

SAMPLE HANDFASTING WEDDING CEREMONY SCRIPT

FROM WAYFARING WEDDINGS

Processional song: _____

Welcome & Opening Remarks/Statement of Intention

Officiant:

Welcome everyone as we gather to celebrate the marriage of _____ and _____.

_____ and _____ have gathered today before their family and friends to make a statement of their commitment to each other and to their love. We celebrate the coming together of the families of _____ and _____. It is said that through others, we are somebody. Through this marriage, we broaden our family circle, remember our heritage, and recall those who gave us life. We call upon our family and friends who we are blessed to have in our lives, and our parents who guided us along the road to adulthood. We call upon family and friends who could not be here with us today; we know that they are here in spirit and we ask that they be with us in our thoughts.

As we begin this ceremony we invite you to participate fully with your thoughts and prayers, inviting you to call on whatever name you call your higher power, asking for a blessing of this couple and their married life. Bless this couple, their love, and their marriage as long as they shall live in love together. May they each enjoy a healthy life filled with joy, love and stability.

(turning to the East) Be blessed by the element of air. May you be blessed with communication, intellectual growth, and wisdom.

(turning to the South) Be blessed by the element of fire. May you be blessed with harmony, vitality, creativity, and passion.

(turning to the West) Be blessed by the element of water. May you be blessed with friendship, intuition, caring, understanding, and love.

(turning to the North) Be blessed by the element of earth. May you be blessed with tenderness, happiness, and compassion.

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Officiant continues:

Love has its seasons, the same as does the Earth. In the winter of love, there is parting, and sorrow. But love remains, as do the stark and bare tree trunks in the snow, ready for the renewal of love in the spring as life and love begin anew.

In the spring of love is the discovery of each other, the pulse of the senses, the getting to know the mind and heart of the other; a blooming like the buds and flowers of springtime.

In the summer of love comes the strength, the commitment to each other, the most active part of life; the sharing of joys and sorrows, the learning to be humans who are each complete and whole but who can merge each with the other, as the trees grow green and tall in the heat of the sun.

In the autumn of love is the contentment of love that knows the other completely. Passion remains, and ease of companionship. The heart smoothes love into a steady light, glorious as the autumn leaves.

First Reading: _____

Second Reading: _____

Presentation of the Handfasting Cords/Ribbons

Officiant: The couple will be celebrating today with an ancient handfasting ritual. I ask that _____ and _____ please join their hands, left hand to left hand, and right hand to right hand, forming the symbol for infinity.

I will now ask [FAMILY MEMBER'S NAME _____] to present the first cord representing _____'s side of the family. The color _____ was chosen by the couple to represent _____ in their marriage together. The [FAMILY NAME _____] welcomes their new son-in-law/daughter-in-law to the family with perfect love.

I will now ask [FAMILY MEMBER'S NAME _____] to present the second cord representing _____'s side of the family. The color _____ was chosen by the couple to represent _____ in their marriage together. The [FAMILY NAME _____] welcomes their new son-in-law/daughter-in-law to the family with perfect love.

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[Each of the two chosen family members presents their cord to the couple one at a time as the officiant calls their names, and drapes their cord over the couple's clasped hands.]

Officiant continues: Finally, the couple has chosen a third cord in the color of _____ to represent _____ in their new life together.

Handfasting Ritual and Celebration of the Hands

Officiant continues: I will bind these cords now, as we all wish blessings upon the couple and their union made this day. Tying these cords means that the couple is no longer two separate entities but joined as one, bound together in mutual love.

[The officiant ties a figure eight knot with the three cords, and the couple remains bound together. The officiant then says these words...]

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 passionately love you and cherish you through the years, and with the slightest touch, will comfort you like no other. These are the hands that will hold you when fear or grief fills your mind. These are the hands that will countless times wipe the tears from your eyes; tears of sorrow, and as in today, tears of joy. These are the hands that will tenderly hold your children, the hands that will help you to hold your family as one. These are the hands that will give you strength when you need it. 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.

Exchange of Vows

(Turns to first partner) Do you accept _____ as your wife/husband, promising to stand by him/her in sunshine and in storm, in darkness and in light, through good times and bad, providing for his/her happiness before your own, to cherish and respect him/her as long as you both shall live? (Response: I do.)

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(Turns to second partner) Do you accept _____ as your wife/husband, promising to stand by him/her in sunshine and in storm, in darkness and in light, through good times and bad, providing for his/her happiness before your own, to cherish and respect him/her as long as you both shall live? (Response: I do.)

*If the couple would like to read their own vows, the officiant should only bind one set of hands, so that the couple can each hold their vows with their free hand. Alternatively, the cords can be removed first, and the vows read afterward.

Declaration of Marriage

[Officiant removes the cords, forming a perfect figure-eight for the couple to have as a keepsake]

Officiant: Your hands have been bound and fasted, with this cord as proof of your commitment to each other. As this is a union of family and friends, I turn to those gathered here before us and ask if you give this marriage your blessing. Please answer, "We do!"

Guests: We do!

Officiant: I ask that everyone together please repeat after me, "We, your family and friends, now pronounce you married."

Guests: We, your family and friends, now pronounce you married.

Closing

Officiant: Please seal this union with a kiss!

Family and friends, please join me in celebrating the newly married couple!

Recessional song: _____