

Civil Marriage Readings and Poems

Please see below samples of readings, poems etc. All of these are appropriate to include in your Ceremony and a lovely way to involve family member(s) and/or friend(s.)

If you decide upon alternative readings etc. please ensure these are submitted to the Registrar for approval, at least 4 weeks prior to your Ceremony.

Personal Welcome 1 to be read by a family member or friend

Family and friends, each one of you has been invited here this afternoon to bear witness to (Party 1's Name) & (Party 2's Name) solemn wedding vows.

Each one of you will have played a special part in (Party 1's Name) & (Party 2's Name) life or in their friendship together.

Each one of you will be full of hope that today will not only be the happiest day of their lives so far, but much more, that it will be the start of one great union with many happy days ahead.

Each one of you will recall special times gone by and will remember too, those who cannot be with us today, but whom we know would so loved to have been.

We hope that you enjoy yourselves today and we trust that following today's celebration you will continue to play a very special part in their lives together.

Personal Welcome 2 to be read by a family member or friend

Family and friends, each one of you has been invited here this afternoon to bear witness to (Party 1's Name) & (Party 2's Name) solemn wedding vows.

Each one of you will have played a special part in (Party 1's Name)'s life or (Party 2's Name)'s life or in their friendship together.

Each one of you will be full of hope that today will not only be the happiest day of their lives so far, but much more, that it will be the start of one great union with many happy days and years ahead.

Each one of you can enjoy the privilege of being here today and it is (Party 1's Name) & (Party 2's Name)'s hope that following today's magnificent celebration you will continue to play a very special part in their lives together.

The Miracle of Marriage

Marriage is a union of two people in love
And love is sheer magic for its woven of
Gossamer dreams enchantingly real
That people in love are privileged to feel.

But the 'exquisite ecstasy' that captures the heart
Of two people in love is just a small part
Of the beauty and wonder and miracle of
The growth and fulfilment and evolution of love.

For only long years of living together
And sharing and caring in all kinds of weather
Both pleasure and pain, the glad and the sad
Teardrops and laughter, the good and the bad
Can add new dimension and lift love above
The rapturous ecstasies of 'falling in love'.

For ecstasy passes, but it is replaced
By something much greater that cannot be defaced,
For what was 'in part' has now 'become whole' –
For on the 'wings of the flesh', love entered the soul.

Helen Steiner Rice

Marriage Blessing

Give the highest priority to the tenderness, gentleness and kindness that your connection deserves.

When frustration, difficulty and fear assail your friendship, remember to focus on what is right between you not only the part that seems to be wrong. In this way you can ride out the storms when clouds hide the face of the sun in your lives, remembering that even if you lose sight of it for a moment, the sun is still there.

If each of you takes responsibility for the quality of your life together, that life will be marked by abundance and delight.

May beauty surround you both in the journey ahead and through all the years.

May happiness be your companion and your days together are good and long upon the earth.

Traditional Apache Prayer

Now you feel no rain,
For each of you will be shelter to the other.

Now you will feel no cold,
For each of you will be warmth to the other.

Now there is no more loneliness,
For each of you will be companion to the other.

Now you are two persons,
But there is only one life before you.

May beauty surround you both in the journey ahead
and through all the years.
May happiness be your companion

And your days together be good and long upon the earth
And may you share nothing but joy from this day forward.

On Our Wedding Day

Today is a day you will always remember
The greatest in anyone's life
You'll start off the day just two people in love
And end it as husband and wife.

It's a brand new beginning the start of a journey
With moments to cherish and treasure
And although there'll be times when you both disagree
These will surely be outweighed by pleasure

You'll have heard many words of advice in the past
When the secrets of marriage were spoken
But you know that the answers lie hidden inside
Where the bond of true love lies unbroken

So live happy forever as lovers and friends
It's the dawn of a new life for you
As you stand there together, with love in your eyes
From the moment you whisper "I do"

And with luck all your hopes and your dreams can be real
May success find its way to your hearts
Tomorrow can bring you the greatest of joys
But today is the day that it starts.

What is a Soulmate?

If you have found a smile
that is the sweetest one you've known,
if you have heard, within a voice,
the echoes of your own,
if you have felt a touch
that stirs the longings of your heart
and still can feel that closeness
in the moments you're apart,
if you have filled with wonder
at the way two lives can blend
to weave a perfect pattern
that is seamless, end to end,
if you believe that some things in life
are simply meant to be
then you have found your soul mate,
your heart's own destiny.

Marriage

Marriage is a commitment to life, the best that two people can find and bring out in each other.

It offers opportunities for sharing and growth that no other relationship can equal.

