

# Marriage Ceremony

for

**[Her Names]**

and

**[His Names]**

Friends, we are gathered here today in the presence of God and in the face of this company to unite

**[She]** and **[He]**

In marriage, two persons turn to each other in search of greater fulfillment that neither can achieve alone. [She] and [He] come in our presence today to declare their love and be united in marriage, demonstrating their willingness to be joined by the holy bonds of matrimony and abide by the tenants that define their union.

Love is a living thing, waiting within each of us for an awakening touch. In this ceremony, which we will celebrate today, love comes to life for [She] and [He]. May this love grow sure, tender and strong.

What is marriage?

Marriage is a going forth, a bold step into the future. It is a gesture of faith, a commitment to what we yet may be. Only in giving of oneself and sharing with another can the mysterious process of growth take place. Only in loyalty and devotion, patience and kindness, compassion and support, can that which is eternal in life emerge and be known.

Happiness in marriage is not something that just happens. A good marriage must be created and recreated everyday. In the art of marriage, the little things are the big things. It is never being too old to hold hands. It is at no time taking the other for granted. It is finding pleasure in the simplest of moments. It is sharing laughter as well as tears. It is doing things with and for each other, not in the attitude of duty or sacrifice, but in the spirit of joy. It is remembering that the courtship does not end with this ceremony today, but must continue through all the years to come. It is not expecting the husband to wear a halo or the wife to have the wings of an angel. It is not looking for perfection in each other, but accepting each other as they are. It is cultivating flexibility, patience, understanding, and a sense of humor. It is not only marrying the right partner, it is being the right partner.

Marriage is the vessel in which all good things are stored. It is the knowledge that above all others, you have each other to turn to and rely on. It is the deep contentment that comes from knowing that no matter what happens, you'll always have each other to talk with, to laugh with, to cry with, to love. It is sharing a common belief and faith in God that will sustain you in trying times. It is the realization that what matters most is already here: the blessing of being loved.

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And now, [She] and [He] will state their promise of love to each other.

Do you [He] take [She] as she is and ask that she be no one but herself? Do you love what you know about her and trust what you have yet to learn? Do you respect her and take her in laughter and in tears, in weakness and in strength, in success and failure, in doubt and trust, as your wife, your equal, your lover, and friend?

[He]: "I do."

Do you [She] take [He] as he is and ask that he be no one but himself? Do you love what you know about him and trust what you have yet to learn? Do you respect him and take him in laughter and in tears, in weakness and in strength, in success and failure, in doubt and trust, as your husband, your equal, your lover, and your friend?

[She]: "I do."

[He], what token do you offer that you will be true to these vows?

[He]: "I offer this ring."

[She], do you receive this ring as a pledge to be true to these vows?

[She]: "I do."

[He], repeat after me: With this ring I wed you and pledge my faithful love to you.

[She], what token do you offer that you will be true to these vows?

[She]: "I offer this ring."

[He], do you receive this ring as a pledge to be true to these vows?

[He]: "I do."

[She], repeat after me: With this ring I wed you and pledge my faithful love to you.

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### Join Hands

And so, in as much as [She] and [He] have consented together in holy wedlock and have witnessed the same before God and this company, and there to have given and pledged their faith to each other, and have declared the same by joining hands, I do, by the virtue and power vested in me by the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as Magisterial District Judge, pronounce that they are husband and wife. And let no one put asunder those who have been joined together before God and this company.

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[Her Names] and [His Names] were joined together in marriage, according to the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania this 31<sup>st</sup> day of December in the year of our lord, two thousand and five, and of the Commonwealth the two hundred and thirtieth.

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BY THE COURT

(seal)

**Given** *under my hand and seal of the District Court, in the County of Chester, in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, this 31<sup>st</sup> day of December, in the year of our Lord, two thousand and five, and of the commonwealth the two hundred and thirtieth.*