

**TYPICAL WEDDING CEREMONY
THE LITTLE BROWN CHURCH in the VALE
NASHUA, IOWA**

WEDDING CEREMONY

Processional Music:

Welcome and Statement of Purpose

We have come together in the presence of God to witness the joining together of this man and this woman in Holy Matrimony. The bond and covenant of marriage was established by God in creation, and our Lord Jesus Christ adorned this manner of life by His presence and first miracle at Cana of Galilee. It signifies to us the mystery of the union between Christ and His church, and Holy Scripture commends it to be honored among all people. The union of husband and wife in heart, body and mind is intended by God for their mutual joy, for help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity. Therefore marriage is not to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly, but deliberately, and into accordance with the purposes for which it was instituted by God.

Into this holy union _____ & _____ have now come to be joined.

Question: Who brings this woman to be married to this man?

Prayer:

Scripture Readings: Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; Ephesians 5:25-33

Pastor's Comments

Declaration of Intention

Before God and these witnesses, I ask you both to affirm your willingness to enter into this covenant of marriage and to share all the joys, challenges, and even sorrows of this new relationship, whatever the future may hold.

Pastor to Groom:

_____, will you take _____ to be your wife; to live together in the holy covenant of 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?
If so, answer "I WILL."

Pastor to Bride:

_____, will you take _____ to be your husband; to live together in the holy covenant of 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? If so, answer "I WILL."

Prayer:

Special Song: (if requested) - Recorded ("Keeping It Simple") / Live or Recorded ("All The Frills")

Vows of the Marriage Covenant

Pastor to Groom: Would you repeat after me in saying;
I _____, take you _____,
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;
Until we are separated by death; As God is my witness;
I give you my promise.

Pastor to Bride: Would you repeat after me in saying;
I _____, take you _____,
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;
Until we are separated by death; As God is my witness;
I give you my promise.

Personal Vows (if requested) – “ALL THE FRILLS” Weddings only

Exchange of Rings:

Pastor’s Comments:

Pastor to Groom: And now as a token of your love and of your deep desire to be forever united in heart and soul, _____ , you may now place a ring on the third finger of _____ left hand, and repeat after me this promise saying; *“With this ring.....I seal my promise.....To be your faithful and loving husband.....As God is my witness.”*

Pastor to Bride: And as a token of your love and of your deep desire to be forever united in heart and soul, _____ , you may now place a ring on the third finger of _____ left hand, and repeat after me this promise saying; *“With this ring.....I seal my promise.....To be your faithful and loving wife.....As God is my witness.”*

Special Ceremony = Sand, Unity Cross, Cord (If requested) – “ALL THE FRILLS” Weddings only

Announcement of Marriage:

_____ & _____ you have committed yourselves to each other in this joyous and sacred covenant. Become one. Fulfill all the promises you make to each other. Accept life, with all that it brings, and be loving, patient and kind to each other.

For as much as _____ & _____ have consented together in holy wedlock, and have witnessed the same before God and these witnesses, and thereto have pledged their faithfulness each to the other, and have pledged the same by the giving and receiving each of a ring, by the authority invested in me as a minister of the gospel according to the laws of the State of Iowa, I pronounce that they are husband and wife together, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Those that God has joined together, let no man put asunder.

Prayer of Blessing:

Lord's Prayer:

"Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen."

By their promises made before us today
_____ & _____
have united themselves as husband and wife. You are now bound by the covenant of loyalty.

The Closing Prayer

"The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you, and give you peace."

Pastor: _____ you may now kiss your Bride.

Presentation of the Couple: It is now my privilege to introduce to you for the first time, **Mr. and Mrs.** _____

Singing of the Marriage Certificate

The Ringing of the Church Bell:

The ringing of the bell together is a tradition dating back to the 1930's here at The Little Brown Church. As you ring the bell may you remember that as a couple you need to learn to pull together through all the ups and downs of life that you will face. May the joy you find pulling together be shared by family and friends - just as they share the joy of our ringing bell today.

Recessional Music: "The Church in the Wildwood"