It is a physical and an emotional joining that is promised for a lifetime.

Within the circle of its love, marriage encompasses all life's most important relationships.

A wife/husband and a husband/wife are each other's best friend, confident, lover, teacher, listener and critic.

And there may come times when one partner is heartbroken or ailing, and the love of the other may resemble the tender caring of a parent for a child.

Marriage deepens and enriches every facet of life.

Happiness is fuller, memories are fresher, commitment is stronger, even anger is felt more strongly and passes away more quickly.

Marriage understands and forgives the mistakes life is unable to avoid.

It encourages and nurtures new life, new experiences and new ways of expressing a love that is deeper than life.

When two people pledge their love and care for each other in marriage, they create a spirit unique unto themselves which binds them closer than any spoken or written words.

Marriage is a promise, a potential made in the hearts of two people who love each other and takes a lifetime to fulfil.

Love is Giving

Love is giving, not taking, mending, not breaking,
Trusting, believing, never deceiving, patiently bearing and faithfully sharing
each joy, every sorrow, today and tomorrow.

Love is kind, understanding, but never demanding.
Love is constant, prevailing, its strength never failing.
A promise once spoken, love is time is forever.

The Art of Marriage

Happiness in marriage is not something that just happens.
A good marriage must be created.
In the art of marriage
The little things are the big ones
It is never being too old to hold hands
It is never going to sleep angry
It is at no time taking the other for granted
It is having a mutual sense of values and common objectives
It is standing together facing the world
It is forming a circle of love that gathers in the whole family
It is doing things for each other, not in the attitude of duty or sacrifice, but in
the spirit of joy.
It is speaking words of appreciation and demonstrating
Gratitude in thoughtful ways,
It is cultivating flexibility, patience, understanding and a sense of humour.
It is having the capacity to forgive and forget.
It is giving each other an atmosphere in which each can grow.
It is finding room for the things of the spirit.
It is a common search for the good and the beautiful.
It is establishing a relationship in which the independence is equal,
dependence is mutual and the obligation is reciprocal.
It is not only marrying the right partner, it is being the right partner.

A Friendship Blessing

May you be blessed with good friends
May you learn to be a good friend
To yourself and each other

May you be able to journey to that
Place in your soul where there is great
Love, warmth, feeling and forgiveness.

May you treasure your friends
May you be good to them and may you
Be there for them.

May they bring you all the blessing,
Challenges, truth and light that you
Need for your journey.

May you never be isolated; but may
You always be in the gentle nest of belonging.

Love's Philosophy

The mountains mingle with the river
And the rivers with the ocean
The winds of heaven mix forever
With a sweet emotion
Nothing in the world is single
All things by a law divine
In one spirit meet and mingle
Why not with thine?

See the mountains kiss high heaven
And the waves clasp one another
No sister-flower would be forgiven
If it distained its brother
And the sunlight clasps the earth
And the moonbeams kiss the sea
What is all this worth
If thou kiss not me?

Bands of Gold

A precious band of gold was placed
Some fifty years ago
Upon two hearts of tender years
who vowed their love would grow.
The gold was not within the ring.
Nor in their faces fair.
It wasn't in their youth or charm.
But in the love they shared.
The gold was there for them to spend
when silver coins were rare.
It didn't buy them more to have
but taught them how to share.
They spent it on a loving look,
on patience, kindness, trust,
they spent it on the kinds of things
that cannot wilt or rust.
And the wonder of this band of gold,
if you can comprehend,
each time they used their gift of love,
there was that much more to spend.
It brought them trust, it brought them hope,
a tender hand to hold
it brought a blessed and lovely thing
A marriage, carved in gold.

The Day

May this be the start of a happy new life
That's full of special moments to share
May this be the first of your dreams come true
And of hope that will always be there.
May this be the start of a lifetime of trust
And of caring that's just now begun
May today be a day that you'll always remember
The day when your hearts become one.

“An Irish Blessing”

May love and laughter light your days,
And warm your heart and home.
May good and faithful friends be yours,
Wherever you may roam.
May peace and plenty bless your world
With joy that long endures.
May all life's passing seasons
Bring the best to you and yours.

A Promise

A marriage is a promise
That two hearts gladly make
A promise to be tender
To help to give and take
A marriage is a promise
To be kind and understanding
To be thoughtful and considerate
Fair and undemanding
A marriage is a promise
To share one life together
A love filled promise is meant to be
Kept lovingly forever.

The Key to Love

The key to love is understanding...
The ability to comprehend not only the spoken word
but those unspoken gestures,
the little things that say so much by themselves.

The key to love is forgiveness...
To accept each other's faults and pardon mistakes
without forgetting, but with remembering
What you learn from them.

