

Subject: Unity Candle

Submitted by: Rev. Scott Awbrey

Unity Candle

Before us are three candles, two of which are lighted, and the Unity candle remains to be lighted. By the grace of God's light and love, _____'s and _____'s paths have crossed, and as they now each take a lighted candle, representing their previous pathways, they will light the Unity candle, symbolizing the blending of their lives, their oneness, and the light of God's love which will forever bless, inspire, and guide them.

Now, _____ and _____ hold hands, look into the eyes of your beloved and know that from this moment on you will feel no cold, for each of you are warmth to the other. Now you will feel no rain, for each of you is shelter for the other. Now there is no more loneliness – only unity, for each of you are companion to the other. Now there are two persons, but there is only one life before you. In this moment, you enter into the days of your life together, and may your days be good and long upon the earth. May the blessing of light be with you always – light without and light within. Amen.

Celebrating the New Family with the Unity Candle

Often marriage is viewed as the union of only two persons. In reality, however, marriage is much broader.

As we give thanks for the love that brings _____ and _____ together, so too, we celebrate marriage as a merging of families and recognize the additional love and responsibility family and friends bring to this relationship.

We are, in fact, all members of one family – of God's family. This relationship is emphasized in the Bible where it is written in the letter from James: "And it was a happy day for God when we received our new lives, through the truth of God's word, and we became the first children in God's new family."

As part of the true nature of God's creation, we now recognize the larger family of _____ and _____. (Introduce by name.)

(If Family Medallion, here.)

We have three candles here representing this family, and I now invite _____ to light the two outside candles, signifying the larger family, that is now merging. (They light candles)

Through the strength of this light, all of you commit yourself to a new future, one which love has created and is creating before our very eyes. May we ever respect the sanctity of this gift.

By the grace of God's light and love, _____'s and _____'s paths have crossed, and as they now take the light from their families, representing their previous pathways, they will light the central candle, symbolizing the blending of their lives and those of their children (family), their oneness, and the light of God's love which will forever bless, inspire, and guide them.

Now, _____ and _____ hold hands and continue to look at the central flame which you have created. Now you will feel no cold, for each of you is warmth to the other. Now you will feel no rain, for each of you is shelter for the other. Now there is no more loneliness – only unity, for each of you are companion to the other. Now there are two persons, but there is only one life before you. In this moment, you enter into the days of your life together, and may your days be good and long upon the earth. May the blessing of light be with you always – light without and light within. Amen.