

## Processional

We stand here with you at this holy time to ask God's blessing on your partnership and to support you in your commitment to create a home together in which the Jewish values of compassion and justice, truth and faithfulness will be honoured. Therefore we greet you with joy, and say together:

*Blessed are you who come in the name of the Eternal One!  
From the house of the Eternal One may you be blessed.*

*For a female couple:*

בְּרוּכֹת הַבָּאוֹת בְּשֵׁם יי,  
בִּרְכוּנוֹכֶן מִבֵּית יי.

*For a male couple:*

בְּרוּכִים הַבָּאִים בְּשֵׁם יי,  
בִּרְכוּנוֹכֶם מִבֵּית יי.

*The Rabbi welcomes the Couple*

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהַחַיִּינוּ וְקִיַּמְנוּ וְהִגִּיעֵנוּ  
לְזֶמֶן הַזֶּה.

*We praise You, Eternal God, Sovereign of the universe, that You have  
kept us alive, sustained us, and enabled us to reach this joyous time.*

We praise You, Eternal  
God, Sovereign of the  
universe, Creator of the fruit  
of the vine.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ  
הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הַגֶּפֶן.

*The Couple drink from the Cup*

A first reading may be included here

*The Rabbi says to each partner in turn:*

Do you ..... commit yourself to ..... to be his / her partner in  
life, promising to love, honour and cherish him / her in  
faithfulness?

*Each partner answers in turn:*

I do.

The Couple may make a personal declaration to one another

*The Rabbi asks the Couple to exchange the rings (or tokens) and to recite in turn one or both of the following declarations:*

*Two women say:*

אֲנֵא הִתְקַדְשִׁי לִי בְּטַבַּעַת זֶה  
(בְּחֶפֶץ זֶה) בְּשֵׁם קָדוֹשׁ  
יִשְׂרָאֵל.

*Two men say:*

אֲנֵא הִתְקַדַּשׁ לִי בְּטַבַּעַת זֶה  
(בְּחֶפֶץ זֶה) בְּשֵׁם קָדוֹשׁ  
יִשְׂרָאֵל.

Please consecrate yourself to me with this ring (token)  
in the name of the Holy One of Israel.

*They may then say:*

*Two women:*

וְאֶרְשֶׁתִּיךָ לִי לְעוֹלָם.  
וְאֶרְשֶׁתִּיךָ לִי בְצַדִּיק וּבְמִשְׁפָּט  
וּבְחֶסֶד וּבְרַחֲמִים.  
וְאֶרְשֶׁתִּיךָ לִי בְּאַמוּנָה,  
וְיָדַעְתָּ אֶת־יְהוָה.

*Two men:*

וְאֶרְשֶׁתִּיךָ לִי לְעוֹלָם.  
וְאֶרְשֶׁתִּיךָ לִי בְצַדִּיק וּבְמִשְׁפָּט  
וּבְחֶסֶד וּבְרַחֲמִים.  
וְאֶרְשֶׁתִּיךָ לִי בְּאַמוּנָה,  
וְיָדַעְתָּ אֶת־יְהוָה.

I betroth you to me forever.

I betroth you to me in righteousness and justice,  
in love and compassion.

I betroth you to me in faithfulness,  
and you shall know the Eternal One.

A second reading may be included here

The address

The reading of the ketubah may be included here

*The Rabbi, holding the Cup of Blessing:*

Now that, before God and with the loving support of this gathering, you have entered into a sacred covenant of love, you begin a new stage of your lives as consecrated partners. We pray that you may be blessed with deep and enduring happiness. But we remember that we live in a world as yet unredeemed, where joys and sorrows, love and hatred, acceptance and prejudice are commingled. Therefore we pray that, as your love will enhance the sweetness of your joys, so it will lighten any burden you may have to bear. For henceforth you will share all things, as you will share this cup of wine.

#### THE SEVEN BLESSINGS

#### שבע ברכות

*The following Seven Blessings may be read or chanted, or seven friends and relatives may be invited to offer their own blessings to the Couple.*

We praise You, Eternal God, Sovereign of the universe, Creator of the fruit of the vine.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ  
הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הַגֶּפֶן.

We praise You, Eternal God, Sovereign of the universe, whose glory all things proclaim.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ  
הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהַכֹּל בְּרָא  
לְכַבּוֹדוֹ.

We praise You, Eternal God, Sovereign of the universe, Source of life and Creator of all living beings.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ  
הָעוֹלָם, מְקוֹר־הַחַיִּים, יוֹצֵר  
כָּל־חַי.

We praise You, Eternal God, Sovereign of the universe, that You have created humankind in Your image and made us both male and female. We praise You, O God, Creator of humankind.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ  
הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר יָצַר  
אֶת־הָאָדָם בְּצַלְמוֹ, זָכָר  
וּנְקֵבָה בְּרָא אֹתָם. בָּרוּךְ  
אַתָּה יְיָ, יוֹצֵר הָאָדָם.

