

**Officiant:** We have come together here in celebration of the joining together of **BRIDE** and **GROOM** There are many things to say about marriage. Much wisdom concerning the joining together of two souls has come our way through all paths of belief and from many cultures. With each union, more knowledge is gained and more wisdom gathered. The law of life is love unto all beings. If we learn no more in life, let it be this. Marriage is a bond to be entered into only after considerable thought and reflection. As with any aspect of life, it has its cycles, its ups and its downs, its trials and its triumphs. With full understanding of this, **BRIDE** and **GROOM** have come here today to be joined as one in marriage.

If anyone present knows a reason why **BRIDE** and **GROOM** may not lawfully marry, please declare it now or forever hold your peace. **BRIDE** and **GROOM**, if either of you knows a reason why you may not lawfully marry, please declare it now.

Others would ask, at this time, who gives the bride in marriage, but, as a woman is not property to be bought and sold, given and taken, I ask simply if she comes of her own will and if she has her family's blessing.

**BRIDE**, if it is true that you come of your own free will and accord answer "Yes, it is true."

**Bride:** Yes, it is true.

**Officiant:** Family : Do you offer your blessings to **BRIDE**. If you do please say, "We Do."

**Those Gathered:** We Do.

**Officiant:** Please join hands with your beloved and listen to that which I am about to say.

Above you are the stars, below you are the stones, as time does pass, remember... Like a stone should your love be firm like a star should your love be constant. Let the powers of the mind and of the intellect guide you in your marriage, let the strength of your wills bind you together, let the power of love and desire make you happy, and the strength of your dedication make you inseparable. Be close, but not too close. Possess one another, yet be understanding. Have patience with one another, for storms will come, but they will pass quickly. Be free in giving affection and warmth. Have no fear and let not the ways of the unenlightened give you unease, for God is with you always.

### *Ring Ceremony*

**GROOM**, I have not the right to bind you to you **BRIDE**, only you have this right. If it is your wish please say, "It is my wish."

If it be your wish, say so at this time and place your ring in her hand.

**GROOM:** It is my wish.

**Officiant:** **BRIDE**, if it be your wish for **GROOM** to be bound to you, place the ring on his finger. (BRIDE places ring on GROOM's left ring finger)

**BRIDE** I have not the right to bind tyou to **GROOM** only you have this right. If it be your wish, say so at this time. ...and place your ring in his hand.

**Bride:** It is my wish.

**Officiant:** **GROOM**, if it be your wish for **BRIDE** to be bound to you, place the ring on her finger. (GROOM places ring on BRIDE's left ring finger)

**Officiant:** **GROOM** please repeat after me: I, **GROOM**, by the life that courses within my blood and the love that resides within my

heart, take you **BRIDE** to my hand, my heart, and my spirit, to be my chosen one.

**Officiant:** **BRIDE** please repeat after me “I **BRIDE**, by the life that courses within my blood, and the love that resides within my heart, take you, **GROOM** to my hand, my heart, and my spirit to be my chosen one.

### *Handfasting Ceremony*

**Officiant:** **GROOM and BRIDE** Is it also your wish today that your hands be fasted in the ways of old?” If this is true please answer “It is.”

**GROOM and BRIDE:** “It is.”

**Officiant:** “Remember then as your hands are fasted, these are not the ties that bind...”

(Stoll is held aloft)

**Officiant:** The role already taken by the song your hearts share shall be now be strengthened by the vows you take. All things of the material world eventually return to the Earth unlike the bond and the connection your spirits share which is destined to ascend to the heavens.

May you be forever as one in the passion and fire of you

**Officiant:** **BRIDE and GROOM**, please hold hands and look into each other's eyes.

(**BRIDE'S** left hand holds **GROOM'S** right hand)

Will you honor and respect one another, and seek to never break that honor? If this is true please answer “We Will”

GROOM and BRIDE: "We will."

Will you share each other's pain and seek to ease it?

GROOM and BRIDE: "We will."

Will you share the burdens of each so that your spirits may grow in this union?

GROOM and BRIDE: "We will."

Will you share each other's laughter, and look for the brightness in life and the positive in each other?

GROOM and BRIDE: "We will."

Officiant: BRIDE and GROOM, as your hands are now bound together, so your lives are joined in a union of love and trust. The knots of this binding symbolize the vows you have made. Like the stars, your love should be a constant source of light, and like the earth, a firm foundation from which to grow.

May this knot of love remain forever tied, and may these hands be blessed. May they always be held by one another. May they have the strength to hold on tightly during the storms of life. May they remain tender and gentle as they nurture each other. May these hands build a relationship of love, caring, and devotion. May BRIDE and GROOM see each other's hands as healer, protector, shelter and guide.

You are now as your hearts have always known you to be. By the power vested in me by God and the marriage act of the Province of Ontario, I now pronounce you Husband and Wife. May your love so endure that its flame remains a guiding light unto you.

GROOM You may kiss the bride!"

## Signing of the Marriage Register

**Officiant:** To All who have gathered here let me introduce to you for the very first time Mrs. and Mr. **BRIDE** and **GROOM** (**LASTNAME**)