

Note: This couple chose to write most of this ceremony themselves. I only offered ideas to help it flow and transition between the ideas.

Commencement

Welcome one and all, and witness Dana and Jeremy as they pledge their dedication to walk the night together.

From the night we come, to the night we go.
Cursed or blessed to walk the moonlight alone.
Sometimes another soul walks our path
Then two become one, in love everlasting.
Come forward, Chylder of the Blood,
And welcome this couple to your brood,
Within each other, these two are found,
Bear witness as their souls are bound.

Candle Lighting

To guests: You have been invited today because you are the people—the friends and family-- that are most important to Dana and Jeremy. They want you to share their happiness, and to witness their new beginnings as a family. We are all here today to celebrate this love and commitment.

It is appropriate that you, the family and friends are here to participate in this wedding. The ideals, the understanding, and the mutual respect, which these two bring to their marriage have roots in the love, friendship, and guidance, with which you have provided them.

These two outer candles represent the separate families and pasts from which Dana and Jeremy come from. Today these two come together to be joined as one.

As a symbol of your blessing, will the mothers please light the outer two candles. (*Mothers light candles.*)

Above you, below you, forever surrounding you, shall be the pledge you make unto each other today. It is the pledge of the truth and purity of your every breath; the constant friendship in your hearts; the passion and fire of your spirits and the deepest love your souls have to give. It is the pledge of all that is within you; the only true pledge that one heart can offer to another. Dana and Jeremy, would you now light the center candle as a symbol of this pledge? (*Couple lights candle.*)

Soft mists embrace two golden flames,
Alone they search the night.
Two souls adrift in dreams of love,
They seek to claim the light.
the path is long from which they came,
but sure they are it's right.
Two flames embrace in dreams of love
Two souls- two hearts unite.

Rings

A circle is the symbol of the sun and the earth, and of the universe. It is a symbol of wholeness, and perfection, and of peace. The rings you give and receive this day, then, are symbols of the circle of shared love into which you enter together as husband and wife.

You pledge your life to be bonded together by your hearts;
Blood that flows in an eternal circle, ebbing and flowing, always pulsing.
drip candle onto rings

Dana: My blood fills this ring, may this blood pool be your strength and your life.

Jeremy: My blood fills this ring, may this blood pool be your strength and your life.

Goblet

(pour wine into goblet)

Stand now as ye will stand forever,
Like this crimson cloth your hearts are tethered,
This goblet's wine is your blood of devotion,
So sup from this dedication potion.

Is it your wish to drink to one another? **Both:** It is my wish.

repeat

Dana: I will stand by your side, hunt at your back, and fly within your Soul.

I will stand between you and all which would harm you.

I will shield you from the Light of Day with my flesh.

I will never betray you, for you are my Heart, my Soul and my Life.

(Dana drinks from goblet)

Jeremy: I will stand by your side, hunt at your back, and fly within your Soul.

I will stand between you and all which would harm you.

I will shield you from the Light of Day with my flesh.

I will never betray you, for you are my Heart, my Soul and my Life.

(Jeremy drinks from goblet)

Hand-fasting

The Hand fasting Knot, which binds two lovers together, represents an indissoluble union as a symbol of love, affection, faith, friendship and duty. (*Officiant then ties Dana and Jeremy's wrists.*) With this binding I tie you, heart to heart, together as one. With this knot you are joined in sacred union. With this knot I encircle you both with the nine powers of the gifting ones; May you both be blessed with the ecstasy of energy, patterns of destiny, protection of learning, inspiration of initiation, challenge of adversity, liberation of love, transformation of weaving, stability of guardianship, empowerment of wisdom, nine encircling breaths, of nine gifting maidens, be my protection for you both.

Circle of Rose Petals

The coming together of two “solitudes” is part of the cycle of growth -- the creating and recreating of boundaries. May you, Dana and Jeremy, give gratitude for the old boundaries which define your unique individuality, even as you create a new, joint boundary with the circle of your love. (*Rose petals are sprinkled in a circle around the couple*).

May this space allow you to face each other and know intimacy. May you find the stability of a joint center where you can welcome change. May your intimacy bring you closer over the years. And most of all, may you receive each other joyfully, with open hearts, into this marriage.

Blessing

Above you are the stars, below you are the stones. As time passes, remember- like the star should your love burn brightly; like the stone should your love be firm. Be close, yet not so close that you restrict one another. Possess one another, yet grant each other the freedom to grow. Be understanding and compassionate, and have patience with each other, for storms may come, but they will quickly pass. Be free in giving affection and warmth. Fear not, lest the ways or words of the unenlightened give you unease, for the Lady and Lord are with you, now, and always.

As both your arms and the cloth form the symbol of eternity, may your love endure through this life and all others. As the Gods and the old ones are witness with those of us present now, I proclaim that you are husband and wife, and thus are you Bonded in Blood. I present to the Blood: Dana and Jeremy, forever bound, eternally free! (*untie ribbon*)

You may now kiss!