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The Wedding Celebration

*of*

**{Name 1}** and **{Name 2}**  
Dunbar Ryerson United Church

date

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**01 Call to Worship**

01a

Each new day, God opens doors of potential and hope. We are offered new challenges, a new call to commitment, and a fresh possibility for a deepened relationship with our Creator. Let us worship!

01b

Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good; God's love is eternal!

01c

God is love, and whoever lives in love lives in God, and God lives in them.

01d

Look to this day! For it is life, the very life of life.  
In its brief course lie all the verities and realities of your existence:  
The bliss of growth, the glory of action, the splendour of beauty!  
For yesterday is but a dream, and tomorrow is only a vision;  
But today, well lived, makes every yesterday a dream of happiness.  
And every tomorrow a vision of hope. Look well, therefore, to this day!

01e

We worship the God who inhabits our world and dwells in our lives. We need not look up to find God, we need only look around: within ourselves, beyond ourselves, into the eyes of another. Let us worship!

01f

Let us approach God with everything we have and are. Let us open our whole lives to the guidance of God's Spirit.

**02 Introduction**

02a

Dear Friends: We are gathered here in God's presence to witness the marriage of **{Name 2}** and **{Name 1}** and to ask God to bless them in their wedded life together. By our presence here we all accept responsibility for helping **{Name 2}** and **{Name 1}**, and for encouraging them in their days ahead, as they grow together in love. We are called to rejoice with them in their happiness, to help them when they have trouble, and to remember them in our prayers. Let us pray:

02b

We, as a community of friends, are gathered here to celebrate and witness the union of **{Name 2}** and **{Name 1}** in marriage. We come today to worship God and to witness the vows that **{Name 2}** and **{Name 1}** will make to each other. We share their joy and pledge our support to them as they live the coming days as husband and wife/life partners, asking God to bless them in their life together. Let us pray:

02c

Dear friends and relatives of **{Name 2}** and **{Name 1}**; throughout religious history people have felt the need to celebrate the great moments of life. At those times we call upon our friends to help commemorate the great moment. We feel that we cannot do justice to those moments alone. But even more we have felt the need to bring these mountaintop experiences before God. Thus, in this place of holiness, before you and in the presence of God, **{Name 2}** and **{Name 1}** come to give their vows of love and loyalty.

For them, and with them, let us approach God in prayer.

02d

This is a day for new beginnings. We have gathered here to witness, celebrate and demonstrate our support for **{Name 2}** and **{Name 1}** as they begin their married life together. **{Name 2}** and **{Name 1}**'s relationship is not new, and their love for one another is not new; but today they have chosen to affirm their love in the commitment and promises of marriage. And that is new!

02e

Dear families, relatives and friends! We are here to witness the beginning of a marriage. {Name 2} and {Name 1} are grateful for your presence here today because each of you has, in your own way, contributed something precious to their lives. They invite you, during the course of this worship, to recommit yourselves to love.

02f

{Name 2} and {Name 1} welcome you, their families and friends. Each of you has given something of yourself into their life. They want you to know that your love, guidance and encouragement will forever be appreciated. It is fitting, then, that you should share today in this celebration of their commitment to each other to live their lives as one.

### 03 Prayers of Approach to God

03a

Gracious God, always faithful in your love for us, we rejoice in your presence. You create love. You unite us in one human family. May your presence fill our hearts with new joy, and make new the lives of your people whose marriage we celebrate. Bless all creation through this sign of your love shown in the love of {Name 1} and {Name 2} for each other. Sustain them, and all of us, in a love that knows no end. Amen.

03b

Loving God, you are at the heart of all our relationships. You are the understanding spirit that brings us together in friendship. You are the caring spirit that enables us to listen to each other's needs. You are the enduring spirit which holds fast when the storms of life hit home. You are the trusting spirit which builds our faith in one another. Bless this time together, we pray. Amen.

