

Wedding Ceremonies

Today's wedding ceremonies are more about the couple and their future together than anything else. They can be as elaborate, simple, religious, spiritual, long, short, involved, contemporary, traditional, and unique as you two choose to make them.

There are many options to choose from, but ultimately it is what you want said at your wedding that matters, not what "everyone else has" or what is "typical".

These are merely suggestions, you are more than welcome to edit, change or select something that may not even be on this list. You can involve children, parents, relatives and friends in the ceremony in many different ways, if you have questions, please feel free to ask.

As far as the layout of the ceremony you can choose to do that in any order that you wish other than I would suggest that you open with an opening and end with the pronouncement.

A suggested layout may be:

Entrance of wedding party
Opening
Consent / Presenting of the Bride
Reading
Wedding Vows
Ring Vows
Unity Candle
Reading
Pronouncement
Embrace / Kiss
Introduction
Exit of wedding party

You can also intersperse songs into the ceremony, a great place would be during the unity candle, or after a reading, but really you can put the songs anywhere and they can be any song that you wish as long as they mean something to you. Also if you do choose to have songs we can even complete and sign your marriage certificate during the song so once you are pronounced and you exit down the aisle all the paperwork is done and you are free to enjoy your time with your guests as a married couple.

Just remember this day is about the two of you coming together and vowing to spend the rest of your lives together, it only happens once so make it memorable and exactly what you want.

Opening

Traditionally this is where the officiant welcomes everyone to the wedding and explains the intent of the wedding. You can combine different openings or change the wording in any way you wish.

Opening #1

We are gathered here this [Day, Month Date, Year] to unite [Party 1 First Name] [Party 1 Last Name] and [Party 2 First Name] [Party 2 Last Name] in the bonds of holy matrimony which is an honorable estate. Into this, these two now come to be joined.

Opening #2

We are gathered together here to unite [Party 1 First Name] [Party 1 Last Name] and [Party 2 First Name] [Party 2 Last Name] in the bonds of matrimony.

Opening #3

This is the time that you have chosen to be married. We are here not only to witness your commitment to each other, but to wish you every happiness in your future life together.

Marriage is founded on sincerity and understanding which leads to tolerance, confidence and trust. We believe that those qualities, which have attracted you both to each other, can be best developed during a life spent together. A happy marriage will enable you to establish a home with love and stability where your family and friends will always be welcome.

Opening #4

Beloved Friends, we are gathered here today to acknowledge and celebrate the love that unites [Party 2 First Name] [Party 2 Last Name] & [Party 1 First Name] [Party 1 Last Name] in Oneness. We recognize this love as an expression of God's love.

As we allow ourselves to experience this love, let us become still. Centered in our own love-filled hearts, let us now bless [Party 2 First Name] & [Party 1 First Name] on their chosen day of marriage.

Opening #5

This is the time you have chosen to be married. We are here, not only to witness your commitment to each other, but also to wish you both every happiness in your future life together.

Within its framework of commitment and loyalty marriage enables the establishment of a home, where through trust, patience and respect, the love and affection which you have for each other may develop into a deep and lasting relationship.

We, who are witnessing your marriage, hope that despite the stresses inevitable in any life your Love, Respect for each other, your trust and understanding of each other will increase your contentment and heighten your joy in living.

Opening #6

Dearly Beloved and Honored Guests: We are gathered here this day in the company assembled to witness the giving and receiving of the marriage vows.

Marriage is an institution ordained of God and is not to be entered into lightly or in jest and only after much consideration.

Opening #7

We are gathered here today to celebrate one of life's greatest moments, to give recognition to the worth and beauty of love, and to add our best wishes to the words which shall unite [Party 2 First Name] [Party 2 Last Name] & [Party 1 First Name] [Party 1 Last Name] in marriage.

Opening #8

[Party 2 First Name] [Party 2 Last Name] & [Party 1 First Name] [Party 1 Last Name], today you celebrate one of life's greatest moments and give recognition to the worth and beauty of love, as you join together in vows of marriage.

Opening #9

We are gathered here today, not to witness the beginning of what will be, but rather what already is! We do not create this marriage, because we cannot. We can and do, however, celebrate with [Party 2 First Name] [Party 2 Last Name] & [Party 1 First Name] [Party 1 Last Name] and their friends and families the wondrous and joyful occurrence that has already taken place in their lives. So let the ceremony begin!

Opening #10

Marriage is a supreme sharing of experience, and an adventure in the most intimate of human relationships. It is the joyous union of two people whose comradeship and mutual understanding have flowered in romance. Today [Party 2 First Name] & [Party 1 First Name] proclaim their love and commitment to the world, and we gather here to rejoice, with and for them, in the new life they now undertake together.

Opening #11

Welcome to you all on this special day.

Regardless of the wonderful and loving relationship that [Party 2 First Name] & [Party 1 First Name] have shared to this day, today, that relationship changes. All of us know it will grow, and become stronger and better.

Indeed, during these exciting times, this day is a day of hope; A day in which [Party 1 First Name] & [Party 2 First Name] demonstrate their faith and love in one another.

Opening #12

Friends, we have been invited here today to share with [Party 2 First Name] [Party 2 Last Name] & [Party 1 First Name] [Party 1 Last Name] a most important moment in their lives. In the time they have been together their love and understanding of each other has grown and matured. Now they have decided to live their lives together as a married couple.

Opening #13

We have come together here in celebration of the joining together of [Party 2 First Name] [Party 2 Last Name] & [Party 1 First Name] [Party 1 Last Name]. There are many things to say about marriage. Much wisdom concerning the joining together of two souls, has come our way through all paths of belief, and from many cultures. With each union, more knowledge is gained and more wisdom gathered. Though we are unable to give all this knowledge to these two, who stand before us, we can hope to leave with them the knowledge of love and its strengths and the anticipation of the wisdom that comes with time.

The law of life is love unto all beings. Without love, life is nothing, without love, death has no redemption. Love is anterior to Life, posterior to Death, initial of Creation and the exponent of Earth. If we learn no more in life, let it be this.

Marriage is a bond to be entered into only after considerable thought and reflection. As with any aspect of life, it has its cycles, its ups and its downs, its trials and its triumphs. With full understanding of this, [Party 2 First Name] & [Party 1 First Name] have come here today to be joined as one in marriage.

Opening #14

I have the privilege of performing this ceremony today. On behalf of [Party 2 First Name] & [Party 1 First Name], welcome and thank you for being here.

They are thrilled that you are here today to share in their joy during this wonderful moment in their lives.

By your presence, you celebrate with them the love they have discovered in each other and you support their decision to commit themselves to one another for the rest of their lives. The greatest happiness of life is the conviction that we are loved, loved for ourselves. If there is anything better than being loved, it is loving.

This (morning, afternoon, evening) we are here to celebrate love. We come together to witness and proclaim the joining together of these two persons in marriage.

There is not a love that is wrong. This is the union of two individuals in heart, body, mind, and spirit, Therefore, marriage is not to be entered into lightly, but reverently, honestly, and deliberately. And it is into this union that [Party 2 First Name] [Party 2 Last Name] & [Party 1 First Name] [Party 1 Last Name] come now to be joined.

Opening #15

We have gathered here in celebration of the joining together of [Party 2 First Name] [Party 2 Last Name] and [Party 1 First Name] [Party 1 Last Name] in marriage. [Party 1 First Name] and [Party 2 First Name] are delighted to have each of you present, as they make these solemn and joyful promises to each other. This is a ceremony they have designed together to express their love for one another, and to make known to all of us the range of their dreams and the depth of their commitment. . [Party 1 First Name] and [Party 2 First Name] want to share their happiness with each of you, and to bring together their families and friends through shared love for the two of them.

Consent / Present

This is traditionally where the bride's father / family present the bride to the groom and give their consent for her to be married. It is not a requirement, so if you would like to leave it out, that is up to you, but there are many more contemporary ways to achieve the same thing with out the bride being "given away".

Consent / Present #1

If anyone present can show just and legal cause why this couple may not be joined, let them speak now or forever hold their peace. (Who gives this woman to this man?)

Consent / Present #2

Who brings this woman to marry this man?

Consent / Present #3

Others would ask, at this time, who gives the bride in marriage, but, as a woman is not property to be bought and sold, given and taken, I ask simply if she comes of her own will and if she has her family's blessing.

[Party 2 First Name], is it true that you come of your own free will and accord? (Yes)

With whom do you come and whose blessings accompany you. (She comes with me, her father, and is accompanied by all of her family's blessings.)

Consent / Present #4

[Party 2 First Name] you have chosen [Party 1 First Name] to be your life partner. Will you love and respect him/her? Will you be honest with him/her always? Will you stand by him/her through whatever may come? If so, answer "I will."

[Party 1 First Name] you have chosen [Party 2 First Name] to be your life partner. Will you love and respect him/her? Will you be honest with him/her always? Will you stand by him/her through what ever may come? If so, answer: "I will")

And do you both promise to make the necessary adjustments in your personal lives in order that you may live in a harmonious relationship together? If so, answer: "We do"

Now in the spirit of joy and affirmation, I want to ask your families and friends a question. Do you, the families and friends of [Party 2 First Name] and [Party 1 First Name], give them your blessing and support this day, wishing them a wonderful life together? If so, answer: "We do"

Consent / Present #5

Who brings [Party 2 First Name] to stand beside [Party 1 First Name]? (Parents: We do.)

Parents, are you willing, now and always to support and strengthen this marriage by upholding both [Party 2 First Name] and [Party 1 First Name] with your love and concern? (Both sets of parents: We are.)

Thank you, you may be seated.

Reading

Readings are an excellent way to make your ceremony unique and personal to the couple you are. Some may be more appropriate earlier in the ceremony, as in before the vows, others may be more appropriate later in the ceremonies. Also there are certain readings that are more like blessings, and you can most appropriately have members of the bridal party read, or even family members or friends who are not in the bridal party. It is a nice way to incorporate everyone you would like to.

The following is an opening I use frequently to introduce the reading(s). It often gets edited down and shows the intent of the readings.

Although the exact form of a wedding has changed throughout the ages, the ultimate purpose of such an event has always been to come together and honor the union of two souls among their friends and family. [Party 1 First Name] and [Party 2 First Name] are here today to connect themselves to the sacred tradition of marriage and have chosen some precious words of wisdom and joy that represent the spirit of their shared connection.

Reading #1

Apache Blessing

Now you will feel no rain, for each of you will be the shelter for each other. Now you will feel no cold, for each of you will be the warmth for the other. Now you are two persons, but there is only one life before. Go now to your dwelling place to enter into the days of your life together. And may your days be good and long upon the earth.

Treat yourselves and each other with respect, and remind yourselves often of what brought you together. Give the highest priority to the tenderness, gentleness and kindness that your connection deserves. When frustration, difficulty and fear assail your relationship - as they threaten all relationships at one time or another - remember to focus on what is right between you, not only the part which seems wrong. In this way, you can ride out the storms when clouds hide the face of the sun in your lives - remembering that even if you lose sight of it for a moment, the sun is still there. And if each of you takes responsibility for the quality of your life together, it will be marked by abundance and delight.

Reading #2

The ritual of marriage is not simply a social event; it is a crossing of threads in the fabric of fate. Many strands bring the couple and their families together and spin their lives into a fabric that is woven on their children.

Reading #3

In love, may you relax in each other's arms as you have never relaxed before. May each of you know, from now on, that there is one on whose love you can depend forever. May this marriage be your sanctuary, your haven from worldly pain. May you create, a piece of heaven on earth.

Reading #4

In 1850, Charles Dickens said,

"There can be no disparity in marriage like unsuitability of mind and purpose." Are the two of you well suited in mind and purpose? (*we are*)

Reading #5

In 1849, Lucretia Mott said,

"Then in the marriage union, the independence of the husband and wife will be equal, their dependence mutual, and their obligations reciprocal."

Reading #6

Two lives, two people, so very different, yet so similar. Together we stand as one, sharing our future as it comes. The past is that past. Buds are yet to blossom, with care and trust, the best is yet to be revealed. Honesty and kindness, are the fruits of love.

Reading #7

By Walter Pinder

Everyday you live, learn how to receive love with as much understanding as you give it. Find things within yourself, then you can share them with each other. Do not fear this love. Have an open heart and a sincere mind. Be sincerely interested in each other's happiness. Be constant and consistent in your love. From this comes security and strength. All that we love deeply becomes a part of us on this day of your marriage. Try to commit yourselves fully and freely to each other.

Reading #8

I am bound to remind you of the solemn and firm nature of the relationship into which you are about to enter. Marriage as most of us understand it, is the voluntary commitment of a man to a woman and a woman to a man to the exclusion of all others and is entered into with the desire, the hope and the firm intention that it will last for life.

Reading #9

Love is very patient and kind, never jealous or envious, never boastful or proud. Love is never haughty or selfish or rude. Love does not demand it's own way. Love is not irritable or touchy. Love does not hold grudges and will hardly notice when others do it wrong. Love is never glad about injustice, but rejoices whenever truth wins out. If you love someone, you will be loyal to them no matter what the costs. You will always believe in them, always expect the best in them, and will always stand your ground in defending them.

