

## **Non-Religious ~ Cherish Your Love**

### **Welcome**

Friends & Family we have been invited here today to share with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ a very important moment in their lives. In the years they have been together, their love and understanding of each other has grown and matured, and now they have decided to live their lives together as husband and wife.

### **Address**

\_\_\_\_\_ And \_\_\_\_\_ as the two of you come into this marriage uniting you as husband and wife, and as you this day affirm your faith and love for one another, I would ask that you always remember to cherish each other as special and unique individuals, that you respect the thoughts, ideas and suggestions of one another. Be able to forgive, do not hold grudges, and live each day that you may share it together - as from this day forward you shall be each other's home, comfort and refuge, your marriage strengthened by your love and respect for each other.

### **Reading**

#### **“Love Is A Great Thing” by Thomas à Kempis**

Love is a great thing, yea, a great and thorough good. By itself it makes that is heavy light; and it bears evenly all that is uneven.

It carries a burden which is no burden; it will not be kept back by anything low and mean; it desires to be free from all worldly affections, and not to be entangled by any outward prosperity, or by any adversity subdued.

Love feels no burden, thinks nothing of trouble, attempts what is above its strength, pleads no excuse of impossibility. It is therefore able to undertake all things, and it completes many things, and warrants them to take effect, where he who does not love would faint and lie down.

Though weary, it is not tired; though pressed it is not straitened; though alarmed, it is not confounded; but as a living flame it forces itself upwards and securely passes through all.

Love is active and sincere, courageous, patient, faithful, prudent and manly.

**(Hands Blessing Ceremony) (optional)**

(GROOM) and (BRIDE) , please face each other and place your palms together so you may feel the gift that you are to one another.”

“These are the hands of your best friend, young and strong and full of love for you, that are holding yours on your wedding day, as you promise to love each other today, tomorrow, and forever.”

“These are the hands that will work alongside yours, as together you build your future.”

“These are the hands that will passionately love you and cherish you through the years and with the slightest touch will comfort you like no other.”

“These are the hands that will hold you when fear or grief wracks your mind.”

“These are the hands that will tenderly hold your children and support your grandchildren

“These are the hands that will help you to hold your family as one.”

“These are the hands that will give you strength when you need it.”

“And lastly, these are the hands that – even when wrinkled and aged – will still be reaching for yours, still giving you the same unspoken tenderness with just a touch.”

“Bless these hands that you see before you this day. May they always be held by one another. Give them the strength to hold on during the storms of stress and the dark of disillusionment. Keep them tender and gentle as they nurture each other in their wondrous love. Help these hands to continue building this relationship, rich in caring and devoted to reaching for perfection. May [GROOM’S NAME] and [BRIDE’S NAME] see their four hands as healer, protector, shelter and guide. May these hands and this relationship be blessed for all time.”

**Vows:**

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, I remind you that marriage is a precious gift; a lifelong dedication to love and a daily challenge to love one another more fully and more freely.

With this understanding, do you \_\_\_\_\_, take \_\_\_\_\_ to be your beloved wife?

Do you promise to be a tender, faithful husband?

Do you promise to love and cherish her, in sickness and in health, for richer for poorer, for better for worse, and keep yourself only unto her?

With this understanding, do you \_\_\_\_\_, take \_\_\_\_\_ to be your beloved husband?

Do you promise to be a tender, faithful wife?

Do you promise to love and cherish him, in sickness and in health, for richer for poorer, for better for worse, and keep yourself only unto him?

**Rings:**

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ have chosen rings as outward symbols of the commitment they make today.

From earliest times, the ring has been a symbol of wedded love. An unbroken and never-ending circle symbolizes a commitment to love that is also never ending.

\_\_\_\_\_, take the ring which you have selected, place it on \_\_\_\_\_'s finger, and say to her these words.

This ring, a gift for you, symbolizes my desire that you be my wife from this day forward.

\_\_\_\_\_, take the ring which you have selected, place it on \_\_\_\_\_'s finger, and say to him these words.

This ring, a gift for you, symbolizes my desire that you be my wife from this day forward.

Let these rings serve not as locks binding you together, but as keys, unlocking the secrets of your hearts for each other to know, and thus bringing you closer together forever.

**Unity/Sand or other tradition you wish to include (optional)**

**Closing:**

May the sun bring you new energy by day.

May the moon softly restore you by night.

May the rain wash away your worries.

And may you live the days of your lives in peace, love, and happiness.

**Pronouncement:**

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, having witnessed your vows for marriage with all who are assembled here, and by the authority vested in me, I announce with great joy that you are husband and wife.

**Kiss:**

You may seal your vows with a kiss.

**Presentation:**

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my honor to present to you, for the first time as husband and wife: \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_