

The Alt Officiant - Sample Ceremony

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The Wedding of Jessica and Patrick

Welcome Statement

Welcome to this day of celebration, it's great to have all of you here to witness the union of Jessica and Patrick as wife and husband before the Universe. Together, we will share in the joys of their wedding, both with the outward celebration of this occasion and with an internal appreciation for the love that surrounds us.

Family Blessing

Minister: Who gives this bride today?

Jessica's Dad: I do.

Minister: You may all be seated.

Love Story

I'd like to start today's ceremony by asking everyone to take a moment and focus on the beauty that surrounds us. Whatever you've brought with you today, whatever thoughts are occupying your mind, let them rest and focus on the sound of the waves, the ocean breeze, and the warmth of the sun. Be present and be in this moment. Today is one of the best days that Jessica and Patrick will experience together. Be here and in this moment to celebrate them and to reflect on the best moments of your own lives, the highlight reel, everything that makes life worth living. Let's celebrate all of those things today and celebrate Jessica and Patrick as they embark on this journey together.

So let's go back to the beginning for a moment, when these two first met one another. Originally, Patrick caught Jessica's eye because he was into motorcycles, a gear head, a genuine badass. She sensed there was something special about this one and had to meet him. After a brief correspondence they met for their first date at Ace Bar in East Village on September 29th, 2011. Patrick arrived early, a trend that would continue for some time, and once Jessica joined him they sat there for hours.

They drank beer and whiskey and talked and laughed like they had known each other for years. At the end of the night, they strolled outside together, called a cab, and Patrick left Jessica with a kiss on the cheek - a gentleman badass. From the next day onwards, it was Jessica and Patrick, attached at the hip. And it's worth mentioning that each year they return to the Ace Bar in East

Village, on September 29th, and share a kiss on the same corner - although I'm told the beer and whiskey is now in moderation.

Over the last 4 years these two have lived in a 1 bedroom Brooklyn loft together with their black cat, Dexter Halloween. It's been said that the true test of a relationship is to live in a confined space with animals. They've passed this test, so it's only going to get better from here assuming they don't move to Manhattan. They've focused on experiences over things and they've lived life simply and with intent. They're both planners, so of course they've had many conversations about their future together. Time passed and Patrick was getting grand advice from everyone around him about how to pop the question - make it a surprise, choreograph a flash dance, bring fireworks - but none of these grand gestures were Patrick's style. In March of last year Patrick and Jessica took a trip to upstate New York to visit Jessica's parents. Patrick escaped to the back of the property and invited Jessica to join him. She initially refused to go because she was wearing new shoes, but Patrick persisted. From a distance she saw Patrick pacing in circles. Once she got closer she was met with a bouquet of daffodils from the woods, and Patrick got down on one knee and proposed. She had no idea and was completely struck with surprise, but I don't need to tell you how that story ends, we're all here.

Today Jessica and Patrick still live in Brooklyn. They work demanding jobs and they're dedicated to their professions. There are times where they describe themselves as "ships passing in the night" but when they are able to spend time together they are present, intentional, and they laugh. They explore the city around them, get out of the city to enjoy the peace and quiet, seek new and different experiences - all while reflecting on life, supporting one another, and making plans for their future together. Patrick and Jessica are truly best friends, and when you're with your best friend it doesn't matter if you're on a great adventure or silently reading the latest rockstar autobiography - life is good.

Wedding Sermon

Now that you know more than you ever thought you would about the happy couple, let's get back to the task at hand.

Marriage is more than a simple exchanging of rings or combining of material assets. Rather, it is an indescribably powerful shared commitment. While today I will legally bind you together, the truly important bonds we form today are largely invisible to the world, existing primarily in the unfilled corners of your heart.

The joy you'll find as you pursue your shared lives will fuel you to face head-on the challenges you'll encounter on this Earth. On your journeys together, keep your spouse in the space of highest priority in your heart. Continue to work together, to laugh together, and to love together. Don't get caught up in worldly things that will draw you apart.

Instead, focus on your shared devotion and turn inward. As your relationship strengthens you will find that you come to share a remarkable love; a love that is both abundantly given and freely accepted.

Consecration

As we celebrate this bond of unity today it is important that we keep in mind that, while this is certainly an occasion of tremendous joy, the promises we witness here today are serious and life-altering commitments. It is with simultaneous feelings of elation and expressions of respect that we proceed.

Exchange of Vows

Minister: Jessica and Patrick have vows that they'd like to share. Jessica, would you like to begin?

Patrick: Jessica, I love you, I respect you, and I'm proud of who you are and who we are together. I promise you that as long as we are together I will be impeccable with my word, I won't taking anything personally, I won't make assumptions, and I will always do my best.

Jessica: Patrick, I love you, I respect you, and I'm proud of who you are and who we are together. I promise you that as long as we are together I will be impeccable with my word, I won't taking anything personally, I won't make assumptions, and I will always do my best.

Declaration of Intent

Minister: Jessica and Patrick please join hands.

Jessica, do you take Patrick to live together in the union of marriage? To take him as your best friend and partner in life? To honor, cherish, and love him, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, for all of your days?

Jessica: I do.

Minister: Patrick, do you take Jessica to live together in the union of marriage? To take her as your best friend and partner in life? To honor, cherish, and love her, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, for all of your days?

Patrick: I do.

Exchange of Rings

Minister: The wedding ring's circular shape reflects the unending power of love – a force with no beginning and no end. You should wear these rings proudly, and let them remind you each day

of your commitment to one another. You may exchange them now.

Patrick:

I take you my heart
At the rising of the moon
And the setting of the stars.
To love and to honor
Through all that may come.
Through all our lives together
In all our lives,
May we be reborn
That we may meet and know
And love again,
And remember
Patrick places the ring on Jessica's finger

Jessica:

I take you my heart
At the rising of the moon
And the setting of the stars.
To love and to honor
Through all that may come.
Through all our lives together
In all our lives,
May we be reborn
That we may meet and know
And love again,
And remember
Jessica places the ring on Patrick's finger

Traditional Wishes

Now, we're almost done, but I have two short readings to share to wish you both the best in your lives together. I think they're both fitting based on the group that's sitting in front of us.

"May you be poor in misfortune, rich in blessings, slow to make enemies, quick to make friends. But rich or poor, quick or slow, may you know nothing but happiness from this day forward."

May the best you've ever seen be the worst you'll ever see. May the mouse never leave your pantry with a teardrop in his eye. May you always keep healthy and hearty until you're old enough to die. May you always be just as happy as we wish you now to be.

Pronouncement

Family and friends, by the power vested in me by the Universal Life Church and by the state of Massachusetts, I am pleased to pronounce Jessica and Patrick as wife and husband, sealed together today both in law and in love.

Kiss

Minister: Patrick, you may kiss the bride.

Presentation

Minister: Ladies and gentlemen, for the first time, Mr. and Mrs. Patrick and Jessica Smith!