

**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. 6 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**

Beloved family and 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 (Bride: \_\_\_\_\_ ) and (Groom: \_\_\_\_\_ ) in marriage, to be with them and rejoice with them in the making of this important commitment. The core of this commitment is the acceptance of another person in his and her entirety, as lover, companion and friend.

Readings: (Can be read by a friend or the Judge.)

Let me not to the marriage of true minds

Admit impediments; love is not love

Which alters when it alteration finds,

Or bends with the remover to remove.  
Oh No! It is an ever-fixed mark  
That looks on tempests and is never shaken;  
It is the star to every wand'ring bark,  
Who's worth's unknown, although his height be taken.  
Love's not Time's fool, though rose lips and cheeks,  
Within his bending sickle's, compass come;  
Love alters not with its brief hours and weeks,  
But bears it out even to the edge of doom.  
If this be error and upon me proved,  
I never writ, nor no man ever loved.

William Shakespeare

Sonnet 116

Grow old along with me!  
The best is yet to be,  
The last of life, for which the first was made...

Robert Browning

## ADDRESS

( ) and ( ), marriage is the joining of two lives, the physical and emotional union of two human beings who have separate families and histories, separate destinies and tragedies. It is the merging and intermeshing not only of two bodies and two personalities, but also of two life stories. You are individuals, each of whom has a unique and life-shaping past, and you have willingly chosen to set aside the solitary life and join your lives together.

Today you wed an unknown. In a sense the person you join with now is a stranger about whom you have a magnificent hunch. The person you choose to marry is someone you love, but your partner's depths or intimate intricacies you will come to know only in the long unraveling of time. You know enough about your beloved to know that you love, and to be certain that as time goes on, you will come to enjoy and love each other even more. Together you are embarking on a journey of discovery and exploration, a path down which you will experience your lives more fully.

Swept up by attraction, attention, romance and hope, you have agreed to come together for the unknown future, to see where the journey will take you. This companionship on life's journey is the hallmark of marriage, its natural province, it's sweetest and most basic gift. To be

married means you belong with someone else, that you are no longer alone, that you no longer must eat and sleep, dream, wake, walk, talk, think, and live apart. Indeed, your life is enhanced because you no longer face it unaccompanied. You will now live in the enriching presence of another human being, no longer facing the troubling, heart-rending hurts of your life in isolation. In marriage you are delivered from your seclusion, embraced in the nest of human company, so that the sharp teeth of the truth that you were born alone and will die alone is blunted by the miracle of a loving companion.

Marriage also nourishes love. It is the protective environment in which a love that is personal, touching and real can grow and allow you to develop as individuals, as well as husband and wife. In marriage you can depend upon the other for the support you need as you grow, because you are saying not only “I love you today” but also, “I promise to love you tomorrow, the next day, and always.”

In promising always, you promise to each other time. You promise to exercise your love, to stretch it far enough to embrace the unforeseen realities of the future. You promise to learn to love behind the levels of your instincts and inclinations, to love in foul weather as well as good, in hard times as well as when you are exhilarated by the pleasures of romance.

You change because of these promises. You shape yourself according to them; you live in their midst and live differently because of them. You feel protected because of them. You try some things and choose not to try others because, having promised, you feel secure. Marriage makes you feel free, to see, to be, and to love. Your soul is protected; your heart has come home.

***(Reading or Music – optional)***

We are here today then 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**

Will you, ( ), take ( ), for your wedded wife, to live together in matrimony? Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others, keep yourself only unto her?

If yes, say "I will."

Will you, ( ), take ( ), for your wedded husband, to live together in matrimony? Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others, keep yourself only unto him?

If yes, say "I will."

**Pronouncement of Marriage**

For inasmuch as ( ) and ( )  
have consented together in wedlock and have declared the same before  
me and in the presence of this company, 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***

(\_\_\_\_\_)

*Judge John Edward Cass*  
[JEC@weddingsinthestcroixvalley.net](mailto:JEC@weddingsinthestcroixvalley.net)  
*Phone: 651.303.4087*  
*Web: [www.WeddingsInTheStCroixValley.net](http://www.WeddingsInTheStCroixValley.net)*