

## Methodist

### Lighting of Candles by the mothers: (Optional)

To begin this ceremony, I would like to invite the two mothers to light the unity candle. In lighting these candles the two mothers honor the lives of their children, the lives they brought into this world. Their love for their children and support of this marriage, The two end candles represent the couple's individual lives different and unique.

### Greeting

Friends, we are gathered together here in the sight of God, and in the presence of these witnesses, to join together \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in Christian marriage. The covenant of marriage was established by God and sanctified by Jesus Christ, as he graced a wedding at Cana of Galilee. It is therefore not to be entered into unadvisedly, but reverently, discreetly, and in the love of God. Into this holy estate these two come now to be joined.

### Charge to the Couple

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ I require and charge you both, as you stand in the presence of God, before whom the secrets of all hearts are disclosed, that, having duly considered the holy covenant you are about to make, you do now declare before these people your pledge of faith, each to the other.

### Questions of Intent

GROOM:

\_\_\_\_\_, will you have \_\_\_\_\_ to be your wife, to live together in holy marriage? Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health; and forsaking all others be faithful to her as you both shall live? I will.

BRIDE:

\_\_\_\_\_, will you have \_\_\_\_\_ to be your husband, to live together in holy marriage? Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health; and forsaking all others, be faithful to him as you both shall live? I will.

Presentation of the Bride

Who presents \_\_\_\_\_ to be married to \_\_\_\_\_? I do or Her mother and I do . . . .

### Scripture

Genesis 2:18-24 – The two of them become one body.

The LORD God said: "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a suitable partner for him."

So the LORD God formed out of the ground various wild animals and various birds of the air, and he brought them to the man to see what he would call them; whatever the man called each of them would be its name. The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of the air, and all the wild animals; but none proved to be the suitable partner for the man.

So the LORD God cast a deep sleep on the man, and while he was asleep, he took out one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. The LORD God then built up into a woman the rib that he had taken from the man. When he brought her to the man, the man said: "This one, at last, is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called 'woman,' for out of 'her man' this one has been taken." That is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one body.

### Homily

Man and woman are made from the one flesh between a woman and a man that bond of love is special. The great bond is love. It enables to individuals one man and one woman to become one in their relationship—physically, mentally and spiritually. In that bond of love, if God is willing, a loving couple creates life just, as it were, that in his great love God created human beings. We are made in love for Love, is gift of God to us; Love is doing freely and willingly what we know we should do anyway.

Paul explains love in *Corinthians*. This love works most intimately in marriage. Your love for each other will be patient, it will be kind, it will not be jealous, it will not be arrogant. Love leads you to rejoice in one another and not to wish you were what the other is. Your individual uniqueness' brought you together to make you one complete unity. Love does not insist on its own way, love is not resentful; Love takes no pleasure in another's faults or failings, because these are a source of great sadness to the one who loves. Otherwise, there is no love. This is how God himself lives—in absolute love. In his image we, too, are happy when we live within all these attributes of love. Love between us is a covenant in which Getting even with each other has no place, or love dies. Be happy in love with each other.

(Bride & Groom)

Please face each other and join hands

### Vows

I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until we are parted by death. This is my solemn vow.

Or-

I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my (wife/husband) from this time onward, to join with you and share all that is to come, to give and to receive, to speak and to listen, to inspire and to respond, in all our life together and be loyal to you with my whole being, as long as we both shall live.

### Rings

May I have the rings or display them together in the ring plate:

These rings are an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace, signifying to us the union between Jesus Christ and His church, and signifying to all the uniting of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in holy marriage.

Bless, O Lord, the giving of these rings that they who wear them may abide in your peace, and continue in your favor all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

\_\_\_\_\_, I give you this ring as a sign of my vow, and with all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you; in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

\_\_\_\_\_, I give you this ring as a sign of my vow, and with all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you; in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

### Pronouncement

You have declared your consent and your vows before God and this congregation. May God confirm your covenant and fill you both with grace. Now that (Bride) and (Groom) have given themselves to one another, and have declared the same by joining of hands and by the giving and receiving of rings; I pronounce that they are husband and wife together, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### Unity Candle (optional)

### Blessing

O eternal God, creator of love, bless \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, that they may keep the vows and covenant between them, and always remain in perfect love and peace together. Grant that their love for each other may reflect the love of Christ for us, and that they may grow in grace and strength as they faithfully serve you in the world. Bless their home with gladness and laughter, with generosity and hospitality, that their love will extend to all those around them. Look graciously upon them, that they may love, honor, and cherish each other, and so live together in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and a place of peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray together:

Our Father, 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 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, forever. Amen.

### Kiss

You may seal your vows with a kiss

Introduction:

I am honored to introduce to you for the first time as husband & wife Mr. & Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_