

# Christian Wedding Ceremony

The Swedenborg Chapel

Dear family and friends of: **Bride and Groom:** we are gathered here today in the presence of the Lord to celebrate their union in marriage. The holy relationship of marriage was ordained by the Lord from the beginning, and is therefore to be honored among all peoples. It is to be entered into joyfully, thoughtfully, lovingly and reverently. With this desire, these two people come now to be united.

Presentation of the Bride  
(Mother may stand or step forward)

**Father,** your being here this day is a symbol of your blessing upon this marriage, which is very important to your daughter. Do you therefore, present **Bride** for her marriage to **Groom** granting them your love and blessings? **(I/We do: or Her mother and I do).**

## The Vision

**Groom and Bride,** your marriage relationship offers you the highest and most intimate experience of love. The growing bond of affection, trust and mutual concern can bring you into a fuller life than either of you could achieve alone. As you share with each other your created differences as man and woman, your life together will become richer, more complete, and more soul-satisfying. Marriage, in this high sense, is a uniting on all the levels of your beings; body, mind, heart and spirit. The longer you live together and the more you grow and develop as individuals, the more you will have to contribute to your marriage.

The very nature of love is to want to give to another, to give ever more fully, feeling joy in the joy of another. How exquisitely true this is of the marriage love that brings you together. This love calls forth the best qualities in each of you, seeking to break down the barriers of selfishness and mistrust and all that would keep you apart. Opening the way to a deeper understanding and sensitivity, marriage love enables you to respond more fully to the desires and needs of each other. In this mutual growing together, you gain increasing respect for each other as persons, because marriage love never seeks to dominate or possess.

As you stand here in this high moment, know that love, loyalty and trust are the foundations of a happy and lasting marriage. As you strive to fulfill the commitment you make here, your life together will be increasingly full of joy, satisfaction and peace. In all the events of your life together, hold fast to the vision of this, your wedding day.

## Intentions

**Groom,** in light of this vision of life together, is it your intention to take this woman to be your wife, that you may live together in the holy bond of marriage? Will you strive to love and honor her; will you comfort her and be faithful to her so long as you both shall live? I WILL

**Bride,** in light of this vision of life together, is it your intention to take this man to be your husband, that you may live together in the holy bond of marriage? Will you strive to love and honor him; will you comfort him and be faithful to him, so long as you both shall live? I WILL

## Marriage Vows (Wedding Party Steps forward)

I, **Groom** take you, **Bride** to be my wife from this time onward, 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, and in all of our life together, to be loyal to you with my whole life and with all my being.

I, **Bride** take you, **Groom** to be my 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, and in all of our life together to be loyal to you with my whole life and with all my being.

## Rings held by **Who**

These rings are a symbol of the vows that you share here this day. May the Lord's blessings be upon these rings and enable them to serve as a constant reminder of the love and devotion that you share.

(**Groom** puts ring on **Bride's** finger, she says) In receiving this ring, I accept you as my husband in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

(**Bride** puts ring on **Groom's** finger, he says) In receiving this ring, I accept you as my wife in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

## Marriage Prayer

O Lord Jesus Christ, every good and perfect gift flows forth from you. We give thanks to you for your gift of love, and especially at this time for marriage love which draws us close to each other; leading us to eternal union.

We pray that **Bride and Groom** may know this love, and growing together as wife and husband may experience its joys and delights and lasting satisfactions.

May they find support from their family and friends throughout their lives together. Let us continually rejoice with them as we rejoice during this high hour, and may you bless them with happiness, strength and love that endure throughout life's many changes.

In your most holy name we pray, Amen.

## Signing of Marriage License

**Groom and Bride,** at your sides are \_\_\_\_\_ very important people in your lives. You have asked **Best Man and Maid of Honor** to share this day with you as witnesses to your marriage, and part of this responsibility is that they sign your marriage license. We will now do this, and thus finalize the commitment you make here this day.

## Candle Lighting

Throughout the ages light has been seen by humanity as a symbol of truth. In beginning your new life together, you know that deep within your hearts lies the truth that you are each right for each other, that you can share with each other thoughts that no one else can understand, feelings that no one else can sense, and joys that no one else can comprehend.

In lasting marriage, the light of this truth is never extinguished, in spite of problems, struggles and difficulties, it endures. In fact, it can come to shine all the brighter over the years. The hope and prayers of everyone gathered here today is that the light of your love will shine for years to come, that it will enable you to build a strong and loving home, and that you will forever dwell in its warmth. Will you now both come forward and light the common candle.

Pronouncement  
(Couple holding hands)

**Groom and Bride** you have here this day celebrated your union in marriage by exchanging vows and rings. In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and by the laws of the beautiful State of Ohio, I now pronounce you husband and wife.

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May he look upon you with his favor and mercy, and fill you with love and devotion, that in your life together you may find joy and fulfillment. Amen.

Wedding Kiss

Presentation

It is my pleasure to present to you **Names**

---

If you have any questions about customizing this ceremony or would like to schedule your wedding, please feel free to contact our minister, Rev. Nadine Cotton at 216 351-8093 during office hours or email [swedenborgchapel@att.net](mailto:swedenborgchapel@att.net)