May the Divine Presence rejoice greatly, for we were not created to be solitary, and these our brothers / sisters have found in each other a partner for mutual support. We praise You, O God, that You unite individuals through love.

Grant abundant happiness to this couple, united in love, and let them feel the joy which You intended for Your children in the Garden of Eden. We praise You, O God, that You cause these loving companions to rejoice.

We praise You, Eternal God, Sovereign of the universe, the Source of all joy and gladness, happiness and exultation, love and harmony, peace and friendship. Soon let there be heard in the cities of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem, and throughout all the world, the voice of joy and gladness, the voice of love and harmony. We praise You, O God, that You cause loving companions to rejoice together.

שׁוֹשׁ תְּשִׁישׁ וְתִגַּל  
הַשְׂכִּינָה, שְׁלֹא נִבְרָאנוּ  
לְהִיּוֹת לְבַדָּנוּ, וְנַעֲשֶׂה  
לְאַחֵינוּ / לְאַחִיוֹתֵינוּ אֱלֹהִים  
עֶזְרַת כְּנֻגָּדִים. בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ,  
מֵיחַד יְחִידִים / יְחִידוֹת  
בְּאַהֲבָה.

שִׂמְחָה תְּשַׂמַּח רַעִים  
הָאֲהוּבִים / רַעוּת  
הָאֲהוּבוֹת, כְּשִׂמְחַךְ יִצְחָךְ  
בְּגֶן עֵדֶן מִקֶּדֶם. בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה  
יְיָ, מְשַׂמַּח רַעִים הָאֲהוּבִים  
/ רַעוּת הָאֲהוּבוֹת.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ  
הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר בָּרָא שְׂשׁוֹן  
וְשִׂמְחָה, גִּילָה, רִנָּה, דִּיצָה  
וְחֻדוּה, אֶהְבָּה וְאַחֲוָה  
וְשָׁלוֹם וְרַעוּת. מְהֵרָה, יְיָ  
אֱלֹהֵינוּ, יִשְׁמַע בְּעָרֵי יְהוּדָה  
וּבְחֻצוֹת יְרוּשָׁלַיִם,  
וּבְכָל-הָעוֹלָם, קוֹל שְׂשׁוֹן  
וְקוֹל שִׂמְחָה, קוֹל אֶהְבָּה  
וְקוֹל אֶחָוָה. בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ,  
מְשַׂמַּח רַע עִם רַעְהוּ / רַעְהוּ  
עִם רַעְיָתָהּ.

*The Couple drink from the Cup of Blessing*

An alternative version of the Seven Blessings which might be used when the couple wish for 7 guests to read one blessing each.

*An interpretative version*

1

May you be blessed with gratitude and the wisdom of the universe.

2

May you be blessed with creativity and the living spirit of all life on earth.

3

May you pay homage to the universal humanity that links all people, and yet remember to respect the uniqueness of every person.

4

May you be blessed with companionship. May you hold and support each other with your love.

5

May you be blessed with fruitfulness, and with your love and your gifts bring life and joy to the world.

6

May you be blessed with laughter and friendship, health and contentment, peace and harmony. May your love and faithfulness help bring healing and redemption to the world.

7

May you drink deep from the cup of life, and find in one another a source of unending joy.

The Rabbi

We praise You, Eternal  
God, Sovereign of the  
universe, Creator of the fruit  
of the vine.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ  
הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הַגֶּפֶן.

*The Couple drink from the Cup*

Eternal God, who taught human beings to help and serve each other in faithful partnerships, and lead each other into happiness, bless this covenant of affection, these promises of truth. Protect and care for these loving companions as they go through life together. May they be secure in a devotion which deepens with the passing years, and may the generosity of their love be a source of joy and blessing to all who know them. May Your presence dwell with them in the warmth of their love, in the kindness of their home, and in their care and concern for others. *Amen.*

### *The Priestly Blessing*

*For women:*

יְבָרֶכֶךָ יְהוָה וַיִּשְׁמְרֶכָּ:  
יָאֵר יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיַּחֲנֶנֶךָ:  
יֵשָׁא יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ  
וַיֵּשֶׁם לָךְ שָׁלוֹם:

*For men:*

יְבָרֶכֶךָ יְהוָה וַיִּשְׁמְרֶכָּ:  
יָאֵר יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיַּחֲנֶנֶךָ:  
יֵשָׁא יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ  
וַיֵּשֶׁם לָךְ שָׁלוֹם:

May God bless you and keep you;  
May God smile upon you and be gracious to you;  
May God reach out to you in tenderness, and grant you peace.

The Rabbi explains about the custom of breaking a glass

The Glass

Mazel-Tov

The Recessional