

Processional “Canon in D Major”- Pachelbel

Celebrant lights the taper candles and takes his place in between the two flower arrangements. This signifies the service is about to begin.

Introduction

Celebrant: “Friends, and Family. We are gathered here today to bare witness to the civil union between [Full Name of Groom 1] and [Full Name of Groom 2]. Through this ceremony [Couple’s Names] will publicly declare their life-long commitment to one another. Although this commitment will not be recognized by any governing body, their devotion for one another is widely recognizable by all around them. The lack of traditionalism, the lack of constitutional support, and the lack of a ‘legal meaning’, are all overshadowed by the powerful love that these two people have for each other. Many may feel that this ceremony is a very unique situation. But in all actuality, there is nothing unique about it. People fall in love and commit to each other every day. Those that have come to know [Couple’s Names] know that their love is real, and that they are meant to be together. Because of this, [Couple’s Names] have invited you, their family and friends, to witness their commitment to each other, and to validate their partnership in the eyes of those who are important to them.”

Affirmation

Celebrant: “We have come together to witness the joining together of two lives. [Couple’s Names] have come here in affection and honor to say before us that they will henceforth continue to share their home and combine in

mutual living and responsibility. Love is the wish of the whole self to unite with one another to the end of personal completeness. Touched by this love, nature yields tenderness, togetherness, simplicity, honesty, and delight. When two people honestly and sincerely declare their affection for each other, they are affirming the precious truth that love is the foundation of all life – between two people, between friends, and between all humanity.”

Vows “Canon in D Major”- Pachelbel – (very softly played)

Celebrant: “Now, [Couple’s Names], will you join hands. Do you aspire to love each other and to live together in a spirit of tolerance, mutual support, and concern for each other’s well-being, sharing your responsibilities, your problems, and your joys?”

Couple: “Yes, we do.”

Celebrant: “I now ask you both to speak in truth to each other and to your family and friends who are here with you today.”

Couple: *Exchange written personal vows.*

Unity Candle “Canon in D Major”- Pachelbel – (very softly played)

Celebrant: “[Couple’s Names] are going to light their unity candle, as a symbol of their joining together. The two candles from which they light the unity candle represent each of them in the fullness of their being. They come into this civil union as individuals and they do not lose their identity, rather they create through their commitment, a life-long partnership. Therefore, three candles remain lighted, one for each of them and one for

their union as symbols of their commitment to each other and to a lasting and loving life together.”

Rings *No music*

Celebrant: As is customary in many unions, an exchange of rings signifies a commitment to each other, and shows an outward symbol and visible sign of an inward and spiritual bond which unites two hearts in love. By their shape, these rings are symbols of a continuous love that exists between you both.

[Groom 1], as you place the ring on [Groom 2’s First Name] left hand, repeat after me.

Celebrant: “[Groom 2], I give you this ring”

Groom 1: “[Groom 2], I give you this ring”

Celebrant: “as a symbol of my love and commitment.”

Groom 1: “as a symbol of my love and commitment.”

Celebrant: [Groom 2], as you place the ring on [Groom 1’s First Name] left hand, repeat after me.

Celebrant: “[Groom 1], I give you this ring”

Groom 2: “[Groom 1], I give you this ring,”

Celebrant: “as a symbol of my love and commitment.”

Groom 2: “as a symbol of my love and commitment.”

Celebrant: “And now may we offer to you, [Couple’s Names], our sincere good wishes. May you have joy and give joy and make your home a source of strength and happiness to yourselves and to others. You may now

celebrate your union together with a kiss that signifies the love and the trust that you have given to each other today.”

Recessional "Ode to Joy" -- *Beethoven*