



WEDDING CEREMONY PLAN WORKSHEET
AND ORDER OF CEREMONY

Please complete the following worksheet and order of ceremony page.
Return the completed forms (including this page) to the church office at least one week prior to
your final meeting with the officiating pastor.

Bride's Name: _____

Groom's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Wedding Location: _____

Wedding Date: _____ Time: _____

Rehearsal Date: _____ Time: _____

Attire: _____

Additional Notes: _____

Ceremony Plan

□ Prelude

The prelude is about 30 minutes before the wedding begins while the guests are arriving and being seated. The music played is usually instrumental background music. Our audio tech has CD's available with this type of music. You can also have a musician playing music or bring CD's of your own.

For the prelude music, we will:

_____ *provide our own CD's* _____ *use audio tech's choice*

If you are using live music, do you have your musicians? _____ *yes* _____ *no*

How many live musicians will there be/what kind of instruments?

□ Processional

The processional marks the beginning of the ceremony when the bridal party enters. Your Wedding Director can help you with song suggestions if needed.

Traditionally, the bridesmaids will enter alone, followed by the flower girl and ring bearer. The pastor, groom, and groomsmen will already have entered from the front.

For the processional music, we would like _____

Will the bridesmaid enter alone or with the groomsmen? _____

□ Presentation of the Bride

The audio tech has the traditional wedding music available for the entrance of the bride. Your Wedding Director can help you with song suggestions if needed.

The bride may enter with her father, mother, both parents, another family member, or alone.

For the presentation of the bride, the music we would like is:

The bride will enter _____

□ Greeting and Call to Worship/Prayer

The pastor will welcome your guests in his own words and lead them in prayer.

We would like the following to be included in the greeting:

□ The Charge

The Charge is the pastor’s encouragement to follow God’s blueprint for marriage. At this point, he will be speaking to the bride and groom in his own words.

We would like the following thoughts/Bible passages to be included in the charge:

□ Declarations (I do’s)

Here is where the bride and groom respond to the pastor’s questions with vocal affirmation. You may choose your own words for your declarations or you may use the following suggested declaration:

Spoken by the pastor to the groom:

“Will you, _____, take this woman to be your wife, to live together in 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?”

Answer: *“I will.”*

Spoken by the pastor to the bride:

“Will you, _____, take this man to be your husband, to live together in 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?”

Answer: *“I will.”*

The names we would like used are _____ and _____

For the declarations, would you like to use the suggested format? _____

If not, please attach the format you would like to use for the declarations.

□ Vows

If writing your own vows, take care not to make them too long. A short paragraph is appropriate. It is also advisable not to try to memorize them. You can bring your vows on a small piece of paper with you or you can give it to the pastor before the ceremony to have on hand. Attached is a list of several vow options we recommend.

For our vows, we would like Option _____. If writing your own vows, please attach them.

WEDDING VOWS

Option A:

I (G) _____, take you (B) _____ to be my 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 us part.

I (B) _____, take you (G) _____ to be my 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 us part.

Option B:

I (G) _____, take you (B) _____, to be my wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better or worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until we are parted by death. This is my solemn vow.

I (B) _____, take you (G) _____, to be my husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better or worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until we are parted by death. This is my solemn vow.

Option C:

I (G) _____, take you (B) _____, to be my wife, and I do promise and covenant before God and these witnesses to be your loving and faithful husband, in plenty and in want, in joy and in sorrow, in sickness and in health, as long as we both shall live.

I (B) _____, take you (G) _____, to be my husband, and I do promise and covenant before God and these witnesses to be your loving and faithful husband, in plenty and in want, in joy and in sorrow, in sickness and in health, as long as we both shall live.

Option D:

(B) _____, I promise with God's help to be your faithful husband, to love and serve you as Christ commands, as long as we both shall live.

(G), _____, I promise with God's help to be your faithful wife, to love and serve you as Christ commands, as long as we both shall live.

Option E:

(B) _____, I promise before God, our family, and our friends, to be your loving and faithful husband, to share my life with you, in wealth and in poverty, in sickness and in health, in good times and in bad times, for as long as we both shall live.

(G) _____, I promise before God, our family, and our friends, to be your loving and faithful wife, to share my life with you, in wealth and in poverty, in sickness and in health, in good times and in bad times, for as long as we both shall live.

Exchange of Rings

The exchange of rings will be preceded with a blessing. We suggest the following be recited by the bride and groom with the exchange of rings:

_____, *I give you this ring as a symbol of my love for you, my covenant to be your husband/wife and to be faithful to you, and it's a reminder of Christ's presence in your life.*

For Additional Options, see attached list.

For the recitation during the exchange, we would like to use Option _____.