03c

O God in heaven, bless these friends of ours who are about to give their vows of faithfulness to each other and to live together in the covenant bond of marriage. Let your love become their love, so that in their lives together they may be more concerned about the other than themselves. Above all, help each of us to be their silent partners as we pray for them in the coming days, and be ready to assist them with good counsel and a helping hand. In the name of Jesus, their Lord and ours, we pray. Amen.

03d

O God, Creator of us all, we thank you for the gift of life and on this day we thank you especially for the joy that {Name 2} and {Name 1} have found in each other, and for the promises they will make before you. Bless all our families and friends on this special day. We pray particularly for those who are far away today but here in spirit, sharing the joy of this day. We pray, O God, that you remain with {Name 1} and {Name 2} as a partner in their marriage. Grant to them and to us all, wisdom and strength, love and understanding all our days. Amen.

03e

Gracious God, your generous love surrounds us, and everything we enjoy comes from you. In your great love you have given us the gift of marriage. Bless {Name 1} and {Name 2} as they pledge their lives to each other. We feel that you have brought them together in the beginning, helped their love grow, and in this moment are with them in a special way. May their love continue to grow and be a true reflection of your love for us all. Amen.

03f

O God of promise, your greatest gift is love, bless {Name 1} and {Name 2} who today within your presence will take each other in marriage. We thank you that they have found such love and faith and trust in each other that they wish to live for the other all the rest of their lives. Let nothing come between them, but throughout all the chances and changes of life keep them forever loving and forever true to each other. Keep them safe from all trouble which would hurt them in any way. But, when any trial does come to them, grant that it may only bring them closer together and closer to you. Grant to them through all their days the perfect love which many waters cannot quench and which is stronger than even death itself; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## 04 Address to the People

04a

What **{Name 1}** and **{Name 2}** mean to each other is obvious in their lives, but not easily expressed in the language of a ceremony. Marriage, and the union it symbolizes, can be the most intriguing of human experiences, for love in its many forms is what life is all about. To share their lives, to encourage creativity and inspire each other to reach beyond the limits of the ordinary - not at the expense of each partner's individuality, but rather, by the strength of the common bond - that is the hope in which **{Name 1}** and **{Name 2}** come to be married. For the Christian, this occasion is not a spectacle, but worship; it is not a mere formal observance, but a participation in the will of God for life. A wedding is the celebration of the highest we know in human love, the pledging of the deepest human fidelity, the expression of the highest human aspiration. A relationship so sacred must not be entered into casually, but thoughtfully, deliberately and freely.

04b

Christian marriage is a joyful covenanting in which two very independent beings proclaim, before God and human witnesses, their commitment to live together in Spiritual, physical and material unity. In this covenant they acknowledge that the great love God has shown for each of them enables them to love each other. They affirm that God's gracious presence and abiding power are needed for them to keep their vows, to continue to live in love, and to be faithful to God and each other in this world. We all affirm that the promise of God is eternal and the love of God is what brings strength to human love. Therefore marriage must not be entered into lightly or thoughtlessly, but with mutual respect and with reverence for God.

04c

Let us remember that marriage has been established and sanctified for the welfare and happiness of people individually and of society as a whole. It is a commitment of two people to each other; a commitment that sees the establishment of a new home. But because our whole future as a society depends on the quality of home life, this is not just a notable event in the lives of these two individuals, but also in the larger life of humanity. It is a private commitment, to be sure, but it is one celebrated before witnesses and before God. Because we believe this, we continue this service with reverence, joy and praise, believing that the great heights of sharing and fulfilment can be experienced by these two loving persons and by all of us as a caring community.

04d

Marriage is God's graceful gift; entered into with responsibility, sustained through open sharing and mutual encouragement. Marriage is God's graceful gift; a mark of commitment, a pledge of faithfulness, and a symbol of enduring friendship. Marriage is God's graceful gift; within the context of family which has sustained each partner in the past, the families whose love they will share in the days ahead. Marriage is God's graceful gift; a treasure to be received joyfully and with never-ending wonder even as it changes, grows, and ages with time. Marriage is God's graceful gift.

