

Imagery

Symbolism and imagery are effective ways to dramatize any ceremony. The options listed below help to make a great wedding, and make for excellent photo opportunities.

Unity Candle, buy on Amazon [here](#)

“Bride and Groom have chosen to symbolize their commitment through lighting the unity candle. For those of you who aren't familiar with the unity candle, it's meant to represent two lives becoming one through marriage. We'd like Bride's mom, Name? and Groom's mom, Name? to come up and join in the ceremony. They've asked their moms to light the outside candles because they lit their lives. It's an expression of love, a way of saying “Thank you” to all of their parents for bringing them to this amazingly special point in their lives. Together, Bride and Groom light one candle from two smaller candles as they acknowledge their union as husband and wife. As their individual flames come together, the single flame burns much brighter, symbolizing their strength in marriage. By allowing the flames of the two smaller candles to remain lit, they agree to respect each other as individuals. Bride and Groom are each unique people, but have chosen to be bound together as one. From today forward they will fully share the “ups” and “downs” of life and their plans truly will be mutual.”

Sand Ceremony (add more containers of sand so kids from a blended family can participate)

“Bride and Groom have chosen to commemorate their marriage by blending sand. For those of you who aren't familiar with the sand ceremony, it's meant to represent separate lives coming together as one. Bride and Groom, today you join your lives together. The separate bottles of sand represent your lives before today. Each grain of sand not only represents every memory and experience you've had individually, but also represent your combined experiences going forward for many years to come. As these two containers of sand are combined, the individual containers of sand will no longer exist, but will be joined together as one. These grains of sand aren't easily separated and poured again into their individual containers, and so will it be with your marriage and your lives.” **Buy on Amazon [here](#)**

Wine or Champagne Sharing

“Bride and Groom have chosen to commemorate their marriage by sharing wine. Throughout history in nearly all cultures and traditions, sharing wine or champagne has been used as a universal, central act during significant moments. There's symbolism to be honored. Wine is the result of years of hard work, the tender care of the grape, a thoughtful mix of ingredients, the patient fermenting process and the unique flavors of each year, just like relationships. Bride and Groom are sharing their first glass of wine as husband and wife to not only celebrate all that has taken place up to this point, but as an expression of hope and faith in the harvest of their lives. As you share the wine, so may you share all things from this day on with love and with understanding. May you be blessed with joy and gladness, vigor of body and spirit, love, harmony, and peace.”



Flowers and Hugs

Many people feel indebted to their families so couples often like to surprise moms/grandmas with flowers and dads/grandpas with hugs following the unity candle, sand ceremony or wine sharing, or any piece of imagery. It's a fun surprise for them and thus a great photo opportunity.

"Before we continue, Bride and Groom have requested the opportunity to surprise their moms with flowers and dads with hugs because they love you all so much.

Thank you for bringing them to this amazingly special point in their lives."

The Blessing Tree

For couples wanting to incorporate nature and also have a way for guests to contribute, the Blessing Tree is a great option. A blessing tree is a sapling, usually no more than six feet tall. VIPs are invited up to tie their 'blessing' to the tree during the ceremony. Blank cards can be placed at each table setting or on a table at cocktail hour or reception so that every guest has the opportunity to affix their own note to the tree throughout the night. "Bride and Groom have chosen to include a really unique element in their ceremony. You may have noticed the tree up here. This is called The Blessing Tree. Right now, we'd like to invite their grandparents, their parents, and their siblings up to tie their blessings to their tree and give hugs. You'll all have the opportunity to write a blessing or fun comment on a card during their reception and tie it to their tree. It could be poetry, a personal note, a religious passage, a quotation, whatever works for you. Then they'll plant this tree in their yard and watch it grow along with their marriage. Your blessings might then go into their photo album with their wedding pictures. Each year on their anniversary they'll take the time to admire the tree, reflect on their marriage and smooch."

Butterfly Release (try <https://butterflyrelease.biz/>)

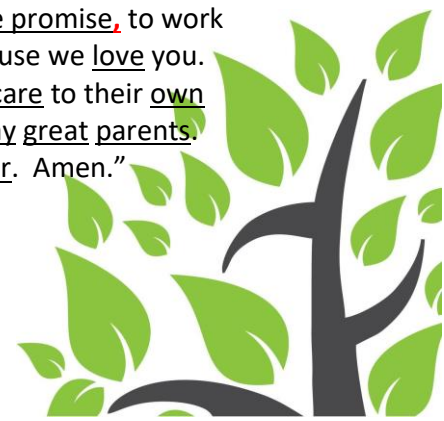
"The butterfly symbolizes new beginnings, freedom and happiness and the butterfly release is a special way to celebrate love. According to an American Indian legend, we can whisper a wish to a butterfly and the wish will ride upon the butterfly's wings into the heavens. Since a butterfly makes no sound, the wish is only revealed to the Great Spirit and in gratitude for giving the butterfly its freedom, the Great Spirit always grants the wish. We've gathered to grant Bride and Groom all our best wishes and are about to set these butterflies free in trust that those wishes will be granted.