Reading #10

Love is the reason why this day was chosen by you both to begin your lives together and love is the reason why you both will give with all your hearts for the good of each other. Love is the reason that together you will become one; one in hope; one in believing in life; one in sharing the coming years.

Reading #11

Marriage is love by Gloria Matthew

If two are caring as they are sharing life's hopes and fears.

If the music of laughter outweighs sadness and tears.

Marriage is togetherness.

If both derive pleasure from the mere presence of each other, yet when parted no jealousies restrict, worry or smother.

Marriage is freedom.

If achievements mean more when they benefit two and consideration is shown with each point of view.

Marriage is respect.

And if togetherness, freedom and respect are combined with a joy that words can never fully define, then marriage is love.

Reading #12

What a grand thing, to be loved! What a grander thing still, to love! by Victor Hugo

Reading #13

[Party 2 First Name] & [Party 1 First Name], just as two very different threads woven in opposite directions can form a beautiful tapestry, so can your two lives merge together to form a very beautiful marriage. To make your marriage work will take love. Love should be the core of your marriage, love is the reason you are here. But it also will take trust - to know in your hearts you want the best for each other. It will take dedication - to stay open to one another; to learn and to grow together even when this is not always so easy to do. It will take faith - to always be willing to go forward to tomorrow, never really knowing what tomorrow will bring. And it will take commitment - to hold true to the journey you both now pledge to share together.

Reading #14

[Party 2 First Name] & [Party 1 First Name], life is given to each of us as individuals, and yet we must learn to live together. Love is given to us by our family and by our friends. We learn to love by being loved. Learning to love and living together is one of the greatest challenges of life - and is the shared goal of a married life.

Reading #15

You can give without loving, but you can never love without giving. The great acts of love are done by those who are habitually performing small acts of kindness. We pardon to the extent that we love. Love is knowing that even when you are alone, you will never be lonely again. And great happiness of life is the conviction that we are loved. Loved for ourselves. And even loved in spite of ourselves.

Reading #16

The Divine Comedy by Dante

The love of God, Unutterable and perfect, flows into a pure soul the way light rushes into a transparent object. The more love we receive, the more love we shine forth; so that, as we grow clear and open, the more complete the joy of loving is. And the more souls who resonate together, the greater the intensity of their love for, mirror like, each soul reflects the other.

Reading #17

Classic Reading from "The Prophet"

Love one another, but make not a bond of that love. Let it rather be like a moving sea between the shores of your souls. And stand together, and yet not too near together. For even the pillars of the temple must stand apart; and the oak tree and the cypress will not grow in each other's shadow. Remember that love gives nothing but from itself. Love possesses not, nor would it be possessed, for love is sufficient unto love. And think not that you can direct the course of love. For love, if it finds you worthy, will direct your course.

Reading #18

By Rainer Rilke

It is good to love: because love is difficult. For one human being to love another human being; this is perhaps the most difficult task that has been entrusted to us – the ultimate task, the final test and proof, the work for which all other work is merely preparation. Loving at first does not mean merger, surrender and uniting with another person.

Love is a high inducement for the individual to ripen, to become something in ourselves, to become world in ourselves for the sake of another person. Love is a great, demanding claim on us, something that chooses us and calls us to vast distances.

Reading #19

By L. Brownlow

We all need love. With all our complexities, we are not easy creatures to satisfy. We can not meet the conditions of a satisfied life by gorging ourselves, lying down on the grass and staring at the clouds. We have deeper needs and deepest need of all is love. Too often we think in terms of receiving love instead of giving it. It is gratifying to receive. But there is much for fulfillment in having a heart so filled with love that it is more a joy in giving love than in receiving. The need for love is born within us, and is as universal as the human race itself.

Where ever we walk, on every shore and in every land, the need for love walks by our side. It is not trite, therefore, to say that love is necessary for life, no more than to say that food sustains life. Without food, we will die. Without love, we die a death worse than physical death. Do not depreciate love's value. Preserve the value of love and live as exalted creatures on the high summit of tender affections that many will never obtain. Never forget the true value and the true need for love.

Reading #20

Cherokee Prayer

God in heaven above please protect the ones we love.

We honor all you created as we pledge our hearts and lives together. We honor mother-earth - and ask for our marriage to be abundant and grow stronger through the seasons; We honor fire - and ask that our union be warm and glowing with love in our hearts; We honor wind - and ask that we sail though life safe and calm as in our father's arms; We honor water - to clean and soothe our relationship - that it may never thirst for love; With all the forces of the universe you created, we pray for harmony and true happiness as we forever grow young together. Amen.

Reading #21

Through this co-operation, we give ourselves, our lives and love into the hands of the one we love. We do so trustingly and generously. And so, each of us receives a gift: the life and love of the other. We receive this gift, not only from the one we love, but also from the parents who brought us into the world, and from our friends and families as well.

And so as [Party 2 First Name] & [Party 1 First Name]'s friends and family, we are here to share with them this joy and hope, and to see them off on the path they will walk together. May it be a path of blessedness, bright with flowers of prosperity and spiritual awakening; a path of ever deepening, ever broadening love that they will travel arm in arm throughout eternity.

Reading #22

Now a reading that express the sense of joy and love on this occasion. It is called 'To My Friend':

I love you not only for what you are, but for what I am when I am with you. I love you not only for what you have made of yourself, but for what you are making of me. I love you because you have done more than any creed could have done to make me good, and more than any fate could have done to make me happy. You have done it without a touch, without a word, without a sign. You have done it by being yourself. Perhaps that is what being a friend means, after all.

Reading #23

I would like to read to you a poem about this mingling, called "Married Love," which was written by a medieval poet about seven hundred years ago. In the English translation, it reads:

You and I
Have so much love,
That it burns like a fire,
In which we bake a lump of clay
Molded into a figure of you
And a figure of me.
Then we take both of them.
And break them into pieces,
And mix the pieces with water,
And mold again a figure of you And a figure of me.
I am in your clay.
You are in my clay.
In life we share a single quilt,
In death we will share one coffin.

As the poem shows us, mingling in marriage is a mutual dedication, a cooperative venture in every sense. It is a relationship based on love, respect, and a determination by both partners to adjust to each other and support one another, in health and in sickness, in joy and in sadness, in ease and in hardship.

Reading #24

Foundations of Marriage by Regina Hill

Love, trust, and forgiveness are the foundations of marriage. In marriage, many days will bring happiness, while other days may be sad. But together, two hearts can overcome everything...

In marriage, all of the moments won't be exciting or romantic, and sometimes worries and anxiety will be overwhelming. But together, two hearts that accept will find comfort together.

Recollections of past joys, pains, and shared feelings will be the glue that holds everything together during even the worst and most insecure moments.

Reaching out to each other as a friend, and becoming the confidant and companion that the other one needs, is the true magic and beauty of any two people together.

It's inspiring in each other a dream or a feeling, and having faith in each other and not giving up... even when all the odds say to quit.

It's allowing each other to be vulnerable, to be himself or herself, even when the opinions or thoughts aren't in total agreement or exactly what you'd like them to be.

It's getting involved and showing interest in each other, really listening and being available, the way any best friend should be.

Exactly three things need to be remembered in a marriage if it is to be a mutual bond of sharing, caring, and loving throughout life: love, trust, and forgiveness.

Reading #25

What is Love? By Susan Polis Schutz

Love. Love is the strongest feeling known
an all-encompassing passion

an extreme strength

an overwhelming excitement

Love is trying not to hurt the other person

trying not to change the other person

trying not to dominate the other person

trying not to deceive the other person

Love is understanding each other

listening to each other

supporting each other

having fun with each other.

Love is not an excuse to stop growing

not an excuse to stop making yourself better

not an excuse to lessen one's goals

not an excuse to take the other person for granted

Love is being completely honest with each other

finding dreams to share

working towards common goals

sharing responsibilities equally

Everyone in the world wants to love

Love is not a feeling to be taken lightly

Love is a feeling to be cherished, nurtured and cared for

Love is the reason for life

Reading #26

Marriage is a promise of love By Edmund O'Neill

Marriage is a commitment to life -- to the best that two people can find and bring out in each other. It offers opportunities for sharing and growth no other human relationship can equal, a physical and emotional joining that is promised for a lifetime.

Within the circle of its love, marriage encompasses all of life's most important relationships. A wife and a husband are each other's best friend, confidant, lover, teacher, listener, and critic.

There may come times when one partner is heartbroken or ailing, and the love of the other may resemble the tender caring of a parent for a child.

Marriage deepens and enriches every facet of life. Happiness is fuller; memories are fresher; commitment is stronger; even anger is felt more strongly, and passes away more quickly.

Marriage understands and forgives the mistakes life is unable to avoid. It encourages and nurtures new life, new experiences, and new ways of expressing love through the seasons of life.

When two people pledge to love and care for each other in marriage, they create a spirit unique to themselves, which binds them closer than any spoken or written words.

Marriage is a promise, a potential, made in the hearts of two people who love, while takes a lifetime to fulfill.

Reading #27

The key to love is understanding...

The ability to comprehend not only the spoken word,
but those unspoken gestures, the little things that say so much by themselves.

The key to love is forgiveness...

to accept each others faults and pardon mistakes,
without forgetting, but with remembering what you learn from them.

The key to love is sharing...

Facing your good fortunes as well as the bad, together;
both conquering problems, forever searching for ways to intensify your happiness.

The key to love is giving...

without thought of return,
but with the hope of just a simple smile, and by giving in but never giving up.

The key to love is respect...

realising that you are two separate people, with different ideas; that you don't belong to each other, that you belong with each other, and share a mutual bond.

The key to love is inside us all...

It takes time and patience to unlock all the ingredients that will take you to its threshold;
it is the continual learning process that demands a lot of work... but the rewards are more than worth the effort...

and that is the key to love.

Reading #28

The joy we feel now is a solemn joy, because the act of marriage has many consequences, both social and personal. Marriage requires "love," a word we often use with vagueness and sentimentality. We may assume that love is some rare and mystical event, when in fact it is our natural state of being.

So what do we mean by love? When we love, we see things other people do not see. We see beneath the surface, to the qualities that make our beloved special and unique. To see with loving eyes, is to know inner beauty. And to be loved is to be seen, and known, as we are known to no other. One who loves us, gives us a unique gift: a piece of ourselves, but a piece that only they could give us.

We who love, can look at each other's life and say, "I touched his life," or, "I touched her life," just as an artist might say, "I touched this canvas." "Those brushstrokes in the corner of this magnificent mural, those are mine. I was a part of this life, and it is a part of me." Marriage is to belong to each other through a unique and diverse collaboration, like two threads crossing in different directions, yet weaving one tapestry together.

The secret of love and marriage is similar to that of religion itself. It is the emergence of the larger self. It is the finding of one's life by losing it. Such is the privilege of husband and wife - to be each himself, herself and yet another; to face the world strong, with the courage of two.

To make this relationship work, therefore, takes more than love. It takes trust, to know in your hearts that you want only the best for each other. It takes dedication, to stay open to one another, to learn and grow, even when it is difficult to do so. And it takes faith, to go forward together without knowing what the future holds for you both. While love is our natural state of being, these other qualities are not as easy to come by. They are not a destination, but a journey.

The true art of married life is in this an inner spiritual journey. It is a mutual enrichment, a give and take between two personalities, a mingling of two endowments, which diminishes neither, but enhances both.

Reading #29

Navajo Prayer

When you were children, you talked like children, But now that you've grown, you should be done with childish things and put them away. When you were children, you looked into a mirror that gave only a blurred reflection of reality. But with love and maturity, you shouldn't be afraid to look into that mirror and see each other face to face. Be swift like the wind in loving each other. Be brave like the sea in loving each other. Be gentle like the breeze in loving each other. Be patient like the sun who waits and watches the four changes of the earth in loving each other. Be wise like the roaring of the thunder clouds and lightning in loving each other. Be shining like the morning dawn in loving each other. Be proud like the tree who stands without bending in loving each other. Be brilliant like the rainbow colors in loving each other. Now, forever, forever, there will be no more loneliness because your worlds are joined together with the world. Forever, forever.

Reading #30

From This Day Forward

From this day forward, let us laugh together, and plan together,
let us find our favorite places, and go together...

Let us enjoy the sunshine, and the rain,
being alone together, and in crowds together...

From this day forward, together,
Let us love!

Let Us Walk Together

Let us walk together yet not as one, but such that our shadows are separate and distinct, such that
our souls are unbound and free.

Let us share our time, yet do not give all your time, nor take all of mine for in order to develop to
the fullest, to be free, we must have solitude and individuality.

Let me wander in solitude, when I need to be alone, yet be near, when I need you.

Let us share our love.

Give freely of your love, but do not smother me, my soul must breathe a free air.

Take my love, but do not demand it, for love given of obligation, is stale and without life.

Let us share our lives.

Share my life, but do not try to shape it.

Let me share your life, but do not let it revolve around me.

Let us share ourselves.

Accept me as I am, do not attempt to change me to fit your dreams.

Respect me for what I am, not for what I was or one day may be.

Share yourself with me, but do not allow me to limit your freedom or bind your soul.

Let us share our minds, thoughts, goals, values and dreams.

Let us develop these within ourselves without restriction or loss of freedom

Thus our two free souls, may wander together as they develop in freedom.