04e

In marriage two individuals enter into a spiritual and physical union, cherishing a mutual esteem and love, bearing with each other's infirmities and weaknesses, comforting each other in trouble, providing in honesty and industry for each other and for their household, and living together the length of their days as heirs of the grace of God.

Marriage, therefore, is not a state to be entered into lightly or unadvisedly, but reverently, and with due contemplation of the deep commitments and tender emotions which help keep love alive.

This brief and outward ceremony is a symbol of that which is already inner and real - a sacred union of hearts and lives which love can create, God may bless, and conscientious commitment sustain and fulfill.

Into this sacred relationship these two persons come now to be joined. **{Name 1}** and **{Name 2}**, such a union can be created only by your loving purpose, be sustained by your abiding will, and be renewed by your faith in one another.

## 05 Question of Impediment

05a

**{Name 2}** and **{Name 1}**, you have made known your desire to be united in Christian marriage. Now I ask you: do you come freely and without reservation to be united this day in marriage? "I do."

## 06 Address to the Couple

06a

{Name 1} and {Name 2}, your marriage is intended to join you for life in a relationship so intimate that it will change your whole being. It offers you the hope, and indeed the promise, of a love that is true and mature. To attain such love you will have to commit yourselves to each other freely and gladly for the sake of a richer and deeper life together. Seek to become one in mind and heart as well as one in body. Let God be your helper and guide.

06b

{Name 1} and {Name 2}, out of the wild exuberance of creation, you two have appeared - each of you unique, distinctive, and wondrously human. You have chosen to journey together in the remaining moment of time that is yours. From this day forward, you are to become one unit of life. You are both called to a new existence. For the whole universe has come to you in the form of this particular person who has a unique love for you and is beloved by you.

What then is love? Love is sensing the other as a person. This must now be your mode of living. Love is receiving the feelings, thoughts, and intentions of the other into your own understanding. Love is faithfulness over the long haul. In life's day to day challenges, in the tension of differences, in the joy of being warmly human, in all the experiences of life, love must be faithful.

Love must share all the areas of life: body, mind, and spirit, until you are truly united with each other - one whole person united in joy with another whole person. Love is sharing together, talking together, listening together, until the harmonies of what it means to be fully human pulse also in you. In this love, let the giving love of God in Jesus be your example and strength.

06c

{Name 1} and {Name 2}, as you stand here before God and before us, preparing to make your vows to each other, think again of the fact that from now on your lives and destinies will be woven together in one pattern, and your troubles and your joys should not be known apart. The words, "I Love you" first spoken shyly in the months gone by, when it was not known for sure if they would be accepted or returned, are today spoken in the full commitment of yourselves to each other and to an adult responsibility in society.

The kind of love that you need is described by Paul in his unforgettable words written to the Corinthian Christians: "Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous, or conceited, or proud; love is not ill-mannered, or selfish or irritable; love does not keep a record of wrongs; love is not happy with evil, but is happy with the truth. Love never gives up; its faith, hope and patience never fail. Love is eternal."

06d

{Name 1} and {Name 2}, we live at a time when very little in life is considered sacred. This day we celebrate a sacred agreement between the two of you. I congratulate you on the journey of your lives, on the strength and courage it has taken for each of you to make your way to this place. You have come into our midst, because you have chosen each other, and in doing that you are aware of God's choice for you. That which has grown and become between you, fills you and all of us with joy and hope: the chance to see in our fellow human beings what love can make possible. May the love you feel for each other be a blessing to all those around you, and may God give you the love that binds everything together in perfect harmony.

