

Ecumenical Wedding Ceremony

The Swedenborg Chapel

Rev. Ronald Brugler, Pastor

Call to Celebration

Beloved of God, since **Groom and Bride** desire to enter the holy relationship of marriage, they now present themselves before God and this fellowship, that their mutual consent to be united as husband and wife may be heard, witnessed, and consecrated according to the laws of divine order.

Presentation of the Bride

(Mother may come forward or stand?)

(Father)(Mother) in coming here to present **Bride** for her marriage to **Groom** do you do so granting them your love and blessings? I (we) do.

The Vision

Parents and Congregation seated

God who made heaven and earth, and created all people as his children, has whispered deep within the human heart that he is the One God of all flesh, although we may call him by different names: Jehovah, Lord, Elohim, Allah. Although we may worship him in different ways and by using different words, rituals and customs, and although we may seek his presence in temple, church, synagogue, mosque, or in a sacred grove on top of a mountain, he is the One God.

Far beyond outward differences of creed and theology, far beyond the seeming differences of race, color or language, is our deep recognition that we are all children of the one and same God; that spiritually we are brothers and sisters of one another as we seek to love and serve him, and as we strive to live by his laws as we have been taught them.

This one God has created us male and female, and has endowed us with the gift of love: a love which holds greater possibilities and meaning and lasting joy than the love or mutual attraction that he has given to any of his other creatures. We are spiritual beings, and not just creatures of the earth, and God would have us sanctify this most intimate relationship of man and woman, so that we may find the joy and happiness and blessedness with which God has endowed it.

The marriage relationship is the very highest and purest form of love. It is the growing bond of affection, trust and mutual concern which can bring you a larger life than either of you can have alone. This can be yours as you share with each other your created differences as man and woman, making your life together fuller, more complete, and more soul - satisfying. Marriage in this high sense is a uniting on all levels of your being: body, mind, heart and spirit. The longer you live together, and the more wholeheartedly you strive and pray and work for it, the more truly will you be married.

It is the very nature of love to want to give of itself to another, to give ever more fully and to feel joy in the joy of another. How exquisitely true is this of Marriage Love! It brings forth the best qualities in the two partners, to be shared in common. It seeks to break down the barriers of selfishness and mistrust, and all that would keep you apart. It creates a deeper sensitivity and a more understanding responsiveness to the desires and needs of each other. At the same time, it leads to an increasing respect for each other in this mutual growing together, for marriage love never seeks to dominate or take over another person.

As you stand here, in this high moment, remember that love, loyalty and trust are the foundations of a happy and lasting marriage. As you keep the vows you make here, your life together will be increasingly full of joy, satisfaction and peace. We pray that you will always cherish the hopes and dreams you have this hour. In all the events of life, hold fast to the vision of this, your wedding day.

Intentions

Groom in light of this vision of life together, is it your intention to take this woman to be your wife, that you may live together in the holy bond of marriage? Will you strive to love and honor her, will you comfort her and be faithful to her so long as you both shall live? I WILL.

Bride in light of this vision of life together, is it your intention to take this man to be your husband, that you may live together in the holy bond of marriage? Will you strive to love and honor him, will you comfort him and be faithful to him so long as you both shall live? I WILL.

Marriage Vows
(Wedding Party Steps Forward)

I take you **Bride** to be my wife: to have and to hold: from this day forward: for better or for worse: for richer or poorer: in sickness and in health: to love and to cherish: so long as we live.

I take you **Groom** to be my husband: to have and to hold: from this day forward: for better or for worse: for richer or poorer: in sickness and in health: to love and to cherish: so long as we live.

Rings
held by **Ringbearer**

The wedding ring is a symbol of the vows that you share here this day. May the Lord's blessings be upon these rings and enable them to serve as a constant reminder of the love and devotion that you share.

(Groom puts ring on Bride's finger, she says) In receiving this ring, I accept you as my husband in the name of the Lord our God.

(Bride puts ring on Groom's finger, he says) In receiving this ring, I accept you as my wife in the name of the Lord our God.

Marriage License

Groom and Bride at your sides this day are _____ very important people in your lives. You have asked **Best Man and Maid of Honour** to share this day with you as witnesses to your wedding, and sign the marriage license. We will now do this, and finalize the commitment you make here this day.

Candle Lighting

Throughout the ages light has been seen by humanity as a symbol of truth. In beginning your new life together, you know that deep within your hearts lies the truth that you are each right for each other, that you can share with each other thoughts that no one can understand, feelings that no one else can sense, and joys that no one else can comprehend.

In a lasting marriage, the light of this truth is never extinguished, in spite of problems, struggles and difficulties, it endures. In fact, it can come to shine all the brighter over the years. The hope and prayers of everyone gathered here today is that the light of your love will shine for years to come, that it will enable

you to build a strong and loving home, and that you will forever dwell in its warmth. Will you now both come forward and light the common candle..

Marriage Prayer

O God, from whom comes down every good and perfect gift, we give thanks to you for your gift of love, and especially at this time for marriage love which draws us close to each other, leading us to eternal union.

We pray that **Bride and Groom** may know this love, and growing together as wife and husband may experience its joys and delights and lasting satisfactions. May they find support from their family and friends throughout their lives together. Let us continually rejoice with them as we rejoice during this high hour, and may you bless them with happiness, strength, and love that endures throughout life's many changes.

Amen.

Pronouncement (Bride and Groom hold hands)

Groom and Bride you have here this day celebrated your union in marriage by exchanging vows and rings. In the name of the Lord Our God, and by the laws of the beautiful Province of Ontario, I now pronounce that you are husband and wife. May the Lord our God bless, preserve and keep you; may God fill you with all spiritual blessings, so that in your life together you may find joy and fulfillment in all that you do. Amen.

Wedding Kiss

Presentation

It is my pleasure to present to you **Presentation Names**

If you have any questions about customizing this ceremony or would like to schedule your wedding, please feel free to contact our minister, Rev. Ronald Brugler at 216 351-8093 during office hours or email swedenborgchapel@att.net