

## “Ceremony of the Hands”

### Introduction

Good afternoon.

What a beautiful location and perfect day for a wedding.

Welcome to the wedding of Alex Good and Corey Smart.

My name is James McDonald, a Humanist Officiant licensed by the Government of Ontario to solemnize marriages.

### Reading:

The following words of wisdom are from Robert Fulghum’s *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*. He said wisdom is not found in the hallowed halls of a university, but in the sandbox at nursery school.

These are the things he learned:

Share everything

Play fair

Don’t hit people

Put things back where you found them.

Clean up your own mess.

Don't take things that aren't yours.

Say sorry when you hurt somebody.

Wash your hands before you eat.

Flush.

Put the toilet seat back down

Warm cookies and cold milk are good for you. Give them to someone who feels sad.

Be aware of wonder.

Remember the little seed in the plastic cup? The roots go down and the plant goes up and nobody really knows how or why, but we are all like that.

And it is still true: no matter how old you are, when you go out into the world, it is best to hold hands and stick together.

We are gathered here today to witness the marriage of Alex Good and Corey Smart.

## **The Declarations**

**Alex Good, do you solemnly declare that you know of no lawful impediment that prevents you from marrying Corey Smart?**

*Alex: "I do."*

**Corey Smart, do you solemnly declare that you know of no lawful impediment that prevents you from marrying Alex Good?**

*Corey: "I do."*

## **Marriage Vows**

In the presence of family, friends, and witnesses, do you, Alex (Corey), take Corey (Alex) to be your lawfully wedded spouse, to have and to hold, for better or for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, from this day forward until death do you part?

**"I do."**

## **Ring Exchange**

Corey (Alex), I give you this ring that you may wear it as a lasting reminder of our marriage vows and as a symbol of my love and commitment to you.

I promise to love and care for you, honour and respect you, and share with you all that I have. May we look forward to a happy future together. May we always remember the love we share for each other at this moment, on this our wedding day.

## **The Pronouncement**

Alex and Corey, you have consented in marriage, and have declared your solemn intentions before these witnesses and in my presence. You have exchanged rings as the pledge of your love to each other. You have joined your hands to accept one another.

**Now, I, James McDonald, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Marriage Act of the Province of Ontario, do hereby pronounce that you, Alex Good and Corey Smart, are lawfully married.**

You may seal your marriage with a **Kiss**

At this time, we **Sign the Register**

**Conclusion:**

**Ceremony of the Hands**

(Partners Hold Hands)

These are the hands of your best friend, young and strong and full of love for you, that are holding yours on your wedding day.

These are the hands that will work alongside yours, as together you build your future.

These are the hands that will, with the slightest touch, comfort you like no other.

These are the hands that will hold you when fear or grief weighs you down.

These are the hands that will tenderly hold your children.

These are the hands that will help you hold your family together.

And lastly, these are the hands that even when wrinkled and aged, will still be reaching for yours, still giving you tenderness with just a touch.

As you begin your marriage, let your home be a haven of peace  
in the midst of a busy and changing world.

Let your relationship be one of truth, love, and understanding.

May you enjoy a long life, fulfill your hopes, and be happy  
as you live day by day.

May I present to you the married couple, Alex and Corey!

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