

Introduction

We are gathered here today to give witness to the spiritual union of April and Jeff in the bonds of holy matrimony. Marriage is not something that should be entered into lightly, it is a complete commitment of body, mind and soul to another individual for the rest of this spiral of life. It is a promise made in the name of the Lord and Lady to stay with and be dedicated to one special individual. For this reason it should be entered into soberly, with a clear mind and a loving heart. With great care and forethought.

In addition to exchanging rings April and Jeff have chosen to enter into their union following the ways and practices that are adapted from a time before Christianity. We will start by casting a circle. Then the handfasting cord and rings will be cleansed and charged and the handfasting performed. And finally April and Jeff will exchange rings and personal vows to each other.

Casting the Circle

Rev. Devon starting in the North and moving clock wise, will scribe a circle around the altar forming a sacred space by sprinkling sea salt and holy water, He will then make a second round with incense energize the circle and form the ritual space. A third trip around the perimeter of the circle will be made carrying a blade.

Incantation: *O circle of power I conjure thee,
With water and earth I scribe thee.
With air and Fire I empower thee.
With mind and spirit I seal thee.
By the power of three times three.
As I will so mote it be.*

Energizing the Core and Rings

The binding cord is a sacred tradition that dates back to a time when rings were not exchanged by the couple getting married, According to the tradition once the knot is made the couple will never part as long as the knot remains in the cord. [Sprinkle with holy water] with water from the heavens I cleanse thee. [Sprinkle salt over cord] With the salt of the earth I empower thee, [Pass the cord through the flame of a candle] With holy fire I charge thee. At this time Divine Lord and Lady we ask that you give energy to this cord that it touches not just the flesh but also the spirit.[Pass the cord through the smoke to the incenses] and with air divine I seal thee to thy purpose. As I will so mote it be. The ritual is repeated with the rings.

Permission to Handfast

I cannot bind you less it is your own desire.

Jeff do you come freely without reservation to this binding? (I do)

Is it your will that the Hand fasting take place? (It is)

April do you come freely without reservation to this binding? (I do)

Is it your will that the Hand fasting take place? (It is)

Prayer: Divine Lord and Lady watch over this ritual this right of passage lend your energies to this binding and bless all involved.

The Hand Fasting Ritual

April and Jeff I bid you look into each others eyes.

Will you honor and respect one another, and seek to never break that honor. But treat the other as your equal in all things great and small?

We will [the cord is draped over the grooms hand]

And so the first binding is made.

Will you share each others pains and burdens and seek to ease them giving comfort one to the other?

We will [wrap the cord around the brides hand]

And so the second binding is made

Will you share each others laughter, and joy looking always for the brightness in life and the positive in each other?

We will. [tie the cord]

And so the binding is made.

Prayer: Great Lord and Lady place your seal upon this binding that it be not ever broken.

April and Jeff, now you are bound one to the other with a tie that is not easily be broken; as your hands are bound together now, so too are your lives bound unto death. As your lives are bound unto death so too are your spirits bound through out eternity. Thrice bound are you, Bound in the flesh, bound by your spirits, and bound by your love eternal. With that in mind Jeff take this ring and place it on Aprils finger as you repeat after me.

I, Jeff, take you, April, to be my beloved wife, to have and to hold you, to honor you, to treasure you, to be at your side in sorrow and in joy, in the good times, and in the bad, and to love and cherish you always. I promise you this from my heart, for all the days of my life.

And now April take this ring and place it upon Jeff's finger as you repeat after me.

I, April, take you, Jeff, to be my beloved husband, to have and to hold you, to honor you, to treasure you, to be at your side in sorrow and in joy, in the good times, and in the bad, and to love and cherish you always. I promise you this from my heart, for all the days of my life.

In as much as Jeff and April have been bound together in body and spirit and have exchanged vows and rings as a simble of that binding. It is with great pleasure that I pronounce them husband and wife.

You may kiss the bride.

***May the Lord and Lady be with you and bless you
May you live to see your children's children.
May you be poor in misfortune and rich in blessings
May you know nothing but happiness from this moment on.***

Rev Devon will open the circle.