

## **MARRIAGE CEREMONY – Long Version**

### **ENTRANCE SONG**

*Bride and groom will join hands.*

We are gathered together this evening, in the presence of these witnesses, to join (Groom) and (Bride) in the bonds of matrimony, which is an honorable estate, and is not be entered into unadvisedly or lightly, but reverently and thoughtfully, yet with great joy, enthusiasm, love, spirit and passion.

We are witnessing an important event in the lives of these two friends. This is the time you have chosen to become husband and wife. We are here, not only to witness your commitment to each other, but also to wish you much happiness in your future life together. Within its framework of commitment and loyalty, marriage enables the establishment of a home, where - through trust, patience and respect - the love and affection you have for each other may develop into a deep and lasting relationship.

We, who are witnessing your marriage, hope that despite the stresses inevitable in any life, your love, your respect for each other, your trust and understanding of each other will increase your commitment to each other and bring heightened joy to each new day.

Every day you live, you will learn how to receive love with as much understanding as you give it. Find things within yourself, that you can share with each other.

Have an open heart and a sincere mind. Be sincerely interested in each others' happiness. Be constant and consistent in your love. From this comes security and strength. Try to commit yourselves fully and freely to each other as you join your two families into one.

Into this estate, (Bride and Groom) come to be joined. If anyone can show just cause why they may not lawfully be married, let them speak now or forever hold their peace.

(Groom), will you have this woman, (Bride), to be your lawfully wedded wife, to live together in the covenant of matrimony? Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others, keep you only unto her, so long as you both shall live?

*I will.*

(Bride), will you have this man, (Groom), as your lawfully wedded husband, to live together in the covenant of matrimony? Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others, keep you only unto him, so long as you both shall live?

*I will.*

The wedding ring is a traditional symbol which commemorates the marriage. Without beginning or end and with no point of weakness, the circle of the ring is a reminder of the constant union of husband and wife.

(Groom), please place the ring on (Bride's) finger, and repeat after me: "With this ring, I thee wed."

*With this ring, I thee wed.*

(Bride), please place the ring on (Groom's) finger, and repeat after me: "With this ring, I thee wed."

*With this ring, I thee wed.*

(Groom) and (Bride), during this ceremony, you have made special promises to each other, which have been symbolized by the joining of hands, exchanging of vows, and giving and receiving of rings. You have consented together to be joined in wedlock, and witnessed before this company, you have pledged each to the other, and declared the same by the joining of hands.

I, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Maine, hereby pronounce you husband and wife.

Congratulations! You may kiss the bride.