06e

{Name 1} and {Name 2}, marriage today is a celebration of the mutuality and interdependence of all life. It is making visible the unseen bonds that already entwine and hold. Marriage is the choosing of one special person to walk beside throughout the journey of life. Marriage today is a choice - freely, openly, gladly made - of a life companion, partner, friend and fellow journeyer. Today you are publicly making that choice. You are choosing one another to journey together as life-companions. In making that choice, and in living out that choice, remember that you are also gifts to one another - gifts of God, and gifts of life. It is God's intention for you, and the prayer of those gathered here for you, that you will go forward from this day, cherishing each other and weaving your lives together in such a way as to create a new life that is richer, deeper and truly good. So may it be for you.

06f

Marriage is the most sacred of human institutions. A marriage brings two individuals into a unique relationship with each other - one which grows and develops as each continues to experience him or herself and others. It is a union where each individual's integrity is preserved. Two people become one, and yet remain two. This celebration of marriage is an outward token of your inward union of hearts. It is for us to acknowledge and witness the true marriage which already dwells in your hearts, and to ask for the blessing of God to rest upon you and remain with you always.

06g

{Name 1} and {Name 2}, you are an interfaith couple: we know that you come from two great religions which are neither contradictory or antagonistic because their aims are the same - compassion, kindness, respect and love of family and God. However, marriage need not be a melting pot in which differences cease to exist. As you become a married couple you bring together, in a mysterious yet happy way, two pasts, differing in traditions. Build on them, for the strength of any people lies in their spirituality, however this may be defined. With the support and encouragement each can give to the other, you will be able to develop new personal dimensions, adding new memories and new hopes to all those who are touched by your love.

### 07 Poetry Reading

(A poem or reading of your own choosing may be placed here.)

### 08 The Scripture Reading

(One scripture reading will usually suffice. Those below are only suggestions.)

08a

**Psalm 100.** Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.

Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.

For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generation.

08b

**John 13:34,35.** “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

08c

**John 15: 9-12** As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”

08d

**I Corinthians 13:1-8, 13.** If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends.

08e

**Based on Isaiah 54:10; Micah 6:8 and 1 John 4:12.**

I have loved you with an everlasting love. I have called you, and you are mine.

It is God who speaks: The mountains may crumble, the hills may be shaken, but my love for you will never leave you, and my covenant of peace with you will never end.

I have loved you with an everlasting love. I have called you, and you are mine.

And this is what God asks of you - only this: to act justly, to love tenderly, and to walk humbly with your God.

08f

**Colossians 3: 12-14.** As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another, and if one has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

08g

**1 John 4:7-8.** Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love, does not know God, for God is love.

08h

**Ruth 1: 16-17 - King James**

And Ruth said, Entreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God:

Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the Lord do so to me, and more also, if aught but death part thee and me.

**09 Prayer for Grace**

09a

O God, the Author and Giver of all good things, we bless you for the gifts of love and friendship and for the joys which gladden our lives. May your blessing rest upon and remain with **{Name 2}** and **{Name 1}** as they pledge their mutual love. Bless this day, and lead us always in your ways of love and peace. Amen.

09b

O God, we pray for **{Name 2}** and **{Name 1}** who want to begin their life together with you and always continue it with you. Help them never to hurt and never to grieve one another. Help them to share all their work, all their hopes, all their dreams all their successes and all their failures, all their sorrows and all their joys. Help them to have no secrets from one another, so that they may truly be one. Keep them always true to one another, and grant that the years ahead may draw them ever closer to one another. Grant that nothing may ever make them drift apart. And as they live with one another, help them to live with you, so that their love which they are to pledge now may grow perfect in your love, for you are the God whose name is love. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

09c

Gracious God, as **{Name 2}** and **{Name 1}** pledge themselves to each other, help them and bless them; that their love may be sure, and their vows may be true. As you have brought these two persons together, inspire them by your Spirit, give them a new frame of heart fit for their new relationship so that with steadfast love they may honour the promises they make this day. Amen.

