A Celebration of Marriage

I. INVOCATION

Liturgist: Welcome all to this celebration of marriage between _____ and _____, and the love and commitment of the extended families of not only _____ and _____, but also of _____ and _____.

Invocation means to open ourselves to Spirit – of the rocks, the waters, the trees – as well as to Creator God/dess in all of those manifestations of holiness. I invite everyone to participate.

ONE: Light of Light, Light of Inspiration, Light of Earth's Sun, Light of Earth's Moon, Starlight, Firelight, Cosmic Light that speeds on the Winds from the Center of the Universe ...
ALL: Empower us. [Light the East candle]
ONE: Fire of Hearth, Fire of Compassion, Fire of Earth's Sun, Fire of Earth's Moon, Starfire, Earthfire, Cosmic Fire that speeds on the Winds from the Center of the Universe.
ALL: Empower us. [Light the South candle]
ONE: Waters of Life, Waters of Emotion, Waters of Earth's wells, Waters of Earth's storms, Primal waters, Cosmic Waters that speed on the Winds from the Center of the Universe ..
ALL: Empower us. [Light the West candle]
ONE: Soil of Earth, Rocks of Earth, Caves of Earth, Fecund Earth, enfolding Earth, protecting Earth, Cosmic Earth that speeds on the Winds from the Center of the Universe,
ALL: Empower us. [Light the North candle]

LITURGIST: Marriage is not just about two people, it is about life in Community. To commemorate our life in community, first realized in sacred ritual from many different traditions, we now pass a bowl of water– for many waters cannot quench love, and without love and water, we cannot live. As the bowls travel throughout this group, sprinkle one another, and remember how you were accepted into Community. Some may remember your Baptism.

ALL: *May the Spirit satisfy you with the water of grace.*
(As the water is passed)

CHANT:

Gathered Here in the Mystery of this Hour
Gathered Here in celebration
Gathered Here in the Mystery and the Power
Spirit Draw Near

II. VOWS & RINGS

Readings

LITURGIST: Vows are promises made, in which ____ and _____give their consent to one another to enter into a public commitment to sacred partnership. I invite you to make your vows now.

Vows

LITURGIST: _____, do you promise to Love, honor, and cherish ____ for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and health, now and forever more?

LITURGIST: _____, please bring the Rings now.

Rings are an ancient symbol of eternity, love, commitment, and power. A Wedding Ring is a Ring of Power, because the exchange of rings is the exchange of fidelity, loyalty, and the kind of personal power that is not power-over another, but power with another. For that reason, the ring-circle cannot be broken, except by force and deliberate intention. You can exchange your Rings now.

[With this Ring, I thee wed.]

Unity Candle

LITURGIST: The lighting of the Unity candle symbolizes that two families are now one, and where love and unity abide, there God is found: *Ubi caritas amor, deus ibi es*

Special music

III. SACRED MARRIAGE FEAST

Invitation

Celebrant: Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and those who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without price, for our Godde calls us away from oppression and greed to a realm of justice and love; Godde calls us away from famine and poverty to an abundance of milk and honey.

People: Arise my love, my fair one, and come away; for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.

Consecration

Celebrant: (Pours Wine into a Cup) Feasts are made for Laughter; Wine gladdens our hearts;
People: Do not stir up or awaken love until it is ready.

Celebrant: From the beginning, the alchemy of the Universe has provided for Life on Earth in due season.
(Pours milk into a cup): Milk: the Mother's nurturing food.

People: Do not stir up or awaken love until it is ready.

Celebrant: (Pours honey into a bowl) Honey: the product of Sacred Community.

People: Do not stir up or awaken love until it is ready.

Celebrant: (Breaks the Bread) From the beginning, the guiding myth of the Universe has been profligate abundance and willing sacrifice.

People: Love is strong as death, passion fierce as the grave.

Celebrant: Come to the garden, sisters and lovers. Gather myrrh with spice, eat the honeycomb with the honey, drink the wine with the milk. Eat, friends, drink, and be drunk with love.

[All are invited to come and partake of the elements]

Thanksgiving

ALL: Praise and Thanks be to the Word, and the Knowledge, and the Wisdom of Godde, without which nothing was made that was made. All honor and glory and power and blessing be to you, now and forever, worlds without end, Amen.

IV. SENDING FORTH

Jumping the Broom

LITURGIST: [Get the Broom] The Broom is an old symbol of protection and purity. The herbs and flowers symbolize good health, wisdom, longevity, and love. The leap is into a new life, and good fortune. The girls promise not to raise it just as you take your leap!

Blessing:

One: For you shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace.

Women: The mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

Men: Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the briar shall come up the myrtle.

ALL: And it shall be to the Lord for a memorial, for an everlasting sign which shall not be cut off.