Congratulations, you two!"

Parental Vows with Children (Immediately following the couple's vows to each other)

Parental vows are an excellent way to assure children of newly blended families that they are important. This option includes the children in the ceremony and allows those in attendance to witness the creation of a new family. "Love is a gift. Bride and Groom have not only found the gift of loving one another, but have also found the sacred union of family. Bride and Groom please join hands with your kids and together, repeat these promises: We together promise, to guide and nurture you. We promise to respect you as individuals, to love you and listen to you, and to make great memories as a family. (Children Promises, repeating after officiant): We promise, to work together as a family. We will do our best, to listen and learn from you, because we love you. Optional prayer: "God, may Bride and Groom be an example of your loving care to their own children. Give them the patience, energy and confidence they'll need to stay great parents.

Please strengthen and unite their family and their love for one another. Amen."



Present Gifts to Kids, buy on Amazon [here](#)

Another great way to honor the children in a newly blended family is by giving thoughtful gifts.

It can be the same gift for each child, or something specific to each one. Get creative!

“Bride and Groom wanted to take this opportunity to surprise (Kids’ names) with necklaces/or whatever because they love them so much and wanted to make sure they know how important they are to them.”

Stone Blessing (This goes best just before exchange of vows and rings)

“Hopefully you noticed the stone that was sitting on your chair. That is called a blessing stone. As Bride and Groom exchange their vows and rings, we ask that you hold your individual stone and think of all the amazing possibilities that await them and send those positive thoughts and prayers into your individual stone and then place it into the vase/box on your way out. Bride and Groom will then have a wonderful keepsake from these next few minutes that includes the essence of each and every one of their friends and family members who came here to celebrate with them today.

Thank you so much for your love and support.” **Buy polished stones on Amazon [here](#).**

Letter Box, buy on Amazon [here](#)

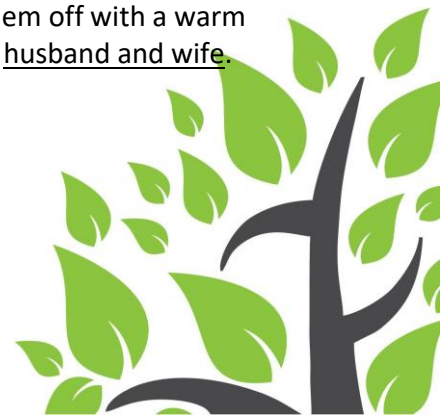
This is a great way to honor family by asking for advice and gives you something to look forward to.

“Bride and Groom have asked their families for advice, blessings and support, and are starting a time capsule of sorts. We’ll invite some of their family members up now to deposit their letters into the time capsule and give hugs. Out of sincere respect and admiration, Bride and Groom would like their grandparents to come up first. **Mr. and Mrs. ???** will you please join us? Bride and Groom plan to read these letters on their tenth wedding anniversary. With equal respect and admiration, now we’d like to invite your folks to join us to put their letters in the box and give hugs. **Mr. and Mrs.?, Mr. and Ms.?** Will you please join us? Bride and Groom plan to read these letters on their fifth wedding anniversary. **Now** we’d like to invite all your siblings to join us to put their letters in the box and exchange hugs. Bride and Groom plan to read these letters on their third wedding anniversary. **Next**, the **letters written to each other/or vows** are placed in the box, which will be read next year, on their **first anniversary**. During the next year Bride and Groom will grow together as a couple and on their first anniversary they will open this wooden box that has protected their wishes and thoughts and present their letters to each other. This is a really great tradition you have started. Our hopes and prayers are that the adventures of Bride and Groom will have included many of your aspirations by the time you read all these letters. You’ve created a wonderful way to reflect on who you’ve met, the successes that have lifted you up and the challenges that you’ll be forced to learn from. Congratulations you two!”

Tying the Knot (This goes at the very end of the ceremony)

“Before I pronounce Groom and Bride husband and wife, they thought it would be fun to honor the ancient tradition and to actually tie the knot in front of you all. It’s not easy to tie the ropes together on the spot, in front of you all, so when they cinch it tight, let’s send them off with a warm round of applause. You are now, as your hearts have always known you to be, husband and wife.

Groom, kiss your beautiful bride!”



Wine Box (often combined with the letter box) buy on Amazon [here](#)

“Bride and Groom have written each other love letters and they’ll be placed in this box along with a bottle of wine to be read and shared next year, on their first anniversary. There’s symbolism to be mentioned. Making wine is a time-honored process, the tender care of the grape, a thoughtful mix of ingredients, the patient fermenting process and the unique flavors of each year, like relationships. They’re setting a special bottle of wine aside to share as they celebrate all that’s taken place together. It’s an expression of hope and faith in the harvest of their lives. Over the next year Bride and Groom will grow together as a couple and on their first anniversary they will open this wooden box that has protected their wishes and thoughts and present their letters to each other and toast to everything they’ve accomplished together and to a wonderful future. They might then replace this bottle of wine with a new bottle to be opened up on a successive anniversary. This is a really great tradition that you two have started. You’ve created a wonderful way to reflect on what you’ve done together as a team, the successes that have lifted you up and the challenges that you’ll be forced to learn from. Congratulations you guys!”

