

**Subject: Wedding Ceremony**

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Adapted from Dr. Terry Cole Whittaker's ceremony

**Wedding Ceremony**

Wedding for \_\_\_\_\_ &

\_\_\_\_\_

Marriage is a deep and infinite bond of spiritual love between two individuals. A wedding is simply a public celebration of that bond. We are privileged to be present to celebrate the deep and spiritual bond of love...the marriage...that has already taken place in the lives of \_\_\_\_\_

(bride)

and \_\_\_\_\_.

(groom)

They have asked us to share this day of their marriage with them. The vows that \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are about to take is the foundation from which their lives together will continue to open into ever expanding levels of happiness, love, health and self-expression.

Who supports this man and woman in their marriage? (I/We do)

Those who are now married may wish to renew their vows today, and those who want to look ahead may wish to inwardly take the vows, or those who are uninterested in marriage may want to look at what it means to be a friend, for marriage is based on friendship.

The purpose of this marriage is to create a loving support unit in which both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ will be all they can be spiritually, mentally, and physically. Their first priority is their relationship with God, the

second is their relationship with each other and the third is their work and unique destinies. Their marriage is to enhance who they are and what they have as single people. They have chosen to be together in a marriage where they are safe to express their feelings, emotions and thoughts.

Marriage can be a great adventure when it is the outward expression of a great love. Such a love is characterized by compassion, passion, and courage. It makes you able to see through to your partner's essence: willing to be in total support of your partner's well being, goals, purpose and spirit; and unwilling for your partner to be less than all he or she can be spiritually, mentally and physically. Such a love requires that you be totally honest with yourself and with your mate, that you ask for what you want, take action even at times where you are afraid, share how it is for you, and listen...but leave your partner free.

Marriage is the form in which you have chosen to express and live your love relationship. To serve its purpose your marriage must change as you change, but your unchanging commitment to love and to life will allow you both to experience and share a magnificence unknown to you before.

We hold for you, because we hold for ourselves, a love that brings out your magnificence, a love that gives you the courage to stand apart and the willingness to stand together. We hold for you a home of private retreat.

Most of all we want, that at the end of your lives on this earth, you will be able to look into each other eyes and say: "Because you have loved me, you have given me faith in myself, and because I have faith in myself, I have loved my fellow man. My life with you has been complete".

(Song)

In the words of 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 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 and 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 the 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 in making one another happy.

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

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Will you join hands and face each other please. \_\_\_\_\_ look into  
(groom)

\_\_\_\_\_ 's being and repeat after me:

(bride)

"I, \_\_\_\_\_, love and support you, \_\_\_\_\_

(groom)

\_\_\_\_\_, for being all that you are,  
(bride)

And all that you are not, and all that you can be. Of all the women I have met and known, I choose you to be my wife. I love you, adore you, and cherish you all the days of my life.

\_\_\_\_\_, do you take \_\_\_\_\_ as  
(bride) (groom)

Your beloved husband? (reply)

\_\_\_\_\_ look into  
(bride)

\_\_\_\_\_ 's being and repeat after  
(groom)

Me:

I, \_\_\_\_\_, love and support you  
(bride)

\_\_\_\_\_, for being all that you are,  
(groom)

And all that you are not, and all that you can be. Of all the men I have met and known, I choose you to be my husband. I love you, adore you, and cherish you, all the days of my life.

\_\_\_\_\_, do you take  
(groom)

\_\_\_\_\_ as your beloved wife?  
(bride) (reply)

\_\_\_\_\_, what token of love do  
(groom)

You give to \_\_\_\_\_? (rings)  
(bride)

This ring is the symbol of the endless spiritual love that links you spirit to spirit.

\_\_\_\_\_, place this ring on  
(groom)

\_\_\_\_\_’s finger and repeat after  
(bride)

Me: this ring is the symbol of my unconditional love and support.

\_\_\_\_\_, what token of love do you  
(bride)

Give to \_\_\_\_\_? (rings)  
(groom)

This ring too is the symbol of the endless spiritual love that links you spirit to spirit.

\_\_\_\_\_, place this ring on  
(bride)

\_\_\_\_\_’s finger and repeat after me:  
(groom)

This ring is the symbol of my unconditional love and support.

### **Candle ceremony**

Through God’s light and love, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_’s  
(bride) (groom)

Paths have crossed. As they each take a candle, it represents their previous pathways. They, now together, light the central candle symbolizing their oneness in life, a life that radiates God’s love as it blesses, inspires and guides them.

(They light central candle)

Please join me in prayer:

Our Infinite Almighty Father, witness in every true marriage and sealer of this spiritual union blesses His children \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. I know that God is with them upon every step of their path together, blessing them with every goodness and truth, purity and wisdom, prosperity and contentment. Their minds are illumined with God's wisdom, their souls vivified with God's life and their hearts loved with Gods' love. Amen.

Inasmuch as \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ have agreed to the vows, under the authority of the United Church Of Religious Science and the power vested in me by this state, I joyfully pronounce you husband and wife. You may kiss.

### **Rose Ceremony**

It is now my very sacred privilege to be the first to address you as husband and wife, which you now are, and to present you with your first gift as a married couple.

In the language of flowers, the rose is a symbol of love and our gift to you is the gift of our love. (Present roses)

Now may I ask you to exchange your roses. In this exchange, you have given to each other your very first gift as husband and wife, which of course is the gift of love.

It would be our hope that wherever you make your home, there will be an especially appointed place for roses and that on each succeeding anniversary of this loving occasion, you commemorate to the appointed place, a rose, as a

restatement of your love and as a recommitment to the vows which you have made this day before God and everyone present.

In every marriage it is occasionally difficult to find words to resolve some of the issues which may arise. If and when such issues come to your marriage, if either of you will remember, and bring to the appointed place a rose, the other will see it and recognize the statement of love and accept it, because as we know love heals everything.

May the glory of God fill your lives with high purpose and deep meaning and provide you with the comfort of guidance and companionship throughout all the days of your wonderful years together. Amen.

May I present to you Mr. and Mrs.

\_\_\_\_\_!