

IMPORTANT NOTE: *You can design your own ceremony. These are suggestions for wedding ceremonies. You may delete any part or parts you wish, or include and add other parts or paragraphs from other ceremonies as you wish. You may also compose and include whatever you find to be appropriate. Please print the ceremony of your choice and customize to your liking, then send it to me so that I may read it at your ceremony.*

No. 2 MARRIAGE CEREMONY

Officiant: Hon. John Edward Cass

Processional

(_____)

Presentation of the Bride

Who gives (Bride: _____) to be married to (Groom: _____) ?

(Father, Friend, etc.: _____) **of the Bride: Ex:** Her mother and I do.

The Bride is presented.

Convocation

Friends, we are gathered here at this hour to witness and to celebrate the coming together of two separate lives. We have come to join this man, (_____), and this woman (_____), in marriage, to be with them and rejoice with them in the making of this important commitment. The essence of this commitment is the taking of another person in his or her entirety, as lover, companion, and friend.

It is therefore a decision not to be entered into lightly, but rather undertaken with great consideration and respect for both the other person and oneself.

Love is one of the highest experiences we as human beings can have. It can add depth of meaning to our lives. The sensual part of love is one of life's greatest joys, and when this is combined with real friendship, both are infinitely enhanced. The day-to-day companionship – the pleasure in doing things together, or in doing separate things but in delighting to exchange experiences – is a continuous and central part of what two people who love each other can share.

Marriage symbolizes the intimate sharing of two lives, yet this sharing must not diminish, but enhance the individuality of each partner. A marriage that lasts is one which is continually developing and in which each person is individually developing while growing in understanding of the other. Deep knowledge of another is not something that can be achieved in a short time, and the real understanding of the other's feelings can fully develop only with years of intimacy.

This wonderful knowledge of another person grows out of really caring for the other so much that one wants to understand as completely as possible what the other is feeling. Thus it is possible to share not only joys and successes, but also the burden of sorrows and failures.

To be known in this way is a priceless thing, because such understanding and acceptance makes it easier to live with our problems, our failings and our worries.

While marriage is the intimate sharing of two lives, it can enhance the differences and individuality of each partner. We must give ourselves in love, but we must not give ourselves away. A good and balanced relationship is one in which neither person is overpowered or absorbed by the other.

Thus it is out of the tension between separateness and union that love, whose incredible strength is equal only to its incredible fragility, is born.

(Reading or Music – optional)

(The Bride and Groom have asked () to deliver the following reading:)

We are here today to celebrate the love which () and () have for each other, and to recognize their decision to accept each other totally and permanently. Into this state of marriage these two persons come to be united.

The Marriage Vows

Please face each other and hold hands.

TO GROOM: (), please place this ring on ()'s finger. Do you (), take (), as your wife? Do you pledge to share your life openly with her to speak the truth to her in love; do you promise to

tenderly care for her, to cherish and encourage her own fulfillment as an individual through all the changes of your lives?

If yes, say "I do".

TO BRIDE: (), please place this ring on
('s) finger.

Do you, (), take (), as your husband? Do you pledge to share your life openly with him, to speak the truth to him in love; do you promise to tenderly care for him, to cherish and encourage his own fulfillment as an individual through all the changes of your lives?

If yes, say "I do".

Pronouncement of Marriage

May these two people now married, keep this covenant they have made. May they be a blessing and a comfort to each other, sharers of each other's joys, consolers in each other's sorrows, helpers to each other in all the challenges of life. May they encourage each other in whatever they set out to achieve. May they trust in each other, trust life and not be afraid. Yet may they not only accept and give affection between themselves, but also together have affection and consideration for others.

We who are present, and those who are absent thinking of these two people, hope that the inspiration of this hour will not be forgotten. May

they continue to love one another forever. By the power vested in me by the State of Minnesota, I now pronounce you husband and wife. You may kiss each other.

Introduction

I now present (_____).

Recessional

(_____)

Postlude

(_____)

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