

Wedding Ceremony

_____ and _____ for the widening of their love and the deepening of their joy have decided to marry, and we are gathered here this _____ as friends, family and witnesses to their commitment.

As we begin this ceremony, I would like us to think about the principal reason for this union, being in love, and share a poem by James Russell Lowell entitled "True Love":

True Love is but a humble, low born thing,
And hath its food served up in earthenware.
It is a thing to walk with, hand in hand,
Through the everydayness of this work-day world
Baring its tender feet to every flint,
Yet letting not one heart-beat stray
From nature's law of plainness and content.
A simple, fireside thing, whose quiet smile
Can warm earth's poorest hovel to a home...
Such is true love, which steals into the heart
With feet as silent as the lightsome dawn;
That kisses smooth the rough brows of the dark,
And hath its will through blissful gentleness...
A love that gives and takes, that seeth faults,
Not with the flaw-seeking eyes like needlepoints,
But living kindly ever looks them down
With the o-vercoming faith that still forgives.
A love that shall be new and fresh each hour,
As is the sunset's golden mystery,
Or the sweet coming of the evening star,
Alike and yet most unlike, every day,
And seeming ever best and fairest now...

_____, will you have _____ as your lawfully wedded wife?

_____, will you have _____ as your lawfully wedded husband?

Do you and each of you promise to love and comfort one another, to honor and stand by one another in sickness as in health, in adversity as in prosperity, keeping faith with one another from this day forward?

_____, have you a symbol and token of your love and esteem for _____?

As you place this ring on her finger, please repeat after me:

With this ring I marry you and join my life with yours.
I choose you above all others, to share my life with you
And to live with you just as you are.

_____, have you a symbol and token of your love and esteem for _____?

As you place this ring on his finger, please repeat after me:

With this ring I marry you and join my life with yours.
I chose you above all others, to share my life with you
And to live with you just as you are.

I would like to close with the following poem by P.B. Shelley entitled "Love's Philosophy":

The fountains mingle with the river,
And the rivers with the Ocean,
The winds of heaven mix forever
With a sweet emotion.
Nothing in the world is single,
All things by a law divine
In one spirit mingle.
Why not I with thine?

See the mountains kiss the high Heaven
And the clouds clasp one another.
No sister flower would be forgiven
If it disdained its brother.
And the sunlight clasps the earth
And the moonbeams kiss the sea.
What is all this sweet work worth
If thou kiss not me?

Now by virtue of the authority vested in me by the statutes of the State of Colorado, I pronounce you husband and wife. Remember, we cannot choose what chances and changes befall us, but we can shape the spirit with which we shall meet them. You may kiss your bride.