Welcome everyone! Thank you for coming to celebrate the wedding of Bride and Groom.

I asked Bride's Dad yesterday if he was going to be choked up and he said no. This is their third daughter and third wedding and they are all working out just fine. I asked him as a joke if they didn’t work out do they have to pay him back? He said that didn’t seem to be a problem but when he paid for them to go to college if they got less than a B they had to pay him back! I take that as a great sign. If your dad believes in you and your choice of spouse you are going to be OK!

I love my job officiating weddings. It’s a wonderful thing to be here and witness the vows two people make. It’s an absolutely beautiful day. (we are all blown away...by the beauty of the bride!) It’s wonderful to see all the family and friends gathered from far and near to be here for the celebration. To enjoy the food, dance, music and friendship. and they could even become an aunt and uncle at any moment! But, most importantly, we are all here with Bride and Groom as witnesses to their love and lifelong commitment to each other. Today is a perfect day! It’s everything they want this day to
be. They have the words they have chosen to say to each other and
the thoughts they want to express. The special people they have
chosen to read passages. This is everything it should be. This is the
beginning. This is the beginning of a hopefully long, beautiful
journey. Sometimes to appreciate the good we experience the not so
seemingly perfect so we can appreciate the great times so much
more. Bride and Groom, I hope when life brings you challenges and
you need joy in your life you can look back on this day and
remember all the wonderful memories you are making. The
Marching Band that greeted you with fanfare yesterday. Brooklyn
the K9 ring bearer, The flower girl you will watch grow up and most
especially, exactly how you feel for one another today and the
words you exchange. That you can remember looking around at
your family and friends here to support you on a perfect day and
know they will be there if you ever need then for anything.

Let us pray:

Wedding Prayer
By Robert Louis Stevenson

Lord, behold our family here assembled.
We thank you for this place in which we dwell,
   for the love that unites us,
for the peace accorded us this day,
for the hope with which we expect the morrow,
   for the health, the work, the food,
and the bright skies that make our lives delightful;
   for our friends in all parts of the earth.

Amen.
True Love
Author Unknown

True love is a sacred flame
That burns eternally,
And none can dim its special glow
Or change its destiny.
True love speaks in tender tones
And hears with gentle ear,
True love gives with open heart
And true love conquers fear.
True love makes no harsh demands
It neither rules nor binds,
And true love holds with gentle hands
The hearts that it entwines.

First reading

The Art of a Good Marriage
William A. Peterson

"A good marriage must be created.
In marriage the "little" things are the big things.
It is never being too old to hold hands.
It is remembering to say, "I love you" at least once a day.
It is never going to sleep angry.
It is having a mutual sense of values, and common objectives.
It is standing together and facing the world.
It is forming a circle that gathers in the whole family.
It is speaking words of appreciation, and demonstrating gratitude
in thoughtful ways.
It is having the capacity to forgive and forget.
It is giving each other an atmosphere in which each can grow.
It is a common search for the good and the beautiful.
It is not only marrying the right person -- it is being the right partner."

Second Reading

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow; but woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up. Again, if two lie together, they are warm; but how can one be warm alone? And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him.

Vows
Please repeat after me...

I Groom, take you, Bride, to be my wedded wife. To have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, ‘till death do you part.

I Bride, take you, Groom, to be my wedded husband To have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, ‘till death do you part.

The Exchange of Rings
When I met Bride and Groom I asked if they were nervous about the wedding. Lindsay said no. Signing the papers when they bought a house together a year and a half ago was a lot worse! We know they are ready for the responsibilities of marriage and since their dog is their ring bearer I think we can safely say they will also make great parents with that experience!

The ring is the symbol of the commitment which binds these two together. There are two rings because there are two people, each to make a contribution to the life of the other, and to their new life together.

Let us pray:
Bless, O Lord, the giving of these rings, that they who wear them may abide together in your peace and grow in one another’s eyes.

Groom: Bride, Let this ring be a symbol of my promises to you and a reminder of my devotion to you. I am honored to call you my wife.

Bride: William, Let this ring be a symbol of my promises to you and a reminder of my devotion to you. I am honored to call you my husband.

sorrows both be shared alike.

The Hands Ceremony

Bride and Groom are facing each other and holding each other’s hands, so that they may see the gift that they are to each other.

These are the hands of your best friend, young and strong and full
of love for you, that are holding yours on your wedding day as you promise to love each other today, tomorrow and forever.
These are the hands that will work alongside yours as together you build your future.
These are the hands that will countless times wipe the tears from your eyes, tears of sorrow and tears of joy.
These are the hands that will give you support and encouragement to chase down your dreams.
These are the hands that will give you strength when you need it.
These are the hands that will lift your chin and brush your cheek as they raise your face to look into eyes that are filled with overwhelming love for you.
And lastly, these are the hands that even when wrinkled and aged will still be reaching for yours, still giving you the same unspoken tenderness with just a touch.

Unity Candle Ceremony

Bride and Groom have chosen to commemorate their marriage by lighting a Unity Candle. This ceremony represents the joining of two families. Both of their mothers have already lit their candles as a symbol of their love towards their children and from where they come. Their children will now join those flames.

Light is the essence of our existence. Each one of us possesses an inner glow that represents our hopes, our dreams and aspirations in life.

Bride and Groom, the two distinct candle flames represent your lives before this day, individual, unique and special. Please take the candle symbolizing your life before today, and together light the center candle to symbolize the union of your individual lives. (Place
the tapers back into their holders—join hands and remain near the candles) As this new flame burns undivided, so shall your lives now be one. From now on your thoughts will always be for each other rather than just your individual selves. Your plans will be mutual, your joys and sorrows both will be shared alike.

Although you are now entering into a marriage relationship, you do not, however, lose your personal identity. Rather, you will use your special individuality to create and strengthen the relationship of marriage. Therefore all three candles remain glowing. The individual candles represent all that makes each of you the wonderful and unique person the other admires and respects. The Unity candle in the center symbolizes the union of your lives, families, and friends, as well as your shining commitment to each other, and to a lasting and loving marriage.

May the blessing of light,
   Be with you always,
Light without and light within.
And may the sun shine
Upon you and warm your heart
   Until it glows
Like a great fire
So other may feel
The warmth of your love
For one another.

One Hand One Heart, plays.

Final Blessing

Bride and Groom, may you be blessed with an abundance of all things good.
May you be helpful to one another in all ways.
May you be strong and complement one another.
May you be blessed with prosperity and riches on all levels.
    May you be eternally happy.
    May you be blessed with a happy family life.
        May you live in perfect harmony
    May you always be the best of friends.

I Now pronounce you Husband and wife!

You may now kiss!

Ladies and Gentlemen: Mr. and Mrs...!!!