The key to love is sharing...
Facing your good fortune as well as the bad, together.
Both conquering problems, forever searching for ways
To intensify your happiness

The key to love is giving...
Without thought of return,
But with the hope of just a simple smile
And by giving in but never giving up.

The key to love is respect...
Realising that you are two separate people, with different ideas.
That you don't belong to each other,
You belong with each other and share a mutual bond.

The key to love is inside us all...
It takes time and patience to unlock all the ingredients.
It is the continual learning process that demands a lot of work...
But the rewards are more than worth the effort...

And that is the key to love.

A Dance by Colin Wicker

A good relationship is something like a dance – built on the same rules. Partners in a dance do not need to hold on tightly because they move in the same patterns, confident in each other. To touch heavily would be to arrest the pattern and freeze the moment – to check if not to stop the beauty of its unfolding. There is no place here for the possessive clutch, the clinging or the heavy hand. Only the barest touch in passing is sufficient to carry the deepest wealth of meaning. Now arm-in-arm, now face-to-face, now back-to-back – it doesn't matter which. As dancers, they know they are partners responding to the same rhythm, creating a pattern together and being invisibly nourished by it. The joy of such a dance is not only the joy of creation: it is also the joy of living in, and for, the moment. The joy of knowing that lightness of touch and life itself are inter-twined.

Oh, the Comfort

Oh, the comfort, the inexpressible comfort of feeling safe with a person; having neither to weigh thoughts nor measure words but pour them all out, just as they are, chaff and grain together. Knowing that a faithful hand will take and sift them, keep what is worth keeping and then – with the breath of kindness – blow the rest away.

Partnership is More

Partnership is more than standing here side by side, exchanging looks full of love, full of pride. It's more than a ceremony which lasts just a while, it's a promise that's shared, it's an intimate smile.

It's a personal bond that you know will not end, the knowledge that someone your love will defend. It's a vow of commitment, special and true, it's a hope and dream of love endless for you.

Always Love Each Other by Larry S Changes

If you can always be as close and as happy as today, yet be secure enough to grow and change along the way. If you can be as one and walk through life hand in hand, yet still support the goals and dreams that each of you have planned.

If you can dare to always go your separate ways together, then all the wonder of today will stay with you forever.

Love is born with the pleasure of looking at each other, if fed with the necessity of seeing each other, it is concluded with the impossibility of separation.

I will be here

If in the morning when you wake, the sun does not appear,
I will be here.

If in the dark we lose sight of love, hold my hand and have no fear,
I will be here.

I will be here,
When you feel like being quiet, when you need to speak your mind,
I will listen.
Through the winning, losing and trying, we'll be together
And I will be here.

If in the morning when you wake, if the future is unclear,
I will be here.
As sure as seasons were made for change, our lifetimes were made for years.
I will be here.

I will be here
And you can cry on my shoulder,
When the mirror tells us we're older
I will hold you, to watch you grow in beauty and tell you all
The things you are to me.
We'll be together and I will be here.

I will be true to the promises I've made to you, and to the one
who gave you to me.

I WILL BE HERE.

Words from a Native American Ceremony

May the sun bring you new energies by day,
May the moon softly restore you by night.
May the rain wash away your worries
And the breeze blow new strength into your being
And then, all the days of your life,
May you walk gently through the world and know its beauty.

Now you will feel no rain, for each of you, will be shelter for the other.
Now you will feel no cold, for each of you will be the warmth to the other.
Now there is no more loneliness, for each of you will be companion to the
other.

Now you are two persons but there is only one life before you.
Go now to your dwelling place, to enter into the days of your life together.
May beauty surround you, both in the journey ahead and through all the
years.
May happiness be your companion to the place where the river meets the
sun.
And may your days together be good and long upon the earth.

April 2024

Union by Robert Fulghum

You have known each other from the first glance of acquaintance to this point of commitment,

At some point, you decided to marry.

From that moment of yes to this moment of yes, indeed, you have been making promises and agreements in an informal way.

All those conversations that were held riding in a car or over a meal or during long walks – all those sentences that began with “When we’re married” and continued with “I will and you will and we Will” those late night talks that included “someday and “somehow” and “maybe” - and all those promises that are unspoken matters of the heart. All these common things, and more are the real process of a wedding.

The symbolic vows that you are about to make are a way of saying to one another, “You know all those things we’ve promised and hoped and dreamed – well, I meant it all, every word

Look at one another and remember this moment in time.

Before this moment you have been many things to one another – acquaintance, friend, companion, lover, dancing partners, and even teacher, for you have learned much from one another in these last few years.

