

PARTIAL SAMPLE of MODERN CHRISTIAN:

MINISTER SAYS (to all) Greetings everyone! We are gathered here by the sea, and in the sight of God, family and friends to witness the marriage of **spouse2** and **spouse1**.

(to escort/father) May I ask, who gives this hand in marriage? (I do/ we do--with our blessings)

So let us begin. We are gathered to rejoice in the gift of love that our Creator shares with us. We affirm today that God who is both the Creator and Sustainer of life desires us to fully experience our humanity. None of us can be an island isolated without need of community with others. So we offer praise and thanks to God who blessed us with the wonder of life, hearts, minds and souls. And we rejoice in the realization that we are most alive when we wholeheartedly embrace the gifts that God has given us, especially the gift of love in all the ways that it can manifest.

(to couple) **spouse2** and **spouse1**, to create a life together with the blessing of God requires that you honor the divine in each other and in yourself; that you honor the many voices of the soul – the joys, the delights, the love, as well as the anger, the fear, the illness, and the unhealed wounds... This is both God's blessing and charge to you: to live together with courage and honor whatever time in its unfolding mystery may bring.

(to wedmate) **spouse1**, do you take this person to be your spouse, and do you promise your life in all love and honor, in all duty and service, in all faithfulness and tenderness, to cherish and live together, according to the ordinance of God, in the holy bond of marriage? (I do)

[SKIP TO RINGS]

(to couple) These rings are a symbol of the unbroken circle of love because love freely given has no beginning and no end. May your rings reflect not only the beauty of YOU, but also be a gentle reminder to allow the presence of another human being to enhance who you are.

(to wedmate) **spouse1**, please place this ring on her finger and repeat after me: With this ring, I, **spouse1**, take you, **spouse2**, to be my wife in the presence of God and our loved ones. I will love and honor you, respect and cherish you all the days of my life.

[SKIP TO END]

(to couple) For those whom God has joined together, let no one put asunder. May the grace of Christ embrace you, and the love of God surround you, the Holy Spirit keep you. That you may... therefore by the authority vested in me by God, I pronounce that you are husband and wife/to each other in the name of God beyond us, God within us, and God among us.

(minister announces and blows Triton shell horn) OPTIONAL