09d

Gracious God, bless **{Name 2}**, and **{Name 1}**, who come now to join themselves together in marriage, that they may give their vows to each other in the strength and spirit of your faithful love. Let the promise of your Word root and grow in their lives. Grant them vision and hope to persevere in trust and friendship all their days. Keep ever before them the needs of your world. By your grace enable them to be true disciples of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

09e

Out of this tangled world, O God, you have drawn **{Name 2}** and **{Name 1}** together and are binding them firmly by the sure insights of love. We thank you for the homes in which they have been nurtured in their formative years; for parents who have sacrificed on their behalf; for the Church which has awakened them to the meaning of eternal life. Gracious God, bless them as they come before you and their families and friends to affirm the choice that they have made of each other and their intention to establish a home where your love may be celebrated in the family. Grant them a seriousness of purpose that they may be kept from empty words and casual commitments. Be with them and let your love be the example and the power to help their love grow. May you nurture them all the days of their lives that their dreams and their aspirations for life may find fulfillment in the doing of your will in all things. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

**10 Questions for the Parents**

Let us all remember that the path of love is meant to be walked together with all the human family. Each of us counts as relatives, friends and neighbours for the caring and concern that replenishes our own ability to love. **{Name 1}** and **{Name 2}** marry this day in the midst of your affection and friendship, and, most especially in the presence of those whose love has been their life's companion, their parents.

10a

As **{Name 1}** and **{Name 2}** become( husband and wife) (Partners in marriage), they unite two families and create a new one. As their parents, do you greet this new relationship with joy and celebration and give them your blessing? "We do."

10b

As **{Name 2}** and **{Name 1}** give themselves to each other in marriage, do you, who have nurtured them, give them your blessing and promise them the support of your love? "We do."

10c

Do you, the families of **{Name 1}** and **{Name 2}** give them your blessing and promise to uphold and care for them in their marriage? "We do."

10d

**{Mother}**, you gave birth to **{Name 1}**. You and **{Father}** protected **her/him**, cared for **her/him**, and watched **her/him** grow. Through childhood and adolescence, your support and encouragement has been a major source of her/his strength, and your love has been **her/his** constant companion. Now, as a **woman/man/she/he** is entering into marriage. Will you give **her/him** your blessing and your support? "We will."

**{Mother}**, you gave birth to **{Name 2}**. You and **{Father}** protected **her/him**, cared for **her/him**, and watched **her/him** grow. Through childhood and adolescence, your support and encouragement has been a major source of **her/his** strength, and your love has been **her/his** constant companion. Now, as a **woman/man/she/he** is entering into marriage. Will you give **her/him** your blessing and your support? "We will."

## 11 A Question for the Children

11a

A marriage is a celebration of love and family. It sees the creation of a new family unit - one in which you will play an important part.

**{Child}**, on this day, do you share your **Mother's (Father's)** happiness, and give your blessing to this wedding? "I Do."

11b

A marriage is a celebration of love and family. It sees the creation of a new family unit - one in which you will play an important part.

**{Child}**, are you willing to enter into this family with **{Name 1}** and **{Name 2}**, and promise them your love, now and always? "I am willing."

**{Child}**, are you happy that your Mom and Dad are being married today?  
"I am."

## 12 Covenant with Families and Friends

12a

This couple needs the support of their families, for they cannot live out their vision alone. Do you, their families and friends, celebrate the marriage of **{Name 1}** and **{Name 2}** and give them your support and your blessing?  
"We do."

## 13 Questions of Intention

13a

**{Name 2}**, you have chosen **{Name 1}** to be your **wife/husband/spouse/partner**, to live together following God's law, in the holy estate of marriage. Will you love **her/him**, comfort **her/him**, honour and keep **her/him** through all the circumstances of life, and, forsaking all others, keep only to **her/him** as long as you both shall live? "I will".

**{Name 1}**, you have chosen **{Name 2}** to be your **wife/husband/spouse/partner**, to live together following God's law, in the holy estate of marriage. Will you love **her/him**, comfort **her/him**, honour and keep **her/him** through all the circumstances of life, and, forsaking all others, keep only to **her/him** as long as you both shall live? "I will."

