**A Brief Wedding Ceremony**

Dearly beloved, we are assembled here in the presence of God and this company of loved ones and friends, to join this man and woman in the bonds of holy matrimony. The Scriptures challenge us with the sacredness of the Marriage relation and set forth the love of Christ for his church as an example of the deepest devotion. The Master himself shared the joys of the Marriage Feast in Galilee. In the First letter to Corinthians, the Apostle Paul very beautifully guides us in the underlying meaning of love –

*“Love is patient and kind;*

*Love is not jealous or boastful;*

*Love is not arrogant or rude;*

*Love does not insist on its own way;*

*It does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right.*

*Love bears all things, believes all things, and hopes all things.*

*Love never ends.” – 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a*

A union setting forth such an ideal is not to be entered into hastily or without due consideration, but reverently, discreetly, advisedly and in the fear of our Heavenly Father. If either of you [or anyone in this assembly] knows any just cause why this marriage should not be performed, let him speak now, or hereafter hold his peace.

(To the groom)

 Do you, ----------, take this woman to be your lawful wife, to love and respect her, honor and cherish her, in health and in sickness, in prosperity and in adversity; and leaving all others to keep yourself only unto her, so long as you both shall live?

(The groom says)

I do.

(To the Bride)

Do you, ------------, in like manner solemnly agree to receive this man as your lawful wedded husband, to love and respect him, and to live with him in all faith and tenderness, in health and in sickness, in prosperity and in adversity, and leaving all other to keep yourself unto him, so long as you both shall live?

(The bride says)

I do.

(Minister says)

Have you a ring?

(They hand the ring(s) to the minister who says)

May this token and pledge symbolize the purity and never-ending love you have for your chosen companion in life, in Jesus’ Name!

(The groom will repeat after the minister)

This ring I give to you/ in token and pledge/of our constant faith/ and abiding love in Christ name. Amen

(If the bride has a ring for him, the above is repeated by her)

***Inasmuch as you have agreed to enter the covenant relationship of marriage, and have given and received (a ring) / (rings) in token of your faith, I now, by the authority committed unto me by God as a minister of the gospel, declare that ------------- and -------------- are husband and wife according to the Ordinance of God and the Laws of the State of ------------.***

***What God has joined together, let no man put asunder.***

(Closing prayer)

Heavenly Father, we have heard from these two people the acceptance of the solemn vows of marriage. Grant unto them the grace and courage, love and loyalty, constancy and faith to maintain these vows to the end of their earthly life.

May this new home radiate the sunshine of your love, and may everyone who comes in contact with them be enriched and ennobled. Through Jesus Christ, your Son, who shares is this sacred institution we pray. Amen.