If writing your own recitation, please write here: _____

EXCHANGE OF RINGS

Option A:

Bless, O Lord, this ring, that he (she) who gives it and she (he) who wears it may abide in Your peace and continue in Your favor unto their life's end through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
(Said by both.) *With this ring, I thee wed, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen*

Option B:

Eternal God, we pray for your blessing upon these rings that they may be a permanent reminder of holy promises and steadfast love. Bless those who wear them that they may remain in your favor throughout all their earthly life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
(Said by both.) *This ring is the sign of my promise, and I give it to you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

Option C:

What symbol do you give of your love? *A ring.*

(B) _____, *this ring is the sign of my love and faithfulness, and I give it to you in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

What symbol do you give of your love? *A ring.*

(G) _____, *this ring is the sign of my love and faithfulness, and I give it to you in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

Eternal God, bless these rings that as _____ and _____ wear them, they will be reminded of their faith in you and their promises to each other. Let these rings be symbols of a deep and an unending love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Option D:

What symbols do you give of these holy promises?

(Said by both.) *This ring. Receive this ring as an outward pledge and symbol of my promise to fulfill these vows which we have taken.*

Option E:

What token do you give of your love?

(Said by both.) *A ring. 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 of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

Prayer: Bless, O Lord, these rings to be a symbol of the solemn vows by which this man and this woman have bound themselves to each other in holy matrimony; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pronouncement of Marriage

The following wording is suggested:

_____ and _____ have joined together in marriage, and both God and all of you gathered here as their witnesses. So, by the power authorized by God and the state of California, I now pronounce them man and wife. Those who God has joined together, let no one separate. _____, you may kiss your bride.

For the pronouncement, we would like: _____

Benediction/Prayer for the Couple

This is a closing prayer for the couple in the pastor's words.

For the benediction, we would like to include:

Presentation of the Couple

We would like to be introduced as:

Recessional

The recessional is after the kiss and the introduction of the newly married couple when the wedding party exits following the bride and groom. The music played here is usually very upbeat. Your wedding director has suggestions for this music if needed.

For the recessional music, we would like: _____

Postlude

After the wedding party has exited, the postlude music is played while guests are being dismissed or are waiting for the receiving line. The audio tech has traditional postlude music available if needed.

For postlude music, we would like: _____

Options for Consideration:

Readings

Readings can include scriptures, poems, or other meaningful words for the couple. They can be read any time throughout the ceremony. Asking a loved one to do a reading is a good way to include someone special in your wedding ceremony. Following are some suggested scripture readings:

Genesis 2:18-24
Psalms 90:17
Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Song of Solomon 8:6-7
Matthew 5:13-16
John 2:1

Ephesians 5:21-27
Colossians 3:12-17
1 John 4:7-12

We would like to include the following scripture readings:

- 1) _____ read by _____
- 2) _____ read by _____

Please attach any other readings to be included.

Songs

During your ceremony, you may include worship songs in which you and your guests may sing along. Or you may wish to include a special song to be sung by a vocalist. We recommend not more than 2-3 songs. If you'd like to use a song that is already a regular worship song used at Christ First, our audio tech can display the words while it is played. You will need to provide any music you wish to be played during the ceremony.

We would like to include the following songs:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____

Communion

If you choose to take communion during your wedding ceremony, the pastor will say a few words to describe the act of communion to your guests. You will need to bring your own bread, juice, and dishes for communion.

Would you like to take communion during your ceremony? _____
Music: _____ *CD* _____ *or Live* _____

Unity Candle/Christ Candle

A special Christ candle (or unity candle) candelabra is used that has three candles. Usually, the two outside candles are lit before the ceremony begins, leaving the center candle untouched. The two burning candles symbolize the separate lives of the bride and groom. During the ceremony, the bride and groom each use an outside candle to light the center candle which symbolizes the joining together of their lives around Christ. You will need to bring your own candles and/or candelabra.

Would you like to include the unity candle in your ceremony? _____
Music: _____ *CD* _____ *or Live* _____

Unity Sand Ceremony

The Unity Sand Ceremony, a celebration that is usually two to three minutes in length, is meaningful joining of two lives. In this timeless ritual of marriage, the couple ceremoniously pours different colors of sand from a container, such as a vase, bottle or seashell, into one special container. The flowing sand and blending of the colors symbolize the bringing together of two lives into one.

Would you like to include the unity sand ceremony in your ceremony? _____
Music: _____ *CD* _____ *or Live* _____

Joining a Blended Family

Sometimes we have different people joining together to form a family (for example a marriage where one adult has a child). To this end, during the ceremony, we have had some make commitments between the adults and children involved. NOTE**Some parents have chosen to present a special necklace or piece of jewelry to the child(ren) at this time as a reminder of the commitment made.

PARENT: I thank God for bringing you into my life. I promise to love you unconditionally, to support your dreams, to grow with you, to teach you and to learn with you. I am honored to be your father/mother.

CHILD(REN): I thank God that you are in my life. I promise to always play with you, to learn from you, and to treat you with respect. I will love you for the rest of my life. I am happy to be your son/daughter.

Would you like to include the Blended Family Commitment ceremony? _____