13b

The decision to marry, made in the context of human uncertainty, requires tremendous faith; faith in yourselves as individuals and in the strength of your relationship; faith that you will be able in your marriage, with God's help, to deal with whatever the future holds.

**{Name 2}**, are you willing to step forth in faith and affirm that you will accept **{Name 1}** and **{Name 1}** alone, in sickness and in health, poverty and good fortune, difference and agreement, in times of comfort and times of struggle, as long as you both shall live? "I am willing."

**{Name 1}**, are you willing to step forth in faith and affirm that you will accept **{Name 2}** and **{Name 2}** alone, in sickness and in health, poverty and good fortune, difference and agreement, in times of comfort and times of struggle, as long as you both shall live? "I am willing."

13c

**{Name 2}** and **{Name 1}**, you have freely chosen to join yourselves together in marriage. Will you help your love to grow; will you receive into your own understanding the other's feelings, thoughts, and intentions; will you be partners with God, the source of all creativeness, to see that your lives reveal a quest for truth, and goodness, through faith, hope, and love? Will you be faithful to each other throughout your lives? "I will."

13d

{Name 2}, you have chosen {Name 1} to be your wife/husband/wedded partner. Will you love, respect and honour her/him, sharing your dreams and beliefs, ideals and emotions, through crisis and hardship, through joy and happiness, caring for her/him in life-long commitment? "I will."

{Name 1}, you have chosen {Name 2} to be your wife/husband/wedded partner. Will you love, respect and honour her/him, sharing your dreams and beliefs, ideals and emotions, through crisis and hardship, through joy and happiness, caring for her/him in life-long commitment? "I will."

13e

{Name 1} and {Name 2}, do you promise to love and support each other at all times, to share both joys and sorrows, to give support when it is needed and encouragement when spirits are low; to be each other's best friend as well as understanding lover, who will encourage each other to grow as persons, ever deepening your understanding of each other in faithful love? "I will."

13f

{Name 1} do you take {Name 2}, to be your beloved wife/husband/partner/spouse, and do you commit yourself to be responsible in marriage, giving of yourself to him/her in love, cherishing, him/her, respecting him/her, encouraging him/her to be all that God intends?

## 14 The Exchange of Vows

14a

In the presence of God, and before these witnesses, I, {Name 2}, take you {Name 1}, to be my wife/husband/wedded 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; as long as we both shall live.

In the presence of God, and before these witnesses, I, {Name 1}, take you {Name 2}, to be my wife/husband/wedded 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; as long as we both shall live.

14b

{Name 1}, I join my life with yours; to laugh with you in joy; to grieve with you in sorrow; to grow with you in love; serving one another and the world in peace and hope; as long as we both shall live.

{Name 2}, I join my life with yours; to laugh with you in joy; to grieve with you in sorrow; to grow with you in love; serving one another and the world in peace and hope; as long as we both shall live.

14c

I, {Name 2} give myself to you to be your husband/wife/wedded partner. I promise to be true to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will love you and honour you all the days of my life.

I, {Name 1} give myself to you to be your husband/wife/wedded partner. I promise to be true to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will love you and honour you all the days of my life.

14d

Day by day I promise to love and to honour you, to treasure you and to respect you, to walk with you side by side in joy and sorrow. Day by day I promise to grow with you in truth, to laugh with you, to cry with you, and to love you with all that I am and all that I shall become. This I promise you from the depth of my heart, for all our lives together.

14e

Because your love means so much to me, I offer you my heart. As your partner in life, I will share your joys and your sorrows, your laughter and your tears. Through all the changes that life will bring, I promise you this: I will always love you.

14f

{Name 1}, I join you in marriage, to share all of life with you, its responsibilities and freedoms, its tensions and trials, its joys and pleasures, to cherish and to care for you, and with you to follow God's leading for the rest of my life. This is my promise to you.