Handfasting, buy on Amazon [here](#)

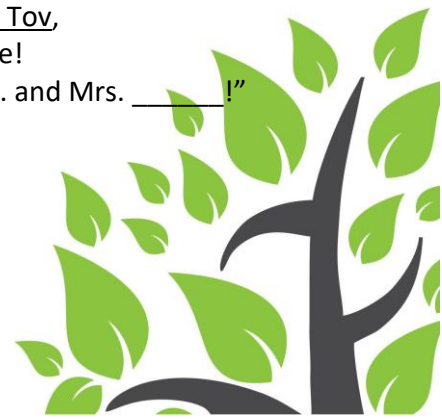
“Bride and Groom have chosen to symbolize their commitment to one another by having their wrists bound to each other, which is known as handfasting. Handfasting evolved from the handshake, but shows an even stronger intent and is often what people think of when they hear the term, “Tying the knot.” Handfasting originated in ancient Scotland and took the place of today’s engagement. A couple hundred years ago, couples were literally bound together for one year and a day, and if they still loved each other after that time, they’d then have their community’s blessing to get married. The modern day handfasting is a bit more practical. Wrapping or knotting cords around the couple’s hands symbolizes total commitment and devotion to each other. Different colored rope is often used, white for purity, blue for fidelity, and red for passion. Pink symbolizes love, green represents fertility and purple is spiritual strength. By tying their hands together, Bride and Groom promise to ride out the peaks and valleys of marriage. They’ll be there for each other when the tide is high or low, doing their best to live in their present relationship and accepting it as it is at that moment. They understand that life is a process that ebbs and flows and they promise to always be there to remind each other when they forget.

Bride and Groom, as your hands are bound together, your lives and spirits are joined in a sacred union of trust.”

Glass Stomp (This goes at the very end of the ceremony, buy on Amazon [here](#))

“Before I pronounce Groom and Bride as husband and wife, they’d like to honor the Jewish tradition and break the glass. Traditionally this marks the beginning of the wedding celebration, but breaking glass also symbolizes the transformation that’s happening for them right now, and as a reminder of the fragility of life. The glass is broken to protect their marriage with the implied prayer, as this glass shatters so may your marriage never break. After Groom stomps on the glass we invite everyone to cheer and shout the Hebrew words, Mazel Tov, meaning good luck and congratulations. Stomp! Kiss the bride!

Ladies and gentlemen please rise as I get to introduce for the first time ever, Mr. and Mrs. _____!”



Wedding Bells (This goes best at the very end of your ceremony, buy on Amazon [here](#))

Invite a parent up to present you with your bell of truce. Usually a large, nice bell. Also, have small, inexpensive bells on the guest's chairs for them to ring when you're pronounced husband and wife.

"Bride and Groom thought it would be fun to honor an old Celtic tradition and will now be presented with their bell of truce. Mr?/Mrs? will you come up and join us? Bride and Groom, for the rest of your lives when you aren't stopping to smell the roses or if a stressful situation is getting the best of you and your family, you agree right now that one of you is to go get the bell of truce and ring it. All of you as their guests, please have your bells ready to ring as I pronounce them as husband and wife, and just to warm 'em up, let's all ring our bells right now! Bride and Groom, when you ring your bell of truce, it's supposed to conjure up the memory of being pronounced husband and wife and of those closest to you, who came here to support and celebrate with you. Whatever is troubling you at that time should pale in comparison to tonight's celebration, and the wonderful memories will reset the situation and help you to feel grateful again. Everybody keep your bells ready to ring in just a few moments after they kiss and walk down the aisle as husband and wife!"

Signing the License (This goes best at the very end of the ceremony)

Your guests will feel like they're part of your ceremony if they actually witness you sign your license. Invite two people over the age of 18 to sign as witnesses, usually your best man and maid of honor.

"While marriage is a contract of trust between partners, it's also a legal contract. Normally the bride and groom are whisked away to sign their marriage license in private, with just a few close people to witness, but with you all being so important to Bride and Groom, they wanted to sign their marriage license right now, with you all acting as their witnesses. However, only two lucky people receive the special honor of signing the license along with Bride and Groom. Maid-of-honor and best man, will you please sign as witnesses? You are now, as your hearts have always known you to be, husband and wife. Groom, kiss your beautiful bride!"

Affiliate Disclaimer: Please know that Matt's Wedding Ceremonies is an Amazon affiliate and will be paid a small commission if you click the links in this document and make a purchase. The price is the same as non-affiliate links and doesn't cost you any more. Thanks for supporting us!

