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## Ceremony I

We are joyfully assembled here today to witness and celebrate the joining of two lives in marriage. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ have asked us to be with them and rejoice with them in the making of this important commitment. The essence of this commitment is the taking of another person in his or her entirety as lover, companion and friend. It is therefore a decision which is not entered into lightly, but rather undertaken with great consideration and respect.

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ have come together in the hope that the love which brought them to this union may go beyond itself into the lives of others. Yet, they know it is not easy to build a deep, personal relationship, even in marriage. Thus, we ask that the promise and hopes of this union be realized. Grant these two the patience to listen, the capacity to understand, the compassion to give comfort, and the joy to laugh and to be. Let their marriage make a home where neither person is a stranger. Let it offer illumination and growth. Let it bask in the joy of giving and in the excitement of shared discoveries. Let it be large enough to endure the darkness of things. May silence and despair never separate them; may they always return to each other.

\_\_\_\_\_, do you take \_\_\_\_\_ to be your wife and equal, will you share your life openly with her and strive to love, honor and stand beside her in times of celebration and in times of sadness, in times of health and in times of sickness, in times of joy and times of conflict?

\_\_\_\_\_, do you take \_\_\_\_\_ to be your husband and equal, will you share your life openly with him and strive to love, honor and stand beside him in times of celebration and in times of sadness, in times of health and in times of sickness, in times of joy and times of conflict?

A circle is the symbol of the sun, the earth, the universe; of wholeness, perfection, peace and of unity. Like circles, your rings have no beginning and no ending.

They are tokens of the growing relationship you have come here to celebrate and confirm.

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ will now exchange rings. Each will offer the ring by placing it on the other's finger. Each will accept by putting it in place.

You have joined together and together you shall go forth. But let there be space in your togetherness and let the winds of the heavens dance between you. Love one another, but make not a bond of love; let it rather be a moving sea between the shores of your souls. Fill each other's cup, but drink not from the one cup. Give one another of your bread but eat not from the same loaf. Sing and dance together and be joyous, but let each one of you be alone, even as the strings of a lute are alone though they quiver with the same music. Give your hearts, but not into each other's keeping. For only the hand of Life can contain your hearts. Stand together, yet not too near together; for the pillars of the temple stand apart, and the oak tree and the cypress grow not in each other's shadow.

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, you are now husband and wife.

Go in peace; as two yet one. May your unity last through all your life together, through the trials and triumphs that lie ahead, so that at the end you may feel just as you do now – happy to be in love and married. Go then, in peace, and live more and more in the present which is beautiful and stretches beyond the limits of the past and the future.

## Ceremony II

We are here to witness and celebrate the joining of two lives in marriage.

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ have asked us to be with them in the making of this important commitment. The essence of this commitment is the taking of another person in his or her entirety as lover companion and friend. Thus we ask that the promise and hopes of this union be realized.

\_\_\_\_\_, do you take \_\_\_\_\_ to be your wife and equal, will you share your life openly with her and strive to love, honor and stand beside her in times of celebration and in times of sadness, in times of health and in times of sickness, in times of joy and times of conflict?

\_\_\_\_\_, do you take \_\_\_\_\_ to be your husband and equal, will you share your life openly with him and strive to love, honor and stand beside him in times of celebration and in times of sadness, in times of health and in times of sickness, in times of joy and times of conflict?

A circle is the symbol of the sun, the earth, the universe; of wholeness, perfection, peace and of unity. Like circles, your rings have no beginning and no ending. They are tokens of the growing relationship you have come here to celebrate and confirm.

### RING EXCHANGE

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, you are now husband and wife.

You have joined together and together you shall go forth. May your unity last through all your life together, through the trials and triumphs that lie ahead, so that at the end you may feel just as you do now – happy to be in love and married.

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**Reading 1:** Love is always patient and kind; it is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish; it does not take offense, and is not resentful. Love takes no pleasure in other people's sins, but delights in the truth; it is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope, and to endure whatever comes. Love does not come to an end.

## Ceremony III

Dearly beloved we are gathered together here in the sight of God, and in the face of this company, to join together this man and this woman in holy matrimony. It is not to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly; but reverently, discreetly, advisedly and soberly. Into this holy estate these two persons present come now to be joined. If any person can show any just cause why they may not lawfully be joined together, let them speak now or else hereafter hold their peace.

\_\_\_\_\_, wilt thou have \_\_\_\_\_ to be the wedded wife, to live together after God's ordinance in the estate of holy matrimony? Wilt thou love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health; and forsaking all others, keep thee unto her so long as ye both shall live?

\_\_\_\_\_, wilt thou have \_\_\_\_\_ to be the wedded husband, to live together after God's ordinance in the estate of holy matrimony? Wilt thou love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health; and forsaking all others, keep thee unto him so long as ye both shall live? Repeat after me:

I, \_\_\_\_\_ take thee, \_\_\_\_\_ to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part, according to God's holy ordinance; and therefore I pledge thee my trust.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ take thee, \_\_\_\_\_ to be my wedded husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part, according to God's holy ordinance; and therefore I pledge thee my trust.

For as much as \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ have consented together in holy wedlock and have witnessed the same before God and this company, and thereto have given and pledged their trust, into each other, and have declared the same by giving and receiving a ring, I pronounce that they are now husband and wife.

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**Reading 2:** Now you will feel no rain for each of you will be a shelter to the other. Now you will feel no cold for each of you will be warmth to the other. Now there is no loneliness for you. Now you are two persons but there is only one life before you. Go now to your dwelling place to enter into the days of your togetherness and may your days be good and long together.