As we share our lives, as we walk through life together, know my love is yours, but not my soul
for it must be free.

Reading #31

Excerpt from *The Bridge Across Forever* (Richard Bach)

A soul mate is someone who has locks that fit our keys, and keys to fit our locks. When we feel
safe enough to open the locks, our truest selves step out and we can be completely and honestly
who we are; we can be loved for who we are and not for who we're pretending to be. Each
unveils the best part of the other. No matter what else goes wrong around us, with that one
person we're safe in our own paradise. Our soul mate is someone who shares our deepest
longings, our sense of direction. When we're two balloons, and together our direction is up,
chances are we've found the right person. Our soul mate is the one who makes life come to life.

Reading #32

What Is Love? ~ Author Unknown ~

Sooner or later we begin to understand that love is more than verses on valentines and romance
in the movies. We begin to know that love is here and now, real and true, the most important
thing in our lives. For love is the creator of our favorite memories and the foundation of our
fondest dreams. Love is a promise that is always kept, a fortune that can never be spent, a seed
that can flourish in even the most unlikely of places. And this radiance that never fades, this
mysterious and magical joy, is the greatest treasure of all - one known only by those who love.

Reading #33

Blessing For A Marriage ~ James Dillet Freeman ~

May your marriage bring you all the exquisite excitements a marriage should bring, and may life grant you also patience, tolerance, and understanding.

May you always need one another - not so much to fill your emptiness as to help you to know your fullness. A mountain needs a valley to be complete; the valley does not make the mountain less, but more; and the valley is more a valley because it has a mountain towering over it. So let it be with you and you.

May you need one another, but not out of weakness.

May you want one another, but not out of lack.

May you entice one another, but not compel one another.

May you embrace one another, but not out encircle one another.

May you succeed in all important ways with one another, and not fail in the little graces.

May you look for things to praise, often say, "I love you!" and take no notice of small faults.

If you have quarrels that push you apart, may both of you hope to have good sense enough to take the first step back.

May you enter into the mystery, which is the awareness of one another's presence - no more physical than spiritual, warm and near when you are side-by-side, and warm and near when you are in separate rooms or even distant cities.

May you have happiness, and may you find it making one another happy.

May you have love, and may you find it loving one another.

Reading #34

Gift From The Sea – Anne Morrow Lindburgh:

When you love someone, you do not love them all the time, in exactly the same way, from moment to moment. It is an impossibility. It is even a lie to pretend to. And yet this is exactly what most of us demand. We have so little faith in the ebb and flow of life, of love, of relationships. We leap at the flow of the tide and resist in terror its ebb. We are afraid it will never return. We insist on permanency, on duration, on continuity; when the only continuity possible, in life as in love, is in growth, in fluidity - in freedom, in the sense that the dancers are free, barely touching as they pass, but partners in the same pattern.

The only real security is not in owning or possessing, not in demanding or expecting, not in hoping, even. Security in a relationship lies neither in looking back to what was in nostalgia, nor forward to what it might be in dread or anticipation, but living in the present relationship and accepting it as it is now. Relationships must be like islands, one must accept them for what they are here and now, within their limits - islands, surrounded and interrupted by the sea, and continually visited and abandoned by the tides.

Reading #35

True Love -Author Unknown

True love is a sacred flame that burns eternally,

And none can dim its special glow or change its destiny.

True love speaks in tender tones and hears with gentle ear,

True love gives with open heart and true love conquers fear.

True love makes no harsh demands it neither rules nor binds,

And true love holds with gentle hands the hearts that it entwines.

Reading #36

On Love~ By Thomas Kempis ~

Love is a mighty power,
a great and complete good.
Love alone lightens every burden, and makes rough places smooth.
It bears every hardship as though it were nothing, and renders
all bitterness sweet and acceptable.

Nothing is sweeter than love,
Nothing stronger,
Nothing higher,
Nothing wider,
Nothing more pleasant,
Nothing fuller or better in heaven or earth; for love is born of God.

Love flies, runs and leaps for joy.
It is free and unrestrained.
Love knows no limits, but ardently transcends all bounds.
Love feels no burden, takes no account of toil,
attempts things beyond its strength.

Love sees nothing as impossible,
for it feels able to achieve all things.
It is strange and effective,
while those who lack love faint and fail.

Love is not fickle and sentimental,
nor is it intent on vanities.
Like a living flame and a burning torch,
it surges upward and surely surmounts every obstacle.

Reading #37

From the book 'The Couple's Tao Te Ching' by William Martin

Be to each other like water.
It brings nourishment to all it touches without effort or strain.
It seeks out the low places and does not strive to raise itself above all others.
Do not seek to lord it over your beloved.
There is no hierarchy in a union of souls.
Each of you must flow like a stream and surround the other with nurture and refreshment.
Is there a sense of flow to your life together, or is there a sense of strain and effort?
Are you competing instead of nourishing?
How will you nourish your beloved today?

Reading #38

The Art of Marriage - Wilferd Arlan Peterson

The little things are the big things.
It is never being too old to hold hands.
It is remembering to say "I love you" at least once a day.

It is never going to sleep angry.
It is at no time taking the other for granted;
the courtship should not end with the honeymoon,
it should continue through all the years.

It is having a mutual sense of values and common objectives.
It is standing together facing the world.
It is forming a circle of love that gathers in the whole family.
It is doing things for each other, not in the attitude of duty or sacrifice, but in the spirit of joy.

It is speaking words of appreciation and demonstrating gratitude in thoughtful ways.
It is not expecting the husband to wear a halo or the wife to have wings of an angel.
It is not looking for perfection in each other.

It is cultivating flexibility, patience, understanding and a sense of humor.
It is having the capacity to forgive and forget.
It is giving each other an atmosphere in which each can grow.

It is finding room for the things of the spirit.
It is a common search for the good and the beautiful.
It is establishing a relationship in which the independence is equal, dependence is mutual and the obligation is reciprocal.
It is not only marrying the right partner, it is being the right partner.

Reading #39

The Couple's Tao Te Ching: Always Return

It is good to know your strength
But always return to your flexibility.
If you can cradle your beloved in your arms
in nurturing gentleness,
love will flow through you.

It is good to achieve things
But always return to anonymity.
Your beloved does not need your achievements
But need your uncomplicated soul.

It is good to work for change,
But always return to what is.
If you accept all things whether painful or joyful,
You will always know
That you belong to each other
And to the Tao

Reading #40

The Couple's Tao Te Ching: A Sacred Space

Your love requires space in which to grow
This space must be safe enough
to allow your hearts to be revealed.
It must offer refreshment for your spirits
And renewal for your minds.
It must be a space made sacred
By the quality of your honesty,
Attention, love, and compassion.
It may be anywhere,
Inside or out,
But it must exist.

Reading #41

Love has its seasons, the same as does the Earth. In the spring of love is the discovery of each other, the pulse of the senses, the getting to know the mind and heart of the other; a blooming like the buds and flowers of springtime.

In the summer of love comes the strength, the commitment to each other, the most active part of life. The sharing of joys and sorrows, the learning to be humans who are complete and whole but who can merge each with the other, as the trees grow green and tall in the heat of the sun.

In the fall of love is the contentment of love that knows the other completely. Passion remains, and ease of companionship. The heart smoothes love into a steady light, glorious as the autumn leaves.

In the winter of love, there is parting, and sorrow. But love remains, as do the bare tree trunks in the snow, ready for the renewal of love in the spring as life and love begins anew.

Reading #42

This Marriage by Rumi

This marriage be wine with halvah, honey dissolving in milk.
This marriage be the leaves and fruit of the date tree.
This marriage be women laughing together for days on end.
This marriage, a sign for us to study,
This marriage, beauty.
This marriage, a moon in a light blue sky.
This marriage, this silence fully mixed with spirit.

Reading #43

The Blessing Of The Apaches

May the sun bring you new energy by day,
May the moon softly restore you by night,
May the rain wash away your worries
And the breeze blow new strength into your being,
And all of the days of your life may you walk
Gently through the world and know its beauty.

Reading #44

A Dedication To My Wife - T.S. Eliot

To whom I owe the leaping delight
That quickens my senses in our walkingtime
And the rhythm that governs the repose of our sleepingtime,
The breathing in unison.

Of lovers whose bodies smell of each other
Who think the same thoughts without need of speech
And babble the same speech without need of meaning.

No peevish winter wind shall chill
No sullen tropic sun shall wither
The roses in the rose-garden which is ours and ours only

But this dedication is for others to read:
These are my private words addressed to you in public.

Reading #45

I Promise - Dorothy R. Colgan

I promise to give you the best of myself and to ask of you no more than you can give.

I promise to respect you as your own person and to realize that your interests, desires and needs are no less important than my own.

I promise to share with you my time and my attention and to bring joy, strength and imagination to our relationship.

I promise to keep myself open to you, to let you see through the window of my world into my innermost fears and feelings, secrets and dreams.

I promise to grow along with you, to be willing to face changes in order to keep our relationship alive and exciting.

I promise to love you in good times and in bad, with all I have to give and all I feel inside in the only way I know how. Completely and forever.

Reading #46

Marriage Advice - Jane Wells (1886)

Let your love be stronger than your hate or anger.
Learn the wisdom of compromise, for it is better to bend a little than to break.
Believe the best rather than the worst.
People have a way of living up or down to your opinion of them.
Remember that true friendship is the basis for any lasting relationship.
The person you choose to marry is deserving of the courtesies
and kindnesses you bestow on your friends.
Please hand this down to your children and your children's children.

Reading #47

Never Marry But For Love - William Penn (1644-1718)

Never marry but for love; but see that thou lovest what is lovely. He that minds a body and not a soul has not the better part of that relationship, and will consequently lack the noblest comfort of a married life.

Between a man and his wife nothing ought to rule but love. As love ought to bring them together, so it is the best way to keep them well together.

A husband and wife that love one another show their children that they should do so too. Others visibly lose their authority in their families by their contempt of one another, and teach their children to be unnatural by their own examples.

Let not enjoyment lessen, but augment, affection; it being the basest of passions to like when we have not, what we slight when we possess.

Here it is we ought to search out our pleasure, where the field is large and full of variety, and of an enduring nature; sickness, poverty or disgrace being not able to shake it because it is not under the moving influences of worldly contingencies.

Nothing can be more entire and without reserve; nothing more zealous, affectionate and sincere; nothing more contented than such a couple, nor greater temporal felicity than to be one of them.

Reading #48

Eskimo Love Song

You are my spouse
My feet shall run because of you
My feet dance because of you
My heart shall beat because of you
My eyes see because of you
My mind thinks because of you
And I shall love because of you.

Reading #49

A Plain Old Kiss – Chris Messick

Some people need a peck or two;
For others a simple smooch will do; Too many,
a graze will stimulate;
A few may want to osculate.
And then, there are those who need a smack,
For flowery words they have a knack.
But all I want from you is bliss,
Which you can give me with a plain, old kiss!

Reading #50

Amanda Nicole Martinez
I love you so deeply,
I love you so much,
I love the sound of your voice
And the way that we touch.
I love your warm smile
And your kind, thoughtful way,
The joy that you bring
To my life every day.
I love you today
As I have from the start,
And I'll love you forever
With all of my heart.

Reading #51

Love Me – Amanda Nicole Martinez
Love me in the Springtime, when all is green and new,
Love me in the Summer, when the sky is oh so blue,
Love me in the Autumn, when the leaves are turning brown,
Love me in the Winter, when the snow is falling down.

Love me when I'm happy, and even when I'm sad,
Love me when I'm good, or when I'm oh so bad,
Love me when I'm pretty, or if my face is plain,
Love me when I'm feeling good, or when I'm feeling pain.

Love me always darlin', in the rain or shining sun,
Love me always darlin', after all is said and done,
Love me always darlin', until all our life is through,
Love me always darlin', for I'll be lovin' you!

Reading #52

Love Is ... – Meghan

Love is the greatest feeling,
Love is like a play,
Love is what I feel for you,
Each and every day,
Love is like a smile,
Love is like a song,
Love is a great emotion,
That keeps us going strong,
I love you with my heart,
My body and my soul,
I love the way I keep loving,
Like a love I can't control,
So remember when your eyes meet mine,
I love you with all my heart,
And I have poured my entire soul into you,
Right from the very start.

Reading #53

My Princess; My Wife – Jason D. Megary

For My Dear Wife,
On This Usual Day;
I Write You This Poem,
In My Own Special Way.

I Wanted To Tell You,
In Words Of My Own;
You're The Most Precious Person,
That I've Ever Known.

You're The Prettiest Girl,
Than Any I've Seen;
Your Body Is Flawless,
So Slender And Lean.

Your Eyes Have That Sparkle,
That I Can't Live Without;
One Day Without Them,
And I'd Die-There's No Doubt.

And I Just Lose Control,
When I Glance At Your Hair;
Those Curls Are Just Stunning,
So Perfect And Rare.

You're The Most Caring Person,
That I've Ever Met;
There's No One Like You,
And That-I Can Bet.

What Attracts Me The Most,
Is Your Sweet And Kind Touch;
You're A Gift Sent From Heaven,
And I Love You So Much.

So Hold Me As Close,
As You Possibly Can;
'Cause Now And Forever,
I Am Your Man.