{Name 2}, I join you in marriage, to share all of life with you, its responsibilities and freedoms, its tensions and trials, its joys and pleasures, to cherish and to care for you, and with you to follow God's leading for the rest of my life. This is my promise to you.

14g

I, {**Name 1**}, in love and freedom, choose you {**Name 2**}, to be my beloved and my friend in times of peace, in times of trouble, in times of sorrow, and in times of joy. I welcome you as my wife/husband/partner/spouse for all my tomorrows.

I, {**Name 2**}, in love and freedom, choose you {**Name 1**}, to be my beloved and my friend in times of peace, in times of trouble, in times of sorrow, and in time of joy. I welcome you as my wife/husband/partner/spouse for all my tomorrows.

14h

{**Name 2**}, all that I am I give to you, and all that I have I share with you. I will love you and cherish you, as long as we both shall live. This is my solemn vow.

{**Name 1**}, all that I am I give to you, and all that I have I share with you. I will love you and cherish you, as long as we both shall live. This is my solemn vow.

14i

{**Name 2**}, as I have given you my hand to hold, so I give you my life to keep. This vow is made in love, kept in faith, lived in hope, and eternally made new.

{**Name 1**}, as I have given you my hand to hold, so I give you my life to keep. This vow is made in love, kept in faith, lived in hope, and eternally made new.

14j

I take you, as a gift from God, to be my lifelong companion through tears and laughter, sickness and health, hardship and plenty. I will love you faithfully, constantly and prayerfully, now and forever. Amen

## 15 The Exchange of Rings

15a

{**Name 1**}, I give you this ring, in the name of God, as a symbol of my unending love.

{**Name 2**}, I give you this ring, in the name of God, as a symbol of my unending love.

15b

{**Name 1**}, I give you this ring, as a sign of my loving commitment, now and for always.

{**Name 2**}, I give you this ring as a sign of my loving commitment, now and for always.

15c

{**Name 1**}, in token of my faithfulness and love, with this ring I thee wed.

{**Name 2**}, in token of my faithfulness and love, with this ring I thee wed.

15d

{**Name 1**}, I give you this ring as a sign of my love. With all that I have, and all that I am, I honour you.

{**Name 2**}, I give you this ring as a sign of my love. With all that I have, and all that I am, I honour you.

15e

{**Name 1**}, with this ring, I join my life with yours.

{**Name 2**}, with this ring, I join my life with yours.

15f

“This is my beloved, and this is my friend” - from the Song of Solomon.

15g

{**Name 1**} I bless you with this ring. May we be held together within its circle in joy, faithfulness and trust.

{**Name 2**} I bless you with this ring. May we be held together within its circle in joy, faithfulness and trust.

## 16 The Declaration of Marriage

16a

Forasmuch as you, {**Name 2**}, and you, {**Name 1**}, have made this solemn covenant of marriage before God and before all of us here, and have pledged your vows to each other and have confirmed them by the joining of your hands and the giving and receiving of rings, now therefore in the name of God, I declare you to be married, one to the other!

## 17 **Commissioning**

17a

Be constant in love; nurturing each other. Be strong in faith; encourage each other. Be graceful in life; find joy in each other.

## 18 **Kiss**

## 19 **Unity Candle**

{Name 1} and {Name 2} come from two different families. On this day of their marriage they create a new family. As a symbol of this new creation they will each take a candle representing the family from which they have come and, together, they will light a unity candle representing the new family created this day.

