

Ceremony / Service Draft

- **Processional** - Wedding music - this can be taped / arranged with the venue (optional)
- **Opening Words:**

We are here today to celebrate the marriage of Groom and Bride. A marriage is a very special ceremony. For Groom and Bride, this ceremony means that they will count on one another, that they will treat one another with care, and that they will continue to share their lives with each other as partners, as friends, and to go on building their future together. This ceremony expresses the spiritual bond that they experience together. Their union is not a time of static contentment with each other and the world around them, but an ongoing process of exploring the fullness of their individual persons and sharing their friendship and love with you, their friends and family.

I welcome the opportunity to give voice to my conviction that every relationship of love between human beings is holy, sacred, worthy of celebration and public affirmation. I am delighted today to perform this ceremony of marriage for two people who love and honor one another.

What greater thing is there for two human souls than to feel that they are joined together to strengthen each other in all labor, to minister to each other in all sorrow, to share with each other in all gladness, to be one with each other in the silent unspeakable memories?

Love is not some accident we fall into - as we grow in love, then there is the possibility that our tomorrows will be even more joyous, more tender and caressing, more devoted to life flowing through us; tomorrows more full of the thrill of life even as each today is better than yesterday. Love has the capacity for that magic. Perhaps only love has such

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capacity. This love does not start with a public ceremony; this ceremony is only a public testimony, a community YES to what already exists.

o **Exchange of Vows**

Groom and Bride, it is time to say the pledges which will affirm your marriage. Please take each other's hands, face each other, and repeat after me:

I, Groom, take you, Bride, to be no other than yourself. Loving and trusting what I know of you, with respect to your integrity, and with faith in your love for me, through our years together, and in all that life may bring us, I accept you as my partner for life.

I, Bride, take you, Groom, to be no other than yourself. Loving and trusting what I know of you, with respect to your integrity, and with faith in your love for me, through our years together, and in all that life may bring us, I accept you as my partner for life.

o **Exchange of Symbols**

We have a double-ring ceremony.

Do you, Groom, take this woman Bride, to be your wedded wife, to love, honor and cherish her through sickness and in health, through times of happiness and travail, until death do you part? (Answer I will, or I do) Please place the ring on her finger and repeat after me: With this ring, I thee wed, and forever pledge my devotion.

Do you Bride, take this man Groom, to be your wedded husband, to love, honor and cherish him through sickness and in health, through times of happiness and travail, until death do you part? (Answer I will, or I do) Please place the ring on his finger and repeat after me: With this ring, I thee wed, and forever pledge my devotion.

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- **Reading**

- **Reading:**

From the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians:

Love is patient. Love is kind, and envies no one.

Love is never boastful nor proud, nor rude,

Never selfish or quick to take offense.

Love keeps no score of wrongs, does not gloat over the mistakes of others but delights in the truth.

There is nothing love cannot face,

There is no limit to its faith, its hope, and its endurance.

In a word, there are three things that last forever:

faith, hope, and love.

And the greatest of these is love.

- **Pronouncement and Blessing:**

Groom and Bride, as you have chosen to join in a bond of marriage and have pledged yourselves to each other in the presence of family and friends, it is my joy and privilege in accordance with the law of Connecticut and by virtue of the authority vested in me by the law of Connecticut to pronounce you partners in life. You may kiss your spouse.

- **Blessing / Benediction / Closing Words**

Groom and Bride, having agreed in your desire to go forward together, seeking an even richer, deepening relationship because you see in each other that for which there are no words, and because you have pledged yourselves, one to the other, we rejoice to recognize that you are now husband and wife.

We rejoice this day in the marriage of Groom and Bride.

We celebrate the love that has brought you to this day. With joy that deepens through many years, may you know its meaning and its mystery--how you become truly one in

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sharing yourselves with one another and in caring for one another, and yet, in love,
remain truly two in your uniqueness.

May your house be a place of happiness for all who enter it, a place where the old and
the young are renewed in each other's company, a place for growing, a place for music, a
place for laughter.

And when shadows and darkness fall within its rooms, may it still be a place of hope and
strength for all who enter it, especially for those who are entrusted to your care.

May no person be alien to your compassion.

May your larger family be the family of all humankind.

And may the beauty and the bounty of your love for one another constantly enrich those
who are nearest to you and dearest to you. AMEN.

- **Recessional**