended by God for your mutual joy; for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity. Your devotion, joy and love can grow, only if you nurture them together. Stand fast in that hope and confidence, believing in your shared future just as strongly as you believe in yourselves and in each other this day. Only in this spirit, can you create a partnership that will strengthen and sustain you all the days of your lives.

Exchange of Vows:

(Bride) and (Groom) this covenant is meant to be a beautiful and sacred expression of your love for each other. As you pledge your vows to each other, and as you commit your lives to each other, we ask that you do so in all seriousness, and yet with a sense of great joy; with the deep conviction you are committing yourselves to a growing relationship of trust, mutual support, and caring love.

(Bride), please look into (Groom's) eyes as I ask you;  
As you stand here before your family and friends in the midst of God's eternal love, do you, (Bride), take (Groom) to be your wedded husband to have and to hold from this day forward, for better and for worse, for richer and for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, according to God's holy ordinance; giving him everything within your heart, body and soul to give? ~ I do.

(Groom), please look into (Bride's) eyes as I ask you;  
As you stand here before your family and friends in the midst of God's eternal love, do you, (Groom), take (Bride) to be your wedded wife to have and to hold from this day forward, for better and for worse, for richer and for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, according to God's holy ordinance; giving her everything within your heart, body and soul to give? ~ I do.

#### Blessing of the Rings

May I have the rings please?

As circles have no beginning and no end, rings have naturally come to symbolize eternal love within the union of mind, body, and spirit that constitutes the sanctity of marriage. They are freely offered as gifts of faith and hope as visible signs of the promises given this day. Dear Lord, bless these rings. May their shine, like the reflective waters before us, mirror the sacred vows made between them. May their radiance, like the sun above us, grace their hands with a warm and nurturing presence.

May their durability, like the ground below us, be a symbol of the strength of (Bride's) and (Groom's) eternal commitment, now and forever. Amen.

#### Exchange of Rings

(Groom), please look into the eyes of your beloved, placing the ring upon (Bride's) finger as you repeat after me.

With this Ring I thee wed, with my Body I thee worship, and with all my worldly Goods I thee endow: In the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(Bride), please look into the eyes of your beloved, placing the ring upon (Groom's) finger as you repeat after me.

With this Ring I thee wed, with my Body I thee worship, and with all my worldly Goods I thee endow: In the Name of the Father, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

#### Blessing of the Marriage

Let us pray. Dear Lord, help (Groom) and (Bride) to follow and serve you with an ever growing commitment because of their union. Let their love for each other be a seal upon their hearts, a mantle about their shoulders, and a crown upon their foreheads. Guide them into greater love, compassion, forgiveness and sacrifice as they care for each other's needs, knowing you will care for them and may their mutual esteem in marriage be a radiant reflection of your love for all of us. Amen.

#### Declaration of Marriage

For as much as (Bride) and (Groom) have consented together in holy wedlock, and have witnessed the same before God and this company, and thereto have given and pledged their loyalty, each to the other, declaring the same by giving and receiving a ring, I pronounce that they are Husband and Wife, In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

You may kiss your bride!