## 20 **The Marriage Prayer**

20a

O God our Creator, we feel that you brought {Name 2} and {Name 1} together in the beginning, helped their love grow, and are at this moment with them in a special way. We ask you to stay by their side in the days ahead. Protect them from anything which might harm their marriage, give them courage when burdens come their way, teach them to forgive each other when they fail. We ask, finally, that in their old age they may love one another as deeply, and cherish each other as much as they do at this very moment. Grant these prayers through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

20b

O God, we ask for {Name 2} and {Name 1} the excitement of new discoveries and new creations, that their lives may be an adventure together, wherever they go. Lord, make {Name 2} and {Name 1} instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let them bring love. Where there is injury, pardon. Where there is doubt, faith. Where there is despair, hope. Where there is darkness, light. Where there is sadness, joy. Grant that they may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. Amen.

20c

O God, Creator of us all, we thank you for the gift of life, and in life, for the gift of marriage. We praise and thank you for all the joys that can come to us through the blessing of marriage. Today, especially, we think of {Name 2} and {Name 1} as they begin their life together as partners in the covenant of marriage. With them we thank you for the joy they find in each other. We pray for their parents, that at this moment of parting they may rejoice in their children's happiness. Give {Name 1} and {Name 2} strength, to keep the vows they have made, and to cherish the love that they share, that they may always be faithful and devoted to each other. Amen.

20d

Gracious God, may your blessing rest upon and remain with {Name 2} and {Name 1}. We pray that they may be equal to the demands of all their tomorrows. May their marriage be a shared adventure, rich in moments of serenity as well as in moments of excitement; may it be made vital with challenges that test their ingenuity as well as with achievements that uplift their spirits. May their home remain a place of peace, where the warmth of love and the sound of laughter puts everything in its proper perspective. May they cherish the other as deeply in old age as they do this very moment, and may the love they have for one another continue to touch the world around them. Amen.

20e

Eternal God, Creator of us all, we praise you for all the ways in which your love comes into our lives. Today, especially we think of {Name 2} and {Name 1} as they begin their married life together. With them we thank you for giving them life and for bringing them together in marriage. With them, we thank you for the love and care of their parents, which has guided them to this moment. Give {Name 1} and {Name 2} strength to keep the vows they have made, to be loyal and faithful to each other, and to support each other throughout their lives; that they may bear each other's burdens and share each other's joys. Help them to be honest and patient with each other, and to welcome friends and strangers into their home. In all their future together, may they enjoy each other's lives and grow through each other's love, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

20f

O God, Lord of life and love, we thank you for the gifts of love and friendship, and for the blessings brought into our lives by your gift of marriage. We praise you for the love and joy that {Name 2} and {Name 1} have found in each other and for the vows of love and loyalty that they have made before you. May your blessing remain with them always. Grant that they may live together in love and unity throughout life. Bless this day, with your continuing love, and lead {Name 2} and {Name 1} always in your ways of love and peace. Amen.

20g

Loving God, we give thanks that {Name 2} and {Name 1}, having come close in friendship, and having been enlightened by love, are now united in the Covenant of Marriage. May they grow in insight, care, and the ability to listen deeply, that they might find in each other a strength in need, a comforter in sorrow and a companion in joy. May the love that is theirs together move outward to touch each family member with caring and friendship and laughter. May the love that is theirs always be a reflection of your love for us all. Amen.

(Optional - may be added to any marriage prayer)

20h

And now as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we pray together, saying, "Our Loving God, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever." Amen.

## 21 **The Benediction**

21a

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you: the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. Amen.

21b

The grace of Christ attend you, the love of God surround you, the Holy Spirit keep you. Amen.

21c

Continue your journey together, walking in love, and may the God who is love share each step you take. Amen.

21d

Go now, carrying with you the peace of Christ, the love of God, and the encouragement and support of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

21e

With abiding confidence and deep affection, we send you forth in life's journey together. May it be an adventure in peace, in joy and in love. Amen.

21f

Go forth together with a daring and tender love, with courage and with hope. Go forth together with faith in our Creator, in yourselves, and in the world around you. Amen.

## 22 **Greeting the Families**

## 23 **Signing of the Register**

## 24 **The Presentation of the Couple**

24a

Ladies and Gentlemen, I present to you

## 25 **The Recessional**

Revised January 2011