Reading #54

Victor Rodriguez

There are a dime a dozen...
Then there is one in a million...
But baby, you are once in a lifetime.

Reading #55

For You Are The One – Ara John Movsesian

For you I would climb
The highest mountain peak
Swim the deepest ocean
Your love I do seek.

For you I would cross
The rivers most wide
Walk the hottest desert sand
To have you by my side.

For you are the one
Who makes me whole
You've captured my heart
And touched my soul.

For you are the one
That stepped out of my dreams
Gave me new hope
Showed me what love means.

For you alone
Are my reason to live
For the compassion you show
And the care that you give.

You came into my life
And made me complete
Each time I see you
My heart skips a beat.

For you define beauty
In both body and mind
Your soft, gentle face
More beauty I'll ne'er find.

For you are the one
God sent from above
The angel I needed
For whom I do love

Reading #56

Marriage – Mary Weston Fordham
The die is cast, come weal, come woe,
Two lives are joined together,
For better or for worse, the link
Which naught but death can sever.
The die is cast, come grief, come joy.
Come richer, or come poorer,
If love but binds the mystic tie, blest is the bridal hour.

Reading #57

Sonnet 130 – William Shakespeare

My mistress' eyes are nothing like the sun;
Coral is far more red than her lips' red;
If snow be white, why then her breasts are dun;
If hairs be wires, black wires grow on her head.
I have seen roses damasked, red and white,
But no such roses see I in her cheeks;
And in some perfumes is there more delight
Than in the breath that from my mistress reeks.
I love to hear her speak, yet well I know
That music hath a far more pleasing sound:
I grant I never saw a goddess go;
My mistress, when she walks, treads on the ground.
And yet, by heaven, I think my love as rare
As any she belied with false compare.

Reading #58

If Thou Must Love Me - Elizabeth Barrett Browning

If thou must love me, let it be for naught
Except for love's sake only. Do not say,
'I love her for her smile - her look - her way
Of speaking gently, for a trick of thought
That falls in well with mine, and certes brought
A sense of pleasant ease on such a day' -
For these things in themselves, beloved, may
Be changed, or change for thee - and love, so wrought,
May be unwrought so. Neither love me for
Thine own dear pity's wiping my cheeks dry:
A creature might forget to weep, who bore
Thy comfort long, and lose thy love thereby!
But love me for love's sake, that evermore
Thou mayst love on, through love's eternity.

Reading #59

True Love

True love is a sacred flame
That burns eternally,
And none can dim its special glow
Or change its destiny.
True love speaks in tender tones
And hears with gentle ear,
True love gives with open heart
And true love conquers fear.
True love makes no harsh demands
It neither rules nor binds,
And true love holds with gentle hands
The hearts that it entwines.

Reading #60

The Bargain - Sir Philip Sidney

My true love hath my heart, and I have his,
By just exchange one for another given:
I hold his dear, and mine he cannot miss,
There never was a better bargain driven:
My true love hath my heart, and I have his.

His heart in me keeps him and me in one,
My heart in him his thoughts and senses guides:
He loves my heart, for once it was his own,
I cherish his because in me it bides:
My true love hath my heart, and I have his.

Reading #61

I Will Be Here - Steven Curtis Chapman

If in the morning when you wake,
If the sun does not appear,
I will be here.
If in the dark we lose sight of love,
Hold my hand and have no fear,
I will be here.

I will be here,
When you feel like being quiet,
When you need to speak your mind I will listen.
Through the winning, losing, and trying we'll be together,
And I will be here.
If in the morning when you wake,
If the future is unclear,
I will be here.
As sure as seasons were made for change,
Our lifetimes were made for years,
I will be here.

I will be here,
And you can cry on my shoulder,
When the mirror tells us we're older.
I will hold you, to watch you grow in beauty,
And tell you all the things you are to me.
We'll be together and I will be here.
I will be true to the promises I've made,
To you and to the one who gave you to me.
I will be here.

Reading #62

To My Bride - Wilferd Arlan Peterson

To my bride, I give you my heart
Sharing love each day, from the very start
To my bride, I give you my kiss
Filling each day with joy and bliss
To my bride, I give you my being
To love, to play, to work and to sing
To my bride, I give you my mind
Learning each day to be more kind
To my bride, I give you my soul
Growing together to be more whole
To my bride, I give you my life
Rejoicing each day that you are my wife.

Reading #62

Because She Would Ask Me Why I Loved Her – Christopher Brennan

If questioning would make us wise
No eyes would ever gaze in eyes;
If all our tale were told in speech
No mouths would wander each to each.

Were spirits free from mortal mesh
And love not bound in hearts of flesh
No aching breasts would yearn to meet
And find their ecstasy complete.

For who is there that lives and knows
The secret powers by which he grows?
Were knowledge all, what were our need
To thrill and faint and sweetly bleed?

Then seek not, sweet, the "If" and "Why"
I love you now until I die.
For I must love because I live
And life in me is what you give.

Reading #63

Only Our Love - John Donne

Only our love hath no decay;
This, no tomorrow hath, nor yesterday,
Running it never runs from us away,
But truly keeps his first, last, everlasting day.

Reading #64

Reprise - Ogden Nash

Geniuses of countless nations
Have told their love for generations
Till all their memorable phrases
Are common as goldenrod or daisies.
Their girls have glimmered like the moon,
Or shimmered like a summer moon,
Stood like a lily, fled like a fawn,
Now the sunset, now the dawn,
Here the princess in the tower
There the sweet forbidden flower.
Darling, when I look at you
Every aged phrase is new,
And there are moments when it seems
I've married one of Shakespeare's dreams.

Reading #65

Sonnet From The Portugese XLIII – Elizabeth Barrett Browning

How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.
I love thee to the depth and breadth and height
My soul can reach, when feeling out of sight
For the ends of being and ideal Grace.
I love thee to the level of everyday's
Most quiet need, by sun and candle-light.
I love thee freely, as men strive for right;
I love thee purely, as they turn from Praise.
I love thee with the passion put to use
In my old griefs, and with my childhood's faith.
I love thee with a love I seemed to lose
With my lost saints, - I love thee with the breath,
Smiles, tears, of all my life! - and, if God choose,
I shall but love thee better after death.

Reading #66

Destiny – Sir Edwin Arnold

Somewhere there waiteth in this world of ours
For one lone soul another lonely soul,
Each choosing each through all the weary hours
And meeting strangely at one sudden goal.
Then blend they, like green leaves with golden flowers,
Into one beautiful and perfect whole;
And life's long night is ended, and the way
Lies open onward to eternal day.

Reading #67

This Day I Married My Best Friend

This day I married my best friend
the one I laugh with as we share life's wonderous zest,
as we find new enjoyments and experience all that's best.
the one I live for because the world seems brighter
as our happy times are better and our burdens feel much lighter.
the one I love with every fiber of my soul.
We used to feel vaguely incomplete, now together we are whole.

Reading #68

Today I Married My Best Friend – Rachel Elizabeth Cooper

Today I married my best friend,
Our bond complete, it hath no end,
We share one soul, we share one heart,
A perfect time - a perfect start.

With these rings we share together,
Love so close to last forever,
This special day - two special hearts,
Let nothing keep this love apart.

Reading #69

When You Are Old – William Butler Yeats

When you are old and grey and full of sleep,
And nodding by the fire, take down this book,
And slowly read, and dream of the soft look
Your eyes had once, and of their shadows deep;
How many loved your moments of glad grace,
And loved your beauty with love false or true,
But one man loved the pilgrim Soul in you,
And loved the sorrows of your changing face;
And bending down beside the glowing bars,
Murmur, a little sadly, how Love fled
And paced upon the mountains overhead
And hid his face amid a crowd of stars.

Reading #70

Now What Is Love – Thomas Rainborow

Now what is love? I pray thee, tell.
It is that fountain and that well,
Where pleasure and repentance dwell.

Reading #71

Love's Philosophy – Percy Bysshe Shelley

The fountains mingle with the rivers
And the rivers with the oceans,
The winds of heaven mix forever
With a sweet emotion;
Nothing in the world is single;
All things by a law divine
In one spirit meet and mingle.
Why not I with thine?

See the mountains kiss high heaven
And the waves clasp one another;
No sister-flower would be forgiven
If it disdained its brother,
And the sunlight clasps the earth
And the moonbeams kiss the sea:
What is all this sweet work worth
If thou kiss not me?

Reading #72

Joseph Addison

Through all eternity to thee
A joyful song I'll raise,
For oh! Eternity is too short
To utter all thy praise.

Reading #73

Jessica Blade

Your words are my food, your breath is my wine
You are everything to me.

Reading #74

Sarah Bernhardt
I wrote your name in the sky,
but the wind blew it away.
I wrote your name in the sand,
but the waves washed it away.
I wrote your name in my heart,
and forever it will stay.

Reading #75

Steve Hodgkin

You are the most beautiful flower
in the garden of my existence.

Reading #76

Ann Bradstreet

If ever two were one, then surely we.
If ever man were lov'd by wife, then thee;
If ever wife was happy in a man,
Compare with me ye women you can
I prize thy love more than whole mines og Gold.
Or all the riches that the East doth hold.
My love is such that rivers cannot quench,
Nor ought but love from thee, give recompense.
Thy love is such I can no way repay,
The heavens reward thee manifold repay,
Then while we live, in love let's so persevere
That when we live no more, we may live ever.

Reading #77

Karen Clodfelder

As we grow older together,
As we continue to change with age,
There is one thing that will never change...
I will always keep falling in love with you.

Reading #78

Bernice Ellrick

I am a rose, you are my thorns,
clutching to me, protecting me.
I am the sun, you are my rays,
helping me to shine and to be all that I can.
I am a lake, you are my water,
filling me with ideas, dreams, and hopes for the future.
I am a tree, you are my leaves,
sharing who and what I am
and becoming an important part of my life.
I am a heart, you are my beat,
beating rhythmically to my happiness,
my fear, my sadness, my excitement.
I am me and you are with me,
to share all that I am,
to share life, love, and happiness.
Always.

Reading #79

John Downland

Deare, when I from thee am gone,
Gone are all my joyes at once;
I loved thee, and thee alone,
In those love I joyed once,
And although your sights I leave,
Sight wherein my joyes do lie,
Till that death do sense bereave,
Never shall affection die.

Reading #80

Honoring The Directions (used in earth honoring traditions)

In many ancient religious traditions, it is customary to bring a service of worship or celebration by calling on the four directions. This is a way of symbolically inviting all of creation to be present and take part in the festivities. This morning, we, too, want to invite the whole of creation to be with us here and now.

Great Spirit of the North, we come to you and ask for the strength and the power to bear what is cold and harsh in life. We come like the buffalo ready to receive the winds that truly can be overwhelming at times. Whatever is cold and uncertain in our life, we ask you to give us the strength to bear it. Do not let the winter blow us away. Oh Spirit of Life and Spirit of the North, we ask you for strength and for warmth.

Great Spirit of the East, we turn to you where the sun comes up, from where the power of light and refreshment come. Everything that is born comes up in this direction the birth of babies, the birth of the puppies, the birth of ideas and the birth of friendship. Let there be the light. Oh Spirit of the East, let the color of fresh rising in our life be glory to you.

Great Spirit of the South, spirit of all that is warm and gentle and refreshing, we ask you to give us this spirit of growth, of fertility, of gentleness. Caress us with a cool breeze when the days are hot. Give us seeds that the flowers, trees and fruits of the earth may grow. Give us the warmth of good friendships. Oh Spirit of the South, send the warmth and the growth of your blessings.

Great Spirit of the West, where the sun goes down each day to come up the next, we turn to you in praise of sunsets and in thanksgiving for changes. You are the great colored sunset of the red west, which illuminates us. You are the powerful cycle, which pulls us to transformation. We ask for the blessings of the sunset. Keep us open to life's changes.

Reading #81

James Weldon Johnson:

"The world, for me, and all the world can hold is circled in your arms, for me there lies within the lights and shadows of your eyes the only beauty that is never old."

Marriage Vows

These are the vows that will transform you into a married couple, they can be repeated after the officiant, you can recite them on your own, or even read them from an index card or blank greeting card with a cover that has a picture that reflects the two of you as a couple or your wedding ceremony. This is a very personal statement to make to your partner and if you want to write your own vows, please do.

[Party 2 First Name] and [Party 1 First Name], now we come to your vows. Saying your vows are one thing but nothing is more challenging than living them day-by-day. What you promise today must be renewed tomorrow and each day that stretches out before you. Please turn, face each other, and hold hands

Marriage Vows #1

[Party 1 First Name] will you have this (woman/man) as your lawful wedded (wife/husband), to live together in the estate of matrimony? Will you love (her/him), honor (her/him), comfort (her/him), and keep (her/him) in sickness and in health; forsaking all others, be true to (her/him) as long as you both shall live? (I will).

[Party 2 First Name] will you have this (man/woman) as your lawful wedded (husband/wife), to live together in the estate of matrimony? Will you love (him/her), honor (him/her), comfort (him/her), and keep (him/her) in sickness and in health; forsaking all others, be true to (him/her) as long as you both shall live? (I will).

