



## Simple Ceremony

We are gathered here, in the presence of these witnesses, to join together \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_ in matrimony. It is not to be entered into unadvisedly but discreetly,  
sincerely and in dedication of life.

A prophet once said:

Love one another, but make not a bond of that love.

Let it rather be like a moving sea between the shores of your souls.

And stand together, and yet not too near together.

For even the pillars of the temple must stand apart; and the oak tree and  
the cypress will not grow in each other's shadow.

Love calls you into union with one another.

I ask you now in the presence of these witnesses to declare your intent.

To Bride:

Will you have this man to be your husband, to live together in a holy marriage?

Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him in sickness and in health,  
and forsaking all others, be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?

Bride response: I will

To Groom:

Will you have this woman to be your wife, to live together in a holy marriage?

Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her in sickness and in health,  
and forsaking all others, be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

Groom response: I will

Ring exchange

"The ring is a circle, symbolic of eternity, unity, and the universe. In earlier times the ring was associated with the Sun and Moon. It was an object of protection, a magical guard that warded off negativity through its continuity.... Today, the wedding ring is an outward and visible sign—signifying to all the uniting of a man and a woman in matrimony

Groom:

Take this ring, / and with it my promise of faith, patience, love and understanding,/ for the rest  
of my life

Bride:

Take this ring,/ and with it my promise of faith, patience, love and understanding,/ for the rest  
of my life

Forasmuch as \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ have consented together in wedlock and  
have witnessed the same each to the other and before these witnesses and have pledged their  
faith each to the other and have declared the same by giving and receiving a ring, by virtue of  
the authority vested in me and the state of Maryland I pronounce \_\_\_\_\_ and  
\_\_\_\_\_ are husband and wife.

\_\_\_\_\_ you may kiss your bride.