

Opening Prayers (Prayers for beginning of ceremony)

Prayer (Option 1)

Let us Pray: Dear God, thank you for this joyous day. Thank you for Your Light that has entered Bride and Groom's life. Thank you for all the miracles and blessings. Please bless this union. Help Bride and Groom find the perfect place in this world for their love to flourish. Let the radiant light of their love shine on all those around them. May all their future creations be blessed? God, bless them with the inner gifts of trust, compassion, forgiveness and truth that they may live and grow together in love and peace. Amen.

Prayer (Option 2)

Father of mankind, whose nature is love, look with favor upon this woman and this man who desire to make their vows before you. We are grateful for the providence that has led to this union. Grant this to be more than an outward union, but also the blending of hearts and spirits and purposes. Bless each with the inward qualities of integrity, trust, cooperation and forgiveness that they may live together in love and peace. Amen.

Prayer (option 3) adapted from *Illuminate* by Marianne Williamson

Dear God, Please make of this relationship a great and holy adventure. May their joining be a sacred space? May the two of them find rest here, a haven for their souls? Remove from them any temptation to judge themselves or each other or to direct each other. May they surrender to you their conflicts and their burdens? We know You are their Answer and their rock. Help them not forget. Bring them together in heart and mind as well as body and guide them in the ways of holiness. May this relationship be a burst of light? May it be a fount of love and wisdom for them, for their family, for their community, and for their world? May this bond be a channel for your love and healing, a vehicle of Your grace and power. As lessons come and challenges grow, let them not be tempted to forsake each other. Let them always remember that in each other they have the most beautiful woman, the most beautiful man, the strongest one, the sacred one in whose arms we are repaired. May they remain young in this relationship? May they grow wise in this relationship? Bring them what you desire for them. And show them how you would have them be. Thank You, dear God.

Prayer (option 4)

Gracious God, spirit of life and love, we ask all blessings upon Groom and Bride in their life together. May they be blessed with patience, to see them through times of tensions or conflict? May they be blessed with kindness, to enable them to nurture and care for one another in times of pain or sorrow. May them be blessed with a spirit of play and joyfulness, that they may participate fully in the beauties and pleasures of creation. May they be blessed, finally, with knowledge of the ever-flowing presence of love in the world, that they may be channels of this love to one another and to all whom they meet in their life's journey. Amen.

"A Marriage...."by Mark Twain

"Makes of two fractional lives a whole ;It gives to two purposeless lives a work And doubles the strength of each to perform it It gives to two questioning natures a reason for living, And something to live for ;It will give a new gladness to the sunshine, A new fragrance to the flowers,A new beauty to the earth, And a new mystery to life"

"Love Is The Most IncredibleOf All The Experiences That Touch Our Lives"Author Unknown

"It creates for us the world that we want to live in. From the beginning of our lives ,we know that love is the power that comforts and protects us;It is the one feeling that we can depend upon to help us through life's ups and downs .Love is the understanding and security that never changes;It allows us to be ourselves and feel self confident. Today, as the two of you join together and commit your love to each other, remember the lessons of love that you have always known. Let your love comfort, support and encourage you .Let your love be the best part of your lives;Always know that it will make everything better and it will make your world a place of happiness.

Thoughts In a Garden, By R. Gerhardt

This is a special place, a place where people have brought beautiful living plants, here to establish them, to nurture and care for them, that they may forever surround us with the beauty we now see. And into this place where we stand, you have brought something beautiful -- the relationship that is becoming your marriage. Here you are declaring it and pledging it, promising to establish and nurture it. We are aware of the special beauty between the two of you, just as we are aware of the special beauty of this place. We are with you now in this appropriate place to celebrate your relationship as it is and as it is yet to be, and in doing so, we ask only that you remember how your life together will have the same seasons and needs as this garden. There will be growth like spring and loss like fall; there will be giving as the blossoming flower, and rest as the seed beneath the snow. All the seasons will be yours, but remember, too, that gardens are not must happenings. The more wonderful the garden, the more skilled the gardener. So you will have to care deeply for the life that is yours together, and nurture it. You will have to appreciate your differences and cultivate them. You will have to take care of yourself, if for no other reason than out of love for the other. And you will need the support of family and friends to reach full growth. As you caringly chose this place to declare your marriage, so remember its lessons for your life together through the seasons that are yours to share. And may those seasons bring you and yours joy and happiness.

The Covenant of Marriage

Marriage has certain qualities of contract, in which two people take on the housekeeping tasks of living, together, to enhance life's joy. However, marriage is more than a contract. Marriage is a commitment to take that joy deep, deeper than happiness, deep into the discovery of who you most truly are. It is a commitment to a spiritual journey, to a life of becoming -- in which joy can comprehend despair, running through rivers of pain into joy again. And thus marriage is even deeper than commitment. It is a covenant -- a covenant that says: I love you. I trust you. I will be here for you when you are hurting, And when I am hurting I will not leave. It is a covenant intended not to provide haven from pain or anger and sorrow. Life offers no such haven. Instead, marriage is intended to provide a sanctuary safe enough to risk loving, to risk living and sharing from the center of oneself. This is worth everything.

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The Lords' Prayer (Option 4)

Our Father who art in Heaven, hallow 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 those who 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.)
Amen

Prayer (option 5)

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