Now you shall say a few words that will take you across a threshold of life, and things between you will never quite be the same.

For after today you shall say to the world. This is my **husband/wife**. This is my **wife/husband**.

Love Is

Learning to give, not always take,
Learning to forgive each little mistake,
Learning to love whatever the cost
Always remember alone you’d be lost.

Trying so hard your partner to please
Trying to save whilst paying the fees,
Trying to smile when things turn out wrong,
Always remember to curb your tongue.

Never think of only yourself,
Never to say you wish you had wealth,
Never to let your temper get hot,
Always be thankful for what you have got.

If you remember all of these things,
You will discover the joy that it brings,
Then you’ll have what so many folks miss,
Always you’ll have a life full of bliss.

April 2024

True Love holds the Key

The partnership/marriage commitment begins with a promise
That two people lovingly say
And everyday life holds the key to the secret
For keeping this promise each day
A good sense of humour, an unbroken trust
Giving compliments, comfort and praise
And taking some time for the fun things together
In thoughtful, affectionate ways.
A partnership is made up of everyday kindness
And that is the beautiful key
To make every moment of life together
As wonderful as it can be.

In Love or Real Love?

In love brings goosebumps and butterflies
In love is obsessed with the colour of eyes
In love swings like a pendulum, in love rises and falls.

Not so for real love, this is for always.
Real love holds you when you feel alone
Real love is unconditional and enduring
Your best friend always.

Real love sees the wrinkles and loves you more
For they tell a story of a path walked together
In loves washes in and out, like waves on the sand
Real loves strengthens and binds you together
Real love is a choice not a feeling
Choose real love today and forever.

These are the Hands

These are the hands of your best friend, young and strong and full of love for you, that are holding yours on your wedding day, as you promise to love each other today, tomorrow and forever.

These are the hands that will work alongside yours, as together you build your future.

These are the hands that will passionately love you and cherish you through the years, and with the slightest touch, will comfort you like no other.

These are the hands that will hold you when fear or grief fills your mind.

These are the hands that will countless times wipe the tears from your eyes: tears of sorrow, and tears of joy.

These are the hands that will tenderly hold your children.

These are the hands that will help you to hold your family as one.

These are the hands that will give you strength when you need it.

And lastly, these are the hands that even when wrinkled and aged, will still be reaching for yours, still giving you the same unspoken tenderness with just a touch.

True Love

True love is a sacred flame
That burns eternally
And no one can dim its special glow
Or change its destiny.

True love speaks in tender tones
And hears with gentle ears,
True love gives with open heart
And true love conquers fear.

True love makes no harsh demands
It neither rules or binds,
And true love holds with gentle hands
The heart that it entwines.

The One

When the one whose hand you're holding
is the one who holds your heart.
When the one whose eyes you gaze into
gives your hopes and dreams their start.
When the one you think of first and last
is the one who holds you tight
and the things you plan together
makes the whole world seem just right.
When the one whom you believe in
puts their faith and trust in you,
you've found the one and only love
you'll share your whole life through.

May today be the start of your happy new life
that's full of special moments to share.
May this be the first of your dreams come true
and hope that you'll always be there.
May this be a start of a lifetime of trust
and of caring that's just now begun.
May today be a day which you'll always remember
The day when your hearts became one ...

Celtic Blessing

Treat yourself and each with respect and remind yourselves often of what
brought you together.
Give the highest priority to the tenderness, gentleness and kindness that your
connection deserves.

When frustration, difficulties and fear assail your relationship, as they threaten
all relationships at one time or another, remember to focus on what is right
between you, not only the part that seems to be wrong. In this way you can
ride out the storms when clouds hide the face of the sun in your lives,
remembering that even if you lose sight of it for a moment, the sun is still
there.

And if each of you takes responsibility for the quality of your life together, it will
be marked by abundance and delight.

The peace of the running water to you, the peace of the flowing air to you, the
peace of the quiet earth to you, the peace of the shining stars to you and the
love and care of us all to you.

Everyone searches for that special person
they can share their life with.
The other half who makes them whole,
like two notes blending together to make a beautiful song
or the colours that compliment
each other to form a rainbow.
It is everyone's wish to have a lifetime of sunny days,
a rainbow after every storm;
a lifetime of loving and living and growing and giving
of sharing and caring, a lifetime of days together,
learning from the bad times and cherishing the good times.
Marriage is everything your heart desires
and the strength, courage and determination to work for it.
In marriage you take care of each other's hearts
and hold on to what you share.
You hold it gently so it doesn't smother
and firmly so it doesn't slip away.
Hold it so that it can grow
and you can grow together
and live and laugh and love together always.