

Wedding Ceremony

of

SAMPLE Mary Ann Jones
CEREMONY and
FORMAT John Richard Smith
at the

Landmark Center – St. Paul

6:00 p.m. – Friday - January 1st 2010

Prelude

Air from Water Music – George Frederic Handel
Allegro from Brandenburg Concerto #4 in G – Johann Sebastian Bach

Processional

Wedding Party - Trumpet Voluntary – Jeremiah Clarke
Bride - Bridal Chorus – Lohengrin – Richard Wagner

Presentation of the Bride

Who gives Mary to be married to John?

Father of the Bride: Her Mother and I do.

The Bride is presented by her Father and Mother, John and Ann Jones.

Welcome

Welcome to John and Mary's wedding. We know that many of you have traveled far and taken time out of your busy lives to be here today and be a part of this occasion. Thank you for being here to share the joy of this occasion.

Convocation

Dear Mary and John,

Today you are surrounded by your friends and family, all of whom are gathered to witness your marriage and to share in the joy of this occasion which should be one of the most memorable and happy days of your life.

Life has no singular meaning so much as it is composed of many meaningful events, some of which can be specified and planned for. One of these events is marriage.

As you know, no wedding officiant can marry you. Only you can marry yourselves, by a mutual commitment to love each other, to work toward creating an atmosphere of care and consideration and respect. By a willingness to face the tensions and anxieties that underlie human life you can make your wedded life come alive.

On this, the day of your marriage, you stand somewhat apart from all other human beings. You stand within the charmed circle of your love, and this is as it should be. But love is not meant to be the possession of two people alone. Rather, it should serve as a source of common energy, as a form in which you find the strength to live your lives with courage. From this day onward you must come closer together than ever before. You must love one another in sickness and in health, for better and for worse, but, at the same time, your love should give you the strength to stand apart, to seek out your unique destinies, to make your special contribution to the world which is always part of us and really more than us.

The surest basis for marriage is friendship, the sharing of real interests, the ability to discuss ideas together and understand each other's thoughts and dreams.

Reading

The Bride and Groom have asked Kristine Doe, the Bride's Sister, to read *I Will Be Here* by Steven Curtis Chapman.

I Will Be Here

If in the morning when you wake,
if the sun does not appear,
I will be here.
If in the dark we lose sight of love,
hold my hand and have no fear,

I will be here.

I will be here,
when you feel like being quiet,
when you need to speak your mind I will listen.
Through the winning, losing, and trying
we'll be together, and I will be here.
If in the morning when you wake,
if the future is unclear,
I will be here.
As sure as seasons were made for change,
our lifetimes were made for years,
I will be here.

I will be here, and you can cry on my shoulder,
when the mirror tells us we're older.
I will hold you,
to watch you grow in beauty,
and tell you all the things you are to me.
We'll be together and I will be here.
I will be true to the promises I've made,
To you and to the One who gave you to me.
I will be here.

Steven Curtis Chapman

Today, as you join yourselves in marriage, there is a vast and unknown future stretching out before you. The possibilities and potentials of your married life are great and exciting.

Mary and John, I hope you both will remember that love and loyalty alone can avail as the foundation of a happy and enduring home. No other ties are more tender, no other vows more sacred than those you now assume. If you constantly work to keep these vows, your life will be full of joy and the home which you are establishing will abide in peace.

Marriage Vows

John and Mary, please join hands and give your vows.

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*The Bride hands her flowers to the Maid of Honor.
The Bride and Groom face each other and hold both hands.*

To Groom: John, please repeat after me.

I John, / take you Mary, / to be my wife. / To laugh with in joy, / to cry with in sorrow, / and to grow with in love. / I humbly give you my hand / and my heart / as a sanctuary / of warmth and peace, / and pledge my faith / and love to you.

To Bride: Mary, please repeat after me.

I Mary, / take you John, / to be my husband. / To laugh with in joy, / to cry with in sorrow, / and to grow with in love. / I humbly give you my hand / and my heart / as a sanctuary / of warmth and peace, / and pledge my faith / and love to you.

Exchange of Rings

The Best Man hands the Bride's ring to the Groom.

To Groom: John, this ring is a beautiful and fitting symbol of a perfect marriage, for it has no end. In token of your love and faithfulness, please place it upon Mary's finger telling her these following words.

With this ring, / I thee wed, / and may it always be a symbol / of my eternal love / and faithfulness to you.

The Maid of Honor hands the Groom's ring to Bride.

To Bride: Mary, let this ring bespeak of the tenderness of your heart, and be a symbol of your love and faithfulness. Please place it upon John's finger telling him these following words.

With this ring, / I thee wed, / and I pledge to you / my loving understanding, / my faithfulness, / and my true devotion.

May you both keep this marriage harmonious and happy wherever you go with true love, for only true love will sustain you, enfold you, and prosper you all the days of your life.

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Lighting of the Unity Candle

The flames of life from these two families are now being united as one. May the light and warmth of this new single flame grow ever stronger through the years protecting and giving joy and strength to all those whose lives it may touch. May it also serve to remind John and Mary of God's eternal light and love, especially in times of trouble and sorrow.

Music

From This Moment – Shania Twain and Bryan White

The Bride and Groom each take a lighted candle and join the flames of the two candles to light the Unity Candle.

Presentation of Roses

*The Best Man gets the roses ready while the Unity Candle is being lit.
The Best Man gives the roses to the Bride and Groom.
The Bride and Groom present roses to their Mothers.*

Pronouncement of Marriage

Inasmuch as you have accepted the vows that bind you together in your love, and, by the giving and receiving of the rings, you have pledged yourselves to each other in the presence of God and this company of family and friends, by the authority vested in me by the State of Minnesota, I pronounce you husband and wife.

Please seal your vows with a kiss.

The Maid of Honor returns the Bride's flowers.

Benediction

An Apache Prayer

Now you will feel no rain,
For each of you will be shelter for the other.
Now you will feel no cold,
For each of you will be warmth to the other.
Now there is no loneliness for you,
For each of you will be companion to the other.

Now you are two persons,
But there is only one life before you.
Go now to your dwelling and enter into the days of your togetherness.
And may your days be good and long upon the earth.

Introduction

It is my pleasure to introduce John and Mary Smith.

Recessional

Wedding March – A Midsummer Night’s Dream – Felix Mendelssohn

Announcement

After the wedding party has left.

Please remain seated. Mary and John will return to greet you row by row.

Postlude

Cannon in D – Johann Pachelbel