Marriage Vows #2

Do you take [Party 2 First Name] to be your lawfully wedded (husband/wife)? If so answer " I DO"

Do you take [Party 1 First Name] to be your lawfully wedded (husband/wife)? If so answer "I DO"

Marriage Vows #3

Do you [Party 1 First Name] take this (woman/man) [Party 2 First Name] to be your lawfully wedded (wife/husband), to have and to hold, in sickness and in health, in good times and woe, for richer or poorer, keeping yourself solely unto (her/him) for as long as you both shall live? If so, answer " I DO"

Do you [Party 2 First Name] take this (man/woman) [Party 1 First Name] to be your lawfully wedded (husband/wife), to have and to hold, in sickness and health, to love, honor and obey, in good times and woe, for richer or poorer, keeping yourself solely unto (him/her) for as long as you both shall live? If so, answer " I DO "

Marriage Vows #4

I [Party 1 First Name] affirm my love to you [Party 2 First Name] as I invite you to share my life. I promise always to respect your needs. I will endeavor through kindness, unselfishness and trust to achieve the warm rich life we now look forward to. To this end I call upon all present to witness that I take you [Party 2 First Name] to be my lawful (wife/husband), to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health while we both shall live.

I [Party 2 First Name] affirm my love to you [Party 1 First Name] as I invite you to share my life. I promise always to respect your needs. I will endeavor through kindness, unselfishness and trust to achieve the warm rich life we now look forward to. To this end I call upon all present to witness that I take you [Party 1 First Name] to be my lawful (husband/wife), to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health while we both shall live.

Marriage Vows #5

[Party 1 First Name] will you take [Party 2 First Name] to be your lawful (wife/husband), will you love (her/him), honor and keep (her/him) in sickness and in health and forsaking all others keep only unto (her/him) so long as you both shall live. If so, answer " I DO "

[Party 2 First Name] will you take [Party 1 First Name] to be your lawful (husband/wife), will you love (him/her), honor and keep (him/her) in sickness and in health and forsaking all others keep only unto (him/her) so long as you both shall live. If so, answer " I DO "

Marriage Vows #6

I call upon all present to witness that I take you to be my lawful wedded (wife/husband), to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health while we both shall live.

I call upon all present to witness that I take you to be my lawful wedded (husband/wife), to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health while we both shall live.

[Party 1 First Name] will you take [Party 2 First Name] to be your lawful (wife/husband), will you love (her/him), honor and keep (her/him) in sickness and in health and forsaking all others keep only unto (her/him) so long as you both shall live?

[Party 2 First Name] will you take [Party 1 First Name] to be your lawful (husband/wife), will you love (him/her), honor and keep (him/her) in sickness and in health and forsaking all others keep only unto (him/her) so long as you both shall live?

Marriage Vows #7

[Party 1 First Name], do you take [Party 2 First Name] to be your (Wife/Husband)?
Do you promise to love, honor, cherish and protect (her/him), forsaking all others and holding only unto (her/him)?

[Party 2 First Name], do you take [Party 1 First Name] to be your (Husband/Wife)?
Do you promise to love, honor, cherish and protect (him/her), forsaking all others and holding only unto (him/her)?

Marriage Vows #8

[Party 1 First Name], please repeat after me: In the presence of our family and friends, I [Party 1 First Name] choose you [Party 2 First Name] to be my life partner, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, in joy and in sorrow, to love and to cherish, and to be faithful to you alone. This is my solemn vow.

Now, [Party 2 First Name] please repeat after me: In the presence of our family and friends, I [Party 2 First Name] choose you [Party 1 First Name] to be my life partner, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, in joy and in sorrow, to love and to cherish, and to be faithful to you alone. This is my solemn vow.

Marriage Vows #9

Please join hands with your betrothed and listen to that which I am about to say. Above you are the stars, below you are the stones, as time doth pass, remember...

Like a stone should your love be firm like a star should your love be constant. Let the powers of the mind and of the intellect guide you in your marriage, let the strength of your wills bind you together, let the power of love and desire make you happy, and the strength of your dedication make you inseparable. Be close, but not too close. Possess one another, yet be understanding. Have patience with one another, for storms will come, but they will pass quickly.

[Party 1 First Name], I have not the right to bind thee to [Party 2 First Name], only you have this right. If it be your wish, say so at this time and place your ring in her hand. (It is my wish)

[Party 2 First Name], if it be your wish for [Party 1 First Name] to be bound to you, place the ring on (his/her) finger. (places ring on Party 1's left ring finger)

[Party 2 First Name] I have not the right to bind thee to [Party 1 First Name] only you have this right. If it be your wish, say so at this time and place your ring in his hand. (It is my wish)

[Party 1 First Name], if it be your wish for [Party 2 First Name] to be bound to you, place the ring on (her/his) finger. (places ring on party 2's left ring finger).

[Party 1 First Name], repeat after me:

I, [Party 1 First Name] [Party 1 Last Name], in the name of the spirit of God that resides within us all, by the life that courses within my blood and the love that resides within my heart, take thee [Party 2 First Name] [Party 2 Last Name] to my hand, my heart, and my spirit, to be my chosen one. To desire thee and be desired by thee, to possess thee, and be possessed by thee, without sin or shame, for naught can exist in the purity of my love for thee. I promise to love thee wholly and completely without restraint, in sickness and in health, in plenty and in poverty, in life and beyond, where we shall meet, remember, and love again. I shall not seek to change thee in any way. I shall respect thee, thy beliefs, thy people, and thy ways as I respect myself.

[Party 2 First Name], repeat after me:

I [Party 2 First Name] [Party 2 Last Name], in the name of the spirit of God that resides within us all, by the life that courses within my blood, and the love that resides within my heart, take thee, [Party 1 First Name] [Party 1 Last Name] to my hand, my heart, and my spirit to be my chosen one. To desire and be desired by thee, to possess thee, and be possessed by thee, without sin or shame, for naught can exist in the purity of my love for thee. I promise to love thee wholly and completely without restraint, in sickness and in health, in plenty and in poverty, in life and beyond, where we shall meet, remember, and love again. I shall not seek to change thee in any way. I shall respect thee, thy beliefs, thy people, and thy ways as I respect myself.

Marriage Vows #10

[Party 1 First Name], will you take [Party 2 First Name] to be your (wife/husband)? Will you love and respect (her/him)? Will you be honest with (her/him) always? Will you stand by (her/him) through whatever may come? Will you make whatever adjustments are necessary so that you can genuinely share your life with (her/him)? (I will.)

[Party 2 First Name], will you take [Party 1 First Name] to be your (husband/wife)? Will you be honest with (him/her) always? Will you stand by (him/her) through whatever may come? Will you make whatever adjustments are necessary so that you can genuinely share your life with (him/her)? (I will.)

Marriage Vows #11

In the presence of our family and friends, I offer you my solemn vow to be your faithful partner in sickness and in health, in good times and in bad, and in joy as well as in sorrow. I promise to love you unconditionally, to support you in your goals, to honor and respect you, to laugh with you and cry with you, and to cherish you for as long as we both shall live.

In the presence of our family and friends, I offer you my solemn vow to be your faithful partner in sickness and in health, in good times and in bad, and in joy as well as in sorrow. I promise to love you unconditionally, to support you in your goals, to honor and respect you, to laugh with you and cry with you, and to cherish you for as long as we both shall live.

Marriage Vows #12

I [Party 1 First Name], take you [Party 2 First Name] to be my (wife/husband), my partner in life and my one true love. I will cherish our union and love you more each day than I did the day before. I will trust you and respect you, laugh with you and cry with you, loving you faithfully through good times and bad, regardless of the obstacles we may face together. I give you my hand, my heart, and my love, from this day forward for as long as we both shall live.

I [Party 2 First Name] take you [Party 1 First Name], to be my (husband/wife), my partner in life and my one true love. I will cherish our union and love you more each day than I did the day before. I will trust you and respect you, laugh with you and cry with you, loving you faithfully through good times and bad, regardless of the obstacles we may face together. I give you my hand, my heart, and my love, from this day forward for as long as we both shall live.

Marriage Vows #13

I, [Party 1 First Name], take you, [Party 2 First Name], to be my friend, my lover, the (mother/father) of my children and my (wife/husband). I will be yours in times of plenty and in times of want, in times of sickness and in times of health, in times of joy and in times of sorrow, in times of failure and in times of triumph. I promise to cherish and respect you, to care and protect you, to comfort and encourage you, and stay with you, for all eternity.

I, [Party 2 First Name], take you, [Party 1 First Name], to be my friend, my lover, the (father/mother) of my children and my (husband/wife). I will be yours in times of plenty and in times of want, in times of sickness and in times of health, in times of joy and in times of sorrow, in times of failure and in times of triumph. I promise to cherish and respect you, to care and protect you, to comfort and encourage you, and stay with you, for all eternity.

Marriage Vows #14

I, [Party 1 First Name], take you, [Party 2 First Name], to be my partner, loving what I know of you, and trusting what I do not yet know. I eagerly anticipate the chance to grow together, getting to know the woman you will become, and falling in love a little more every day. I promise to love and cherish you through whatever life may bring us.

I, [Party 2 First Name], take you, [Party 1 First Name], to be my partner, loving what I know of you, and trusting what I do not yet know. I eagerly anticipate the chance to grow together, getting to know the woman you will become, and falling in love a little more every day. I promise to love and cherish you through whatever life may bring us.

Marriage Vows #15

[Party 1 First Name], do you pledge to love [Party 2 First Name] and throughout your years together to be honest, faithful, and kind to (her/him)? Do you pledge to give to (her/him) the same happiness (she/he) gives to you, and to respect (her/him) for who (she/he) is, not who you want (her/him) to be? (I do.)

[Party 2 First Name], do you pledge to love [Party 1 First Name] and throughout your years together to be honest, faithful, and kind to (him/her)? Do you pledge to give to (him/her) the same happiness he gives to you, and to respect (him/her) for who he is, not who you want (him/her) to be? (I do.)

Marriage Vows #16

[Party 2 First Name], with all my love, I take you to be my (wife/husband). I will love you through good and the bad, through joy and the sorrow. I will try to be understanding, and to trust in you completely. Together we will face all of life's experiences and share one another's dreams and goals. I promise I will be your equal partner in a loving, honest relationship, for as long as we both shall live.

[Party 1 First Name], with all my love, I take you to be my (husband/wife). I will love you through good and the bad, through joy and the sorrow. I will try to be understanding, and to trust in you completely. Together we will face all of life's experiences and share one another's dreams and goals. I promise I will be your equal partner in a loving, honest relationship, for as long as we both shall live.

Marriage Vows #17

[Party 2 First Name], I take you to be my (wife/husband) from this time onward, to join with you and to share all that is to come, to be your faithful husband, to give and to receive, to speak and to listen, to inspire and to respond; a commitment made in love, kept in faith, and eternally made new.

[Party 1 First Name], I take you to be my (husband/wife) from this time onward, to join with you and to share all that is to come, to be your faithful wife, to give and to receive, to speak and to listen, to inspire and to respond; a commitment made in love, kept in faith, and eternally made new.

Marriage Vows #18

[Party 2 First Name], I marry you with my eyes wide open. You have helped me let go of the past, and I embrace the future. Thank you for making me laugh again. Bless you for taking my hand as we begin anew.

I offer myself to you as a partner in life. I vow to love you in sickness and in health. I commit myself to encourage you in good times and in bad. I will cherish and respect you all the days of our life together. Starting anew once again, I give thanks that I have found you. May our marriage be a gift to the world and our families, as your love is a gift to me.

[Party 1 First Name], I marry you with my eyes wide open. You have helped me let go of the past, and I embrace the future. Thank you for making me laugh again. Bless you for taking my hand as we begin anew.

I offer myself to you as a partner in life. I vow to love you in sickness and in health. I commit myself to encourage you in good times and in bad. I will cherish and respect you all the days of our life together. Starting anew once again, I give thanks that I have found you. May our marriage be a gift to the world and our families, as your love is a gift to me.

Marriage Vows #19

[Party 2 First Name], God has given us a second chance at happiness. I come today to give you my love, to give you my heart and my hope for our future together. I promise to bring you joy, to be at home with your spirit and to learn to love you more each day, through all the days of our lives. My love for you is endless and eternal.

[Party 1 First Name], God has given us a second chance at happiness. I come today to give you my love, to give you my heart and my hope for our future together. I promise to bring you joy, to be at home with your spirit and to learn to love you more each day, through all the days of our lives. My love for you is endless and eternal.

Marriage Vows #19

[Party 2 First Name], Because of you, I laugh, I smile, I dare to dream. I look forward with great joy to spending the rest of my life with you, caring for you, nurturing you, being there for you in all life has in store for us, and I vow to be true and faithful for as long as we both shall live.

[Party 1 First Name], Because of you, I laugh, I smile, I dare to dream. I look forward with great joy to spending the rest of my life with you, caring for you, nurturing you, being there for you in all life has in store for us, and I vow to be true and faithful for as long as we both shall live.

Marriage Vows #20

[Party 2 First Name], Since I have found you, I have found a new life. The decision to commit to share that life with you is one I make happily and with full confidence in our love.

[Party 1 First Name], Since I have found you, I have found a new life. The decision to commit to share that life with you is one I make happily and with full confidence in our love.

