

**ORDER OF SERVICE**

Opening Statement

Words on Relationship

Vows & Rings

Reading – Blessing for a Marriage

Pronouncement

**OPENING STATEMENT**

We have gathered together to witness and celebrate the marriage of, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Love is both our highest achievement and life’s most precious gift. When such a true bond of love exists between a man and a woman, it is proper that an outer acknowledgement be made. This acknowledgement is reason why we are here right now.

**WORDS ON RELATIONSHIP**

Your marriage today is an outer commitment of a deepening relationship shared by you both. Today you are taking into your care and keeping the happiness of the one in the world whom you love best. You are agreeing to be a tower of strength for each other. You are agreeing to carry a part of each other’s responsibilities. It is your challenge is to create an atmosphere of freedom in which you both can develop your full potentials. It is working together in an attitude of service for common goals. It is sharing from the depths of your being in the understanding presence of each other. It is the covenant of love that accepts weakness as well as strength.

**VOWS OF INTENTION**

The symbolic vows that you are about to make are a way of saying to one another, “You know all those things that we’ve promised, and hoped, and dreamed – well, I meant it all, every word.” \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as you stand in this place, I ask you to declare now your pledge of faith and commitment, each to the other with these vows:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ do you choose \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to be your lawfully wedded wife, your best friend and companion and will you, cherish and respect her, comfort and encourage her, as long as you both shall live?

Answer: I DO

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ , do you choose, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to be your lawfully wedded husband, your best friend and companion and will you cherish and respect him, comfort and encourage him, as long as you both shall live?

Answer: I DO

**RINGS**

May I please have the rings. These rings are a symbol of the truth of the vows you have spoken and mark the beginning of a long journey you will continue to share together filled with wonder, surprises, laughter, celebration, and joy. May these rings forever glow in the reflection of the love that flows through you, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_\_\_**,** today and always.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ , please place the ring on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_’s finger and repeat after me:

You are my beloved / and you are my best friend. / With this ring I wed you / and join my life with yours.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ , please place the ring on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_’s finger and repeat after me:

You are my beloved / and you are my best friend. / With this ring I wed you / and join my life with yours.

**READING-BLESSING FOR A MARRIAGE by James Dillet Freeman**

May your marriage bring you all the exquisite excitements a marriage should bring, and may life grant you also patience, tolerance, and understanding. May you always need one another—not so much to fill your emptiness as to help you to know your fullness.

A mountain needs a valley to be complete; the valley does not make the mountain less, but more; and the valley is more a valley because it has a mountain towering over it. So let it be with you and you.

May you need one another, but not out of weakness.

May you want one another, but not out of lack. May you entice one another, but not compel one another. May you succeed in all the important ways with one another and not fail in the little graces. May you look for things to praise, often say, “I love you!” and take no notice of small faults. If you have quarrels that push you apart, may both of you hope to have good sense enough to take the first step back.

May you enter into the mystery which is the awareness of one another’s presence—no more physical than spiritual, warm and near when you are side by side, and warm and near when you are in separate rooms or even in distant cities. May you have happiness, and may you find it in making one another happy.

May you have love, and may you find it in loving one another!

**PRONOUNCEMENT**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_\_\_by exchanging vows and rings, you have declared your marriage to each other in the presence of witnesses.

By the power vested in me, by the State of MO, and in the name of LOVE, I pronounce you husband and wife.

**(GROOM), YOU MAY KISS YOUR BRIDE.**

Family and friends, I now present to you, Mr. and Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_\_\_**!**