

# **NATIVE AMERICAN BLANKET CEREMONY**







In First Nation Ministry, a Blanket Blessings serves as a unique tradition of honoring a committed couple. Much in the same way Hawaiians encircle the necks of newlyweds with flower leis, Native American tribes generally wrap some version of a handmade quilt or blanket around the committed couple as a symbol of the two people in life together as one.

The Blanket Ceremony takes place outdoors with Father Sky as the roof of the sacred cathedral, with Mother Earth at your feet, and with the trees and plants surrounding and embracing you. The blessing of the Blanket Ceremony is that all the words spoken during the ceremony are woven for life into the blanket: the red and/or blue threads signify the struggles

of single life, the black and/or white represents the couple's dedication to filling their life with each other in peace and happiness.

Couples often place their ceremonial blanket at the foot of their bed as a reminder of their commitment to each other throughout their earthly walk. Some also take their blankets along on picnics and at times of celebration.

In gifting the couple with their very own, traditional, Native American Blessing Blanket, we invite them to wrap themselves in the blanket at times of stress or struggle within the relationship, and to remember particularly at those times, the feelings that were expressed and the words that were spoken in their sacred vows.



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