Marriage Vows #21

[Party 2 First Name], Life has given us a second chance at love. I come today to give you my heart and my hope for our future together. I promise to bring you joy, to be at home with your spirit and to learn to love you more each day, through all the days of our lives. My love for you is endless and eternal.

[Party 1 First Name], Life has given us a second chance at love. I come today to give you my heart and my hope for our future together. I promise to bring you joy, to be at home with your spirit and to learn to love you more each day, through all the days of our lives. My love for you is endless and eternal.

Marriage Vows #22

[Party 2 First Name], I am proud to marry you today. I promise to wipe away your tears with my laughter and your pain with caring and compassion. Together we will wipe clean the old canvases of our lives, and let God, with His amazing artistic talent, fill them with new color, harmony and beauty. I give myself to you completely, and I promise to love you always, from this day forward.

[Party 1 First Name], I am proud to marry you today. I promise to wipe away your tears with my laughter and your pain with caring and compassion. Together we will wipe clean the old canvases of our lives, and let God, with His amazing artistic talent, fill them with new color, harmony and beauty. I give myself to you completely, and I promise to love you always, from this day forward.

Marriage Vows #23

[Party 2 First Name], I am secure in the knowledge that you will be my constant friend, my faithful partner in life, and my one true love. On this special day, I give to you in the presence of God and all these witnesses my pledge to stay by your side, in sickness and in health, in joy and in sorrow, as well as through the good times and the bad.

[Party 1 First Name], I am secure in the knowledge that you will be my constant friend, my faithful partner in life, and my one true love. On this special day, I give to you in the presence of God and all these witnesses my pledge to stay by your side, in sickness and in health, in joy and in sorrow, as well as through the good times and the bad.

Marriage Vows #24

[Party 2 First Name], I promise to love you without reservation, comfort you in times of distress, encourage you to achieve all of your goals, laugh with you and cry with you, grow with you in mind and spirit, always be open and honest with you, and cherish you for as long as we both shall live.

[Party 1 First Name], I promise to love you without reservation, comfort you in times of distress, encourage you to achieve all of your goals, laugh with you and cry with you, grow with you in mind and spirit, always be open and honest with you, and cherish you for as long as we both shall live.

Marriage Vows #25 (Including Children)

[Party 2 First Name], I promise to be a good and faithful (husband/wife) to you, and also a patient, loving (father/mother) to (children's names), caring for them and providing for them as my own. I promise to be their strength and their emotional support, loving them with all my heart forever.

[Party 1 First Name], I promise to be a good and faithful (husband/wife) to you, and also a patient, loving (father/mother) to (children's names), caring for them and providing for them as my own. I promise to be their strength and their emotional support, loving them with all my heart forever.

Marriage Vows #26 (Older Couple)

[Party 2 First Name], I offer you the autumn of my life, brisk and vibrant. I promise to be a companion worthy of your precious friendship. I pledge to you compassion in good times and bad, encouragement in sickness and health. It is my intent that our life together include our large circle of friends and loving families. While we cherish the memories of our individual pasts, we will create new experiences and memories in our new life together.

[Party 1 First Name], I offer you the autumn of my life, brisk and vibrant. I promise to be a companion worthy of your precious friendship. I pledge to you compassion in good times and bad, encouragement in sickness and health. It is my intent that our life together include our large circle of friends and loving families. While we cherish the memories of our individual pasts, we will create new experiences and memories in our new life together.

Marriage Vow Renewal #1

When you first joined hands and hearts ____ years ago, you did not know where life would take you. You promised to love, honor and cherish one another through all things. Life has surely brought you both wonderful blessings and difficult tribulations. Therefore, you have fulfilled your promise. So, as you come here today to reaffirm your wedding vows and as you reflect back over all the years as a married couple, do you now reaffirm the vows you took ____ years ago? If so, repeat after me.

Once before, I have stood with you before family and friends; once again, I take your hand as my partner. [Party 2 First Name], I take you this day, and for all days, as my (husband/wife).”

Once before, I have stood with you before family and friends; once again, I take your hand as my partner. [Party 1 First Name], I take you this day, and for all days, as my (husband/wife).”

Marriage Vow Renewal #2

I believe in this marriage more strongly than ever. [Party 2 First Name], it is with joy born of experience and trust that I commit myself once again to be your (husband/wife).

I believe in this marriage more strongly than ever. [Party 1 First Name], it is with joy born of experience and trust that I commit myself once again to be your (husband/wife).

Marriage Vow Renewal #3

I, [Party 1 First Name], give to you, [Party 2 First Name], a new promise, and yet not so new; a new (husband/wife), and yet not so new; and a new affirmation of love from the heart that has loved you for (____) years and will love you for as many more as God allows.

I, [Party 2 First Name], give to you, [Party 1 First Name], a new promise, and yet not so new; a new (husband/wife), and yet not so new; and a new affirmation of love from the heart that has loved you for (____) years and will love you for as many more as God allows.

Marriage Vow Renewal #4

Today, after (number) years of marriage, I ask you to continue to take me as your (husband / wife). You have stood by my side through sorrow and joy, triumph and defeat, sickness and health, and for this I am so grateful. I thank God for the gift of you. I thank you. My promise to you is perhaps best spoken through the words of Wilferd Arlan Peterson: “Across the years I’ll walk with you, in deep green forest, on shores of sand, and when our time on earth is through in heaven too, you will have my hand.” I love you, [Party 2 First Name].

Today, after (number) years of marriage, I ask you to continue to take me as your (husband / wife). You have stood by my side through sorrow and joy, triumph and defeat, sickness and health, and for this I am so grateful. I thank God for the gift of you. I thank you. My promise to you is perhaps best spoken through the words of Wilferd Arlan Peterson: “Across the years I’ll walk with you, in deep green forest, on shores of sand, and when our time on earth is through in heaven too, you will have my hand.” I love you, [Party 1 First Name].

Marriage Vow Renewal #5

[Party 2 First Name], I have always loved you and will always love you. You are part of me, the best part of me. With you by my side, I have grown so much. We have evolved and transformed together. We have endured together, laughed and cried together. We raised a beautiful family together. Beloved, please take my hand. With you as my partner, the best is yet to be. For this I pray.

[Party 1 First Name], I have always loved you and will always love you. You are part of me, the best part of me. With you by my side, I have grown so much. We have evolved and transformed together. We have endured together, laughed and cried together. We raised a beautiful family together. Beloved, please take my hand. With you as my partner, the best is yet to be. For this I pray.

Marriage Vow Renewal #6

[Party 2 First Name], you are my heart, my best friend, my life. Today before family and friends, I renew my commitment to you. I promise to love and cherish you, respect you and grow with you for all the days of our lives. This is my solemn vow.

[Party 1 First Name], you are my heart, my best friend, my life. Today before family and friends, I renew my commitment to you. I promise to love and cherish you, respect you and grow with you for all the days of our lives. This is my solemn vow.

Marriage Vow Renewal #7

Emily Bronte once wrote, “...he’s more myself than I am. Whatever our souls are made of, his and mine are the same...” This is how I feel. I am blessed to be your wife. It is an honor to call you my husband. Today before our children (and grandchildren), I proudly renew my marriage vow to you. My love for you has deepened beyond anything I could have imagined. May it continue to shine as a beacon light in this world and the next.

[Party 2 First Name], the best thing I ever did was to marry you. I didn’t always deserve you, but I always loved you. My vow to you, before God, is to do better, be better. I want to be the best husband I can be for you, for me, for us. I will do my best. This is my promise to you for the rest of my life.

Marriage Vow Renewal #8

“Do you, [Party 1 First Name] continue to take [Party 2 First Name] as your loving wife? Will you continue to love her, honor her, comfort and treasure her, forsaking all others for as long as you both shall live?

Do you, [Party 2 First Name] continue to take [Party 1 First Name] as your loving husband? Will you continue to love him, honor him, comfort and treasure him, forsaking all others for as long as you both shall live?”

Ring Vows

You have pledged yourselves to each other, and now you shall wear the visible symbol of your bond. These rings are not of great value on their own, but are made precious by you wearing them and remembering that they stand for the commitment you have just made to each other.

Ring Vows #1

BEHOLD the symbol of wedlock. The perfect circle of love, the unbroken union of these two people united here today. May you both remain faithful to this symbol of true love.

Please join hands and repeat after me.

I, [Party 1 First Name], take as my wedded (wife/husband/partner/spouse), to have and to hold from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part.

I, [Party 2 First Name], take as my wedded (wife/husband/partner/spouse), to have and to hold from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part.

Ring Vows #2

The bride and groom will now exchange rings. Please join hands and repeat after me (man first, while placing ring on proper fingers).

[Party 2 First Name], with this ring, I thee wed. Take it and wear it as a symbol of all we shall share.

[Party 1 First Name], with this ring, I thee wed. Take it and wear it as a symbol of all we shall share.

Ring Vows #3

Wedding rings are an outward and visible sign of an inward spiritual grace and the unbroken circle of love, signifying to all the union of this man and this woman in marriage.

As you place this ring, a visible sign of your commitment in marriage, on the third finger of [Party 2 First Name]'s left hand, repeat after me:

I [Party 1 First Name], take thee , [Party 2 First Name] to be my (wife/husband/partner/spouse). To have and to hold, in sickness and in health, for richer or for poorer, and I promise my love to you forevermore.

As you place this ring, a visible sign of your commitment in marriage, on the third finger of [Party 1 First Name]'s left hand, repeat after me:

I [Party 2 First Name], take thee [Party 1 First Name], to be my (wife/husband/partner/spouse). To have and to hold, in sickness and in health, for richer or for poorer, and I promise my love to you forevermore.

Ring Vows #4

[Party 1 First Name] what symbol do you have as a pledge of these vows? (presents ring).

As you place this ring, a visible sign of your commitment in marriage, on the third finger of [Party 2 First Name]'s left hand, repeat after me:

[Party 2 First Name] we will wear these rings, and the world will know that I am yours and you are mine.

[Party 1 First Name] I thank you for this beautiful ring, I accept it as a symbol that we are one with each other. This ring will remind me of you, I will wear it with love, all of my life.

[Party 2 First Name] this ring I give you, my personal gift and my personal promise, of love and trust, and pride that you are my wife.

[Party 2 First Name] what symbol do you have as a pledge of these vows? (*presents ring*)

As you place this ring, a visible sign of your commitment in marriage, on the third finger of [Party 1 First Name]'s left hand, repeat after me:

[Party 1 First Name] we will wear these rings, and the world will know that I am yours and you are mine.

[Party 2 First Name] I thank you for this beautiful ring; I accept it as a symbol that we are one with each other. This ring will remind me of you, I will wear it with love, all of my life.

[Party 1 First Name], this ring I give you, my personal gift and my personal promise, of love and trust, and pride that you are my husband.

Ring Vows #5

Traditionally, the marking- of the passage to status of married couple is marked by the exchange of rings. These rings are a symbol of the unbroken circle of love. Love freely given has no beginning and no end, no giver and no receiver for each is the giver and each is the receiver. May these rings always remind you of the vows you have taken.

Please join hands and repeat after me (man first, while placing ring on proper fingers).

"With this ring, I thee wed."

Ring Vows #6

Please join hands and repeat after me.

I, [Party 1 First Name], take you, [Party 2 First Name], to be my (wife/husband/partner/spouse), my constant friend, my faithful partner and my love from this day forward.

I, [Party 2 First Name], take you, [Party 1 First Name], to be my (wife/husband/partner/spouse), my constant friend, my faithful partner and my love from this day forward.

Ring Vows #7

May I have the rings please.

Please join hands and repeat after me.

[Party 2 First Name], I give you this ring, that you may wear it, as a symbol of the vows we have made this day. I pledge you my love, and respect, my laughter and my tears. With all that I am, I honour you.

[Party 1 First Name], I give you this ring, that you may wear it, as a symbol of the vows we have made this day. I pledge you my love, and respect, my laughter and my tears. With all that I am, I honour you.

Now may those who wear these rings live in love all their days. Now may the love, which has brought you together, continue to grow and enrich your lives. May you continue to meet with courage any problems, which may arise to challenge you. May your relationship always be one of love and trust. May the happiness you share today be with you always. And may everything you have said and done here today become a living truth in your lives.

Ring Vows #8

I, [Party 1 First Name] affirm my love to you, [Party 2 First Name] as I invite you to share my life. You are the most beautiful, smart, and generous person I have ever known, and I promise always to respect you. With kindness, unselfishness and trust, I will work by your side to create a wonderful life together.

I, [Party 2 First Name] affirm my love to you, [Party 1 First Name] as I invite you to share my life. You are the most beautiful, smart, and generous person I have ever known, and I promise always to respect you. With kindness, unselfishness and trust, I will work by your side to create a wonderful life together.

Ring Vows #9

All things in nature are cyclical. Night becomes day, day turns into night, and night becomes day again. The moon waxes and wanes, and waxes again. These rings are symbols of that cycle, as it has no ending, just as your love will have no end. Imparted into both of these rings is your pledge to keep the promises spoken here today [Party 2 First Name] and [Party 1 First Name], do you bring these rings before us? (We do)

Everything the Power of the World does is done in a circle. The sky is round, and I have heard that the earth is round like a ball and so are the stars. The wind in its greatest power whirls. Birds make their nests in circles ... The sun comes forth and goes down again in a circle. Even the seasons form a great circle in their changing. The life of a man or a woman is a circle from childhood to childhood, and so it is in everything where power moves. This joining is part of the great circle of life, the beginning of a great story that will affect many lives on this earth. The circle of the heart travels through the fourth finger of the left hand, connecting hand and heart. We call this our ring finger.

