



Winter Solstice Wedding Ceremony Script

Introduction/Welcome/Wedding Sermon

Officiant *(to guests):*

On this day, we've assembled to witness and celebrate the marriage of _____ and _____. We've gathered not to mark the beginning of a relationship, but to recognize and strengthen one that already exists. This ceremony is a public declaration of that tie, and it is our honor and privilege to be present here today with close relatives and friends.

Officiant *(to couple):*

Today/tonight marks the Winter Solstice, the longest night of the year. It is a time of renewal, reflection, and rejoicing. Tomorrow, the sun triumphantly begins its steady return, it's light and warmth growing stronger and brighter each day. Let your unwavering love be a light between you, as constant as the sun.

_____ and _____, today we are joined to celebrate the love you have for each other and to show our support for the decision you both have chosen to make to join together as one.

Reading

Officiant *(to guests):*

"A marriage makes of two fractional lives a whole;

It gives two purposeless lives a work,

And doubles the strength of each to perform it.

It gives to two questioning natures a reason for living

And something to live for.

It will give new gladness to the sunshine,

A new fragrance to the flowers, a new beauty to the earth

And a new mystery to life."

("a Marriage" by Mark Twain

Declaration of Intent

Officiant *(to couple):*

_____ and _____, please join hands. _____, do you present yourself today to be married willingly to _____ of your own free will?

Partner 1:

I do.

Officiant *(to Partner 2):*

_____, do you present yourself today to be married willingly to _____ of your own free will?

Partner 2:

I do.

Exchanging of Vows

Officiant *(to couple):*

_____ and _____, I invite you to share your personal vows at this time. Please face each other and recite your marriage vows to your partner before God and all who are

gathered here today.

_____, you may go first.

Partner 1:

From this day forward, I, _____, give myself to you, _____, as your husband/wife, knowing that we have a new life ahead of us. I commit myself to you in a time of winter, knowing the love I feel for you is the warmest thing I've ever known.

Officiant (*to partner 2*):

_____, please share your vows.

Partner 2:

From this day forward, I, _____, give myself to you, _____, as your husband/wife, knowing that we have a new life ahead of us. I commit myself to you in a time of winter, knowing the love I feel for you is the warmest thing I've ever known.

Exchanging of Rings

Officiant (*to couple*):

Couples have exchanged rings as a symbol of commitment to each other for thousands of years. With no beginning and end, the circle is a symbol that cannot be broken. Allow these rings to serve as a symbol of your love's history, present, and future.

Take _____, 's ring and place it on his/her finger, then repeat after me:

Officiant (*to Partner 1*):

_____, place your ring on _____'s finger and repeat after me. "With this ring I graciously join my life to yours, in times of light and darkness, bound in love."

Partner 1:

"With this ring I graciously join my life to yours, in times of light and darkness, bound in love."

Officiant (*to Partner 2*):

_____, place your ring on _____'s finger and repeat after me. "With this ring I graciously join my life to yours, in times of light and darkness, bound in love."

Partner 2:

"With this ring I graciously join my life to yours, in times of light and darkness, bound in love."

Pronouncement

Officiant (*to couple*):

_____ and _____, the love shared by your hearts has been strengthened by the marriage vows you have taken and the eternal rings you have now exchanged.

In the sincerity and honesty of what you have proclaimed and done here today, and by the power vested in me by the Universal Life Church Ministries, it is my delight and honor to declare you henceforth to be one. I now pronounce you married! You may now share your first kiss.