[Party 1 First Name], please take the ring, a gift from your heart, and place it on [Party 2 First Name]'s ring finger, and repeat after me,
Accept this ring as a token of my vows. With it I give to you my Love, my Honor, and my Friendship.

[Party 2 First Name], please take the ring, a gift from your heart, and place it on [Party 1 First Name]'s ring finger, and repeat after me,
Accept this ring as a token of my vows. With it I give to you my Love, my Honor, and my Friendship.

Ring Vows #10

[Party 2 First Name], I promise to love you, to be your best friend, to respect and support you, to be patient with you, to work together with you to achieve our goals, to accept you unconditionally, and to share life with you throughout the years.

[Party 1 First Name], I promise to love you, to be your best friend, to respect and support you, to be patient with you, to work together with you to achieve our goals, to accept you unconditionally, and to share life with you throughout the years.

Ring Vows #11

Please join hands and repeat after me.

I, [Party 1 First Name], take you [Party 2 First Name], to be my (wife/husband/partner/spouse), to share the good times and hard times side by side. I humbly give you my hand and my heart as I pledge my faith and love to you. Just as this ring I give you today is a circle without end, my love for you is eternal. Just as it is made of incorruptible substance, my commitment to you will never fail. With this ring, I thee wed.

I, [Party 2 First Name], take you, [Party 1 First Name] to be my (wife/husband/partner/spouse), to share the good times and hard times side by side. I humbly give you my hand and my heart as I pledge my faith and love to you. Just as this ring I give you today is a circle without end, my love for you is eternal. Just as it is made of incorruptible substance, my commitment to you will never fail. With this ring, I thee wed.

Ring Vows #12

Please join hands and repeat after me .

I, [Party 1 First Name], choose you [Party 2 First Name] to be my (wife / husband / partner / spouse), to respect you in your successes and in your failures, to care for you in sickness and in health, to nurture you, and to grow with you throughout the seasons of life.

I, [Party 2 First Name], choose you, [Party 1 First Name] to be my (wife / husband / partner / spouse), to respect you in your successes and in your failures, to care for you in sickness and in health, to nurture you, and to grow with you throughout the seasons of life.

Ring Vows #13

Please join hands and repeat after me.

[Party 2 First Name], I love you. You are my best friend. Today I give myself to you in marriage. I promise to encourage and inspire you, to laugh with you, and to comfort you in times of sorrow and struggle.

I promise to love you in good times and in bad, when life seems easy and when it seems hard, when our love is simple, and when it is an effort. I promise to cherish you, and to always hold you in highest regard. These things I give to you today, and all the days of our life.

[Party 1 First Name], I love you. You are my best friend. Today I give myself to you in marriage. I promise to encourage and inspire you, to laugh with you, and to comfort you in times of sorrow and struggle.

I promise to love you in good times and in bad, when life seems easy and when it seems hard, when our love is simple, and when it is an effort. I promise to cherish you, and to always hold you in highest regard. These things I give to you today, and all the days of our life.

Ring Vows #14 (Vow Renewal Ring Exchange)

As the husband and wife exchange new rings:

“Husband/Wife, I give you this ring as a token of our abiding love and recommitment to one another.”

Ring Vows #14 (Vow Renewal Ring Exchange)

Husband and wife, your original wedding rings are outward symbols of your commitment to each other. The never-ending circle of your rings symbolizes your never-ending love for each other.

Husband/Wife hold hands; touch the other's ring and say:

“From this day forward, I reaffirm my love for you, and this ring is a symbol of that love.”

Unity Ceremony

The ceremony started out as a unity candle, a strictly and deeply religious ceremony, but has developed and become much more individual and unique, as you may read it doesn't even have to be a candle, but could be sand, water, roses or anything else you may come up with.

Unity Candle #1

This candle you are about to light is a candle of Marriage. It's fire is magical because it represents the light of two people in love. This candle before you is a candle of Commitment because it takes two people working together to keep it aflame. This candle is also a candle of Unity because both must come together, giving a spark of themselves, to create the new light.

As you light this candle today, may the brightness of the flame shine throughout your lives. May it give you courage and reassurance in darkness. Warmth and safety in the cold. And strength and joy in your bodies, minds, and spirits. May your union be forever blessed.

Unity Candle #2

From every human being there rises a light that reaches straight to heaven. And when two souls who are destined to be together find each other, their streams of light flow together, and a single, brighter light goes forth from their united being. In this spirit, [Party 2 First Name] & [Party 1 First Name], take your individual candles and light together a third candle, which signifies your marital bond.

May the light of love, and the light of understanding, and the light of respect, and the light of tolerance shine eternally for you both.

Unity Candle #3

The scripture tells us that life is like a flame, it has its own warmth, and its own brilliance, but it's in the union of Two, that something brighter, warmer, more wonderful takes place.

You have chosen the Unity Candle as a symbol of your love and life to come, and the lighting of the Unity Candle signifies that you are now TWO in ONE flesh.

(The wedding couple goes to the Unity Candle which the Mothers lit before they were seated at start of the ceremony.)

I ask you now, will you light your Unity Candle, from the Mother's Candles previously lit, which symbolized the fate and life they have shared with their children.

(After the wedding couple put the flame of the two mothers' candles previously lit and light their Unity Candle, they blow out the flame of the mothers' candles, and put them back in the holder.)

Please join hands by the Unity Candle, look at each other, and repeat after me.

Entreat me not to leave you, or to return from following you: Where you go I will go; Where you lodge I will lodge; Your people will be my people, and your God my God.

Unity Candle #4

Today [Party 2 First Name] & [Party 1 First Name] come here from two different families. Out of these two families, a new family will be created in the Lord. At this time, I would invite the parents of [Party 2 First Name] and [Party 1 First Name] to come forward and light the individual candles which represent the two separate families. The two individual flames, one representing each family, will demonstrate to us in a very beautiful way the symbol of two who become one. From now on they will grow together as unique persons becoming a light to the world.

Unity Candle #5

Now, we're going to engage in a ceremony of spiritual symbolism. Ancient sages tell us that for each of us, there is a candle, a symbol of our own inner light, but that no one can kindle his or her own candle. Each of us needs someone else to kindle it for us.

When two people fall in love, they kindle each other's candles, creating great light and joy and glorious expectations.

Now, [Party 2 First Name] and [Party 1 First Name], I'd like you to remember when it was in your relationship that you first realized you were truly in love and wanted to spend the rest of your lives together. And holding that thought...

[Party 1 First Name], take this candle, symbol of the inner light in [Party 2 First Name], lit by the eternal light, with the dedication to rekindle it again and again, whenever necessary. And [Party 2 First Name], take this candle, symbol of the inner light in [Party 1 First Name], lit by the eternal light, with the dedication to rekindle it again and again, whenever necessary.

With these candles, we can see how to achieve a beautiful marriage. In your marriage, you will try to bring these lights, the symbols of yourselves, closer and closer to each other, until they become (*join the flames*) one great torch of light a radiant symbol of love, joy, peace and harmony. (*hold flames together*) This is the mystery of the union two becoming one.

Yet, it is vitally important to remember that there are always really two (*divide the flames*) in a marriage, each with his or her own desires, yearnings, dreams and wishes. And these must be respected and responded to with great love, with great compassion and with genuine tenderness.

We know that it is the prayer of your beloved, as it is the prayer of each of us here, that you will continuously light these candles of love, so that there will always be light and joy, peace and harmony in your hearts and in your home.

Unity Candle #6

Soft mists embrace two golden flames,
Alone they search the night.
Two souls adrift in dreams of love,
They seek to claim the light.
The path is long from which they came,
But sure they are it's right.
Two flames embrace in dreams of love,
Two Souls - Two Hearts Unite.

Unity Candle #7

Will the parents of our wedding couple please come to the altar and light candles representing the separate families and pasts from which [Party 2 First Name] and [Party 1 First Name] have come today to be joined together as one?"

(Parents come to the altar and light their tapers.)

"Above you below you, forever surrounding you shall be the pledge you make unto each other today. It is the pledge of the truth and purity of your every breath. The constant friendship of your hearts. The passion and fire of your spirits and the deepest love your souls have to give. It is the pledge of all that is within you. The only true pledge that one heart can offer to another."

(Wedding couple step up and join parents, each taking the candle of their past in hand.)

You are now as Wedded Couple offering yourselves, and all that has come to pass unto each other, towards the creation of your future, and to all that is yet to come.

(They join hands & light the center candle together. They then place the tapers back in their holders, and snuff their flames.)

"The light that remains is the light of love, the light in which you shall be forever as one."

Unity Candle #8

From every human being, there rises a light that reaches straight to heaven. And when two souls are destined to find each other, their two streams of light flow together and a single brighter light goes forth from their united being. They do not lose their individuality; yet, in marriage, they are united in so close a bond that they become one.

Now, following the profession of their marriage vows, they will light the large center candle from the smaller candles to symbolize this new reality. In this way, they are saying that henceforth their light must shine together for each other, for their families, and for their community.

Unity Candle #9

[Party 2 First Name] and [Party 1 First Name], the two separate candles symbolize your separate lives, separate families and separate sets of friends. I ask that each of you take one of the lit candles and that together you light the center candle.

The individual candles represent your lives before today. Lighting the center candle represents that your two lives are now joined to one light, and represents the joining together of your two families and sets of friends to one.

Unity Candle #10

[Party 2 First Name] and [Party 1 First Name], you would not be here today without the love and support of your families, friends and communities. As you unite yourselves in this marriage, to walk a like road, so too do the roads of your families turn to run parallel. Would the parents of the wedding couple please come forward.

(They do. The table with the candles is moved forward)

These two candles represent your families, who have supported you all your lives and have now brought you to this place. Out of these two separate families, a new one will be created today. Your parents will now light their candles in recognition of your separate backgrounds and individual pasts, and they will pass on words from their own traditions of belief to you. As you look to your future together, it is important to remember your past as well, for it has shaped and molded who you are today.

First Father: *(as Mother lights candle)*

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. 1 Corinthians 13:1-8 (NIV)

Second Father: *(as Mother lights candle)*

“You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.” Isaiah 55:12

Now I ask each of you to take the candle that represents your past and together light the candle that represents your future.

(Wedding Couple light pillar candle)

Although you have lit a flame together, do not extinguish your separate candles. The combined flame marks your coming together, but it is always dependent on your individual lights for its source. In the same way, the union between the two of you is woven from your individual pasts and is a continuation and evolution of yourselves and your families and the traditions you hold sacred.

Unity Candle #11

The lighting of the center candle represents not only the union of [Party 2 First Name] and [Party 1 First Name] in marriage, but also the unity formed in this new family, in which your lives will now shine as one. (Or, if you are blending two families: "As you light your candles, and the flames become one, let this signify the blending of two families. "

Rose Ceremony #1

This is a day steeped in tradition, a time when we are surrounded by symbols: something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue. Today, [Party 2 First Name] and [Party 1 First Name] begin a new tradition, a custom which now becomes uniquely their own.

[Party 2 First Name], I give you this rose. Because it grew from a tiny seed, becoming stronger and larger until it burst into flower, it symbolizes the way my love for you has grown. *Party 1 gives Party 2 Rose.*) Each year on our wedding anniversary, I will give you another rose. In so doing, I'll remember this day and renew the vows we've made.

[Party 1 First Name], I give to you this vase of water. (*Party 1 holds vase.*) Because water is the one element without which we would perish, it symbolizes the importance of your love in my life. Each year on our anniversary, I will refill this vase, offering it to you as a symbol of my ever renewing love. (*Party 2 puts the rose in the vase and they hold the vase together.*)

[Party 1 First Name]: Without water, the rose would die.

[Party 2 First Name]: Without the rose, the vase of water would not be beautiful.

[Party 1 First Name]: My gift is enhanced by yours, just as my life is enhanced by yours.

[Party 2 First Name]: My gift is lovely because of yours, just as my life is better because of you. (*They hand the rose and vase to the Minister.*)

On each anniversary, as you give and receive the rose and the water, remember with joy this day when you pledged your love and your lives to each other. May this be only the first of many cherished traditions in a home filled with happiness.

Rose Ceremony #2

Your gift to each other for your wedding today has been your wedding rings - which shall always be an outward demonstration of your vows of love and respect; and a public showing of your commitment to each other. You now have what remains the most honorable title that may exist between a couple - the title of "married."

For your first gift as married couple, that gift will be a single rose. In the past, the rose was considered a symbol of love and a single rose always meant only one thing - it meant the words "I love you." So it is appropriate that for your first gift - as husband and wife - that gift would be a single rose. Please exchange your first gift.

In some ways it seems like you have not done anything at all. Just a moment ago you were holding one small rose - and now you are holding one small rose. In some ways, a marriage ceremony is like this. In some ways, tomorrow is going to seem no different than yesterday. But in fact today, just now, you both have given and received one of the most valuable and precious gifts of life, one I hope you always remember, the gift of true and abiding love within the devotion of marriage. [Party 2 First Name] & [Party 1 First Name], I would ask that where ever you make your home in the future - whether it be a large and elegant home - or a small and graceful one - that you both pick one very special location for roses; so that on each anniversary of this truly wonderful occasion you both may take a rose to that spot both as a recommitment to your marriage - and a recommitment that this will be a marriage based upon love.

Sand (or Water) Ceremony

[Party 2 First Name] and [Party 1 First Name], you have just sealed your relationship by the giving and receiving of rings and the exchange of a kiss, and this covenant is a relationship pledge between two people who agree that they will commit themselves to one another throughout their lives. The most beautiful example of this partnership is the marriage relationship. You have committed here today to share the rest of your lives with each other.

Today, this relationship is symbolized through the pouring of these two individual containers of sand one, representing you, [Party 2 First Name] and all that you were, all that you are, and all that you will ever be, and the other representing you, [Party 1 First Name], and all that you were and all that you are, and all that you will ever be. As these two containers of sand are poured into the third container, the individual containers of sand will no longer exist, but will be joined together as one. Just as these grains of sand can never be separated and poured again into the individual containers, so will your marriage be.

Sand Ceremony

[Party 2 First Name] and [Party 1 First Name], you have just committed yourselves to one another through sacred vows. Your lives are no longer two, but one. To symbolize this joining, we ask that you each pour some sand into this bottle. (Each scoops some sand and pours it into the bottle.)”

Officiant: [Party 2 First Name] and [Party 1 First Name] as you pour your sand into the one container, please repeat after me: “As these grains of sand merge together as one, I merge my life with yours. Please take my love throughout the sands of time. My heart is forever in your keeping.

Officiant: [Party 2 First Name] and [Party 1 First Name] as these grains of sand are joined together, so are your hearts, your bodies and your souls in marriage.

Involving children:

(Children’s names) your (mother/father) and (name) love you very much, and want you to know that you are and will always be a very important part of their lives. Will you please pour some sand into this glass container along with your good wishes? That would mean so much to them.

Wishing Well Ceremony

We all have wishes, some are big and some are small. But today is not about ordinary wishes at all. Today is a day for special wishes for the lucky couple. [Party 2 First Name] and [Party 1 First Name] have just made wishes for their life together upon two white stones. As the evening progresses they invite everyone here to come and make a wish for their future and place it with theirs in this vase. This vase will serve as a reminder of all the special people present at their wedding, and all the good wishes that were bestowed upon them for the years to come.

Water Ceremony

There is a saying in Eastern tradition that when you have love, even plain water is sweet. The clear water that you share today reflects the beauty and simplicity that is available to you both in remembering and devoting yourselves to the principal of love in your marriage. May it grow sweeter with each passing year. You may now drink from this fountain of love. *(Couple gives each other a drink from the same glass)*

Stone Ceremony

In this ancient traditional Irish ceremony, the couple and their guests all throw a stone into the sea as the blessing is read, as we all offer our best wishes that your marriage have the strength of the elements of the earth! It can be modified to work nicely with the wishing well ceremony above.

*May you both be blessed
with the strength of heaven,
The light of the sun and the
radiance of the moon
The splendor of fire,
The speed of lightning,
The swiftness of wind,
The depth of the sea,
The stability of earth,
And the firmness of rock.*

Blanket Ceremony

The Blanket Ceremony is among the oldest and best loved traditions.

Two blue blankets used in the ceremony each represent the couple's past lives that may have been filled with loneliness, weakness, failures, sorrow and spiritual depression.

The couple is wrapped in the blue blankets and their relatives follow them to the sacred circle. After the spiritual leader blesses the union the couple then shed the blue blankets and are enveloped by relatives in a single white blanket representing their new ways of happiness, fulfillment and peace.

Under the white blanket, the couple then embraces and kisses.

The white blanket is kept by the couple and often displayed in their home

Jumping of the Staff and a Broom

(Officiant lays a wooden stick and a broom on the ground and says..)

Leaping the staff indicates your willingness to protect, care for, and defend your new life against all threats.

The broom symbolizes the desire to make your home a place of love, safety, and warmth.

Now jump over both the staff and the broom, and jump from your old life to the new!

Wine Ceremony #1

In this glass are the fruits of God, Mankind and Mother Earth. The years of our lives are like a cup of wine that is poured out for the sake of labor, honor and love. Many days you will sit at the same table and eat and drink together. Many are the experiences you will share. As with a glass of wine, one of you may find it sweet, the other perhaps dry or somehow different.

Let the drink you share today serve as a reminder that although you may perceive things very differently, being right is never more important than being happy. With this space that you give each other, always putting your commitment to love and honor one another first, your lives together will grow deeper, richer and greatly satisfying, like a rare and fine wine. You may now drink from this fountain of love. *(Couple gives each other a drink from the same glass)*

Wine Ceremony #2

It is the tradition in many cultures that the wedding couple share ceremonial food and drink at their wedding. Some rituals have the couple taste only sweet things, to ensure a sweet and happy future. Others have them taste many different flavors: Sweet, sour, bitter and spicy to demonstrate that their union can survive all things. In African tradition, a portion of drink is spilled on the ground in the four directions of the wind to honor the memory of ancestors. On this day, we use a sweet wine to connect ourselves to the cycles of the earth.

As Kahlil Gibran has written:

When you crush an apple with your teeth, say to it in your heart, your seeds shall live in my body, and the buds of your tomorrow shall blossom in my heart, and your fragrance shall be my breath, and together we shall rejoice thorough all the seasons.

And in the autumn, when you gather the grapes of your vineyards for the wine press, say in your heart, I too am a vineyard, and my fruit shall be gathered for the wine press, and like new wine I shall be kept in eternal vessels.

And in the winter, when you draw the wine, let there be in your heart a song for each cup; and let there be in the song a remembrance for the autumn days, and for the vineyard and for the wine press.

Drink now from this glass in celebration of the sweetness and richness of the earth's bounty and your connection to it and to each other.

[Party 2 First Name]:

The minute I heard my first love story I started looking for you, not knowing how blind that was. Lovers don't meet somewhere, they're in each other all along.

[Party 2 First Name] *drinks, and then hands the glass to* [Party 1 First Name]

[Party 1 First Name]:

They say that women change: 'tis so: but you
Are ever-constant in your changefulness,
Like that still thread of falling river, one
From source to last embrace in the still pool
Ever-renewed and ever-moving on
From first to last a myriad water-drops
and you-I love you for it-are the force
that moves and holds the form.

[Party 1 First Name] *drinks and returns glass to the table.*

Family Ceremony #1

Often marriage is viewed as the union of two persons. In reality, marriage is much broader. It is always a joining of families.

Will [Children's Names] please come forward.

As recognition of children as a part of the family unit of this marriage we recognize [Children's Names] and (his/her/their) importance.

With (this/these), (pendants/rings/lapel pins) we pledge to you, [Children's Names], our continuing love even as we surround you with our arms of support.

Family Ceremony #2

I have pledged my love to you and promised to be a faithful (wife/husband). Now I want to add another, different kind of vow. I promise to love [Children's Names] for all of our days and to treat them as if they were my own. I gladly accept the obligations that go along with this pledge. I love [Children's Names] and want them to be part of my life.

Family Ceremony #3

[Party 2 First Name] and [Party 1 First Name] light the candles that represent love for each other and for [Children's Names]. From the uniqueness of these separate flames, they kindle a larger and brighter flame that represents the union between [Party 2 First Name] and [Party 1 First Name] and [Children's Names]. The side candles remain burning to symbolize the continuing importance of the individual integrity within the marriage relationship. The greater height of the center candle depicts their belief that together they can become more than either could alone.

Family Ceremony #4

[Party 2 First Name] and [Party 1 First Name], today you are making a life-long commitment to share the rest of your lives with each other and honor your children as well. We realize that in order for the home to be a happy one, it is essential that there be love and understanding between the children and the adults being married. Family relationship is symbolized through the pouring of these two individual containers of sand; each representing all that you were, all that you are, and all that you will ever be and another container for each child.

There are children who will share in the marriage, the gathering of this new family will have a deep influence upon them. [Children's Names] please come forward to help us with the blending of the sands.

As you each hold your sand the separate containers of sand represent your lives to this moment; individual and unique. As you now combine your sand together, your lives also join together as one family.

You may now blend the sand together symbolizing the children and bride and groom into one.

Just as these grains of sand can never be separated and poured into the individual containers, so will your marriage and your family be.

Pronouncement

This is what officially pronounces you to all in witness that you are now joined in marriage. These too can be customized to fit in your vision of a perfect ceremony.

Pronouncement #1

For as much as [Party 1 First Name] and [Party 2 First Name] have consented together in wedlock, and have witnessed the same before this company of friends and family, and have given and pledged their promises to each other, and have declared the same by giving and receiving a ring, and by joining hands. By the authority vested in me, I pronounce this couple to be (husband and wife, married, spouses).

Pronouncement #2

By the authority vested in I pronounce you (husband and wife, married, spouses). May your love so endure that its flame remains a guiding light unto you.

Pronouncement #3

Love alone is capable of uniting living beings in such a way as to complete and fulfill them, for it alone takes them and joins them by what is deepest in themselves. Now as you [Party 1 First Name] and you [Party 2 First Name] have consented together in matrimony and have pledged your faith to each other by the giving and receiving of these rings, I now pronounce you - (husband and wife, married, spouses).

Pronouncement #4

As you have consented together to be bound to one another in lawful marriage, made special promises to each other, which have been symbolized by the joining of hands, taking of vows and by the giving and receiving of rings. By the authority vested in me, according to the laws of Washington I now pronounce you to be (husband and wife, married, spouses).

Pronouncement #5

You have declared before all of us that you will live together in marriage. You have made special promises to each other, which have been symbolized by the joining of hands, taking of vows and the giving and receiving of two rings. By the authority vested in, I now pronounce you to be (husband and wife, married, spouses).

Pronouncement #6

[Party 1 First Name] and [Party 2 First Name] as the two of you come into this marriage uniting you as (husband and wife, married, spouses), and as you this day affirm your faith and love for one another, I would ask that you always remember to cherish each other as special and unique individuals, that you respect the thoughts, ideas and suggestions of one another. Be able to forgive, do not hold grudges, and live each day that you may share it together - as from this day forward you shall be each other's home, comfort and refuge, your marriage strengthened by your love and respect for each other. By the authority vested in me, I now pronounce you to be (husband and wife, married, spouses).

Pronouncement #7

[Party 1 First Name] and [Party 2 First Name], we have heard your promise to share your lives in marriage. We recognize and respect the covenant you have made here this day before each one of us as witnesses. Therefore in the honesty and sincerity of what you have said and done here today and by the power vested in me, it is my honor and delight to declare you married and partners in life...for life.

Pronouncement #8

In front of your friends and family, by virtue of the vows made freely and joyfully here today, I now pronounce you (husband and wife, married, spouses).

Pronouncement #9

The ancient sage has said, "Your love contains the power of a thousand suns. It unfolds as naturally and effortlessly as does a flower, and graces the world with its blooming. Its beauty radiates a transforming energy that enlivens all who see it. Because of you, compassion and joy are added to the world. That is why the stars sing together -because of your love."

Just as the Heavenly Father and the Earthly Mother are bound together, your lives and hearts from this day forward, are connected and bound together, that you may grow in wisdom, respect and loving kindness - to strengthen and encourage each other, support and comfort each other, until your journey on earth is complete. Congratulations!

Pronouncement #9

[Party 1 First Name] and [Party 2 First Name] your lives are now joined in the most sacred and joyous of unions. We pray that your life be blessed. In the immortal words of the poet mystic William Blake, together may you...

"See a world in a grain of sand
And heaven in a wild flower
Hold infinity in the palm of your hand
And eternity in an hour."

Embrace

This was traditionally “the kiss” at the end of the ceremony, and it is still here, but if you are looking for something a bit more conventional or have something else in mind, that is perfect, again this day is about the two of you.

Embrace #1

You may kiss the bride.

Embrace #2

You may kiss your bride.

Embrace #3

Now that the ceremony is over and the experience of living day by day is about to begin, go and meet it gladly.

Embrace #4

Congratulations! You may kiss!

Embrace #5

You may seal your vows with a kiss.

Embrace #6

Now the ceremony is over and the experience of living day by day as married people is about to begin. Go forth to meet it, gladly, love life so it will love you. May many blessings be with you.

Introduction

This is typically the last thing in the ceremony; it is the presentation of the two of you as a married couple. It definitely isn't required, but can be very simple or a bit more substantial depending on what you would like. After the introduction and exit of the wedding party if there are any other announcements you would like made such as the reception location, etc that can be said before guests leave the ceremony area.

Introduction #1

I am pleased to present to you Mr. & Mrs. [Party 1 Last Name]

Introduction #2 (involving child(ren))

It is my pleasure to present to you [Party 1 First Name] and [Party 2 First Name] in their new relationship as married couple and their child(ren)

Introduction #3

It is now my personal privilege and great joy to be the first one to introduce [Party 1 First Name] and [Party 2 First Name] as the newly married couple. Partners in life... for life.

Please greet them warmly.