

Father Dyer UMC Contemporary Ceremony II

<Welcome/Opening Statement/Convocation>

We are gathered here in the presence of God, family, and friends because love gathers us, and especially because love has found _____ and _____ and woven them together in the great web of life.

We gather today to celebrate and to recount with one another that it is love that has brought us here. Love is a quality of spirit and an attitude of emotions, and marriage is a life's work, a spiritual art form. This is a day of profound joy and we are here to celebrate their marriage, to honor the beginning of their new life.

<Invocation>

God of light, who gives us the capacity to love, we give you thanks for _____ and _____, for their open hearts and willing spirits, and for the example of lives that they embody here in our presence.

We ask every blessing of you during the ceremony of marriage. Grant that they may give their vows to each other in the strength of your steadfast love. Enable them to grow in love and peace with you and with one another all their days. Grant them happiness and peace through each step of their journey.

<Reading 1–Optional>

<Reading 2–Optional>

<Address to the Couple/Homily>

We are gathered here to celebrate _____ and _____ marriage, a spiritual union that embodies love's most profound possibilities. Love is both immanent and transcendent. As you both step into marriage you must remember first of all that marriage is a process of transformation. Because of it, inside of it, and in response to it, you will change most remarkably. For marriage is the spiritual union that will cause you to become not only who you wanted to be, but also the person whom you will become. In marriage you will be re-formed, for in choosing each other to love and make your whole life with, you are choosing to be affected. You will be polished through the actions of your beloved upon you, through the praise, criticism, frustration, excitement and actions of each other.

<Reading 3 - Optional>

<Address to the Family/Homily>

To the parents of _____ and _____, congratulations on the part you have played in raising a daughter and son of such serious purpose. They accept a very mature and meaningful task in taking on this marriage. On their behalf, and on the behalf of all those here, I thank you. I remind you that it is more than their blood that is joined here; it is yours as well. With this marriage, God joins your two families, and it is the family unit that shall rebuild the world. With this in mind, I ask you, _____'s parents, to take this man, _____, as your son. I ask your family to take him into their hearts, as son and brother, and beloved to _____.

And of you, _____'s parents, I ask the same. I ask that you take this woman, _____, into your hearts, that she might live from this day as your daughter. I ask your other children as well to receive her as their sister, for she is dear and beloved to your son, and shall be so, through the grace of God and to all your family. May the miracle of this marriage extend throughout your family.

I would also like to ask at this time if anyone has a problem with this marriage, because after today, please keep it quiet! As of this ceremony, may your tongues be still and utter only the positive, that your energies might support these two, that any words you say might bless and protect the holiness of this bond.

<Reading 4-Optional>

<Question>

_____ and _____, are you ready to be married?

(Bride passes bouquet to maid of honor)

<Vows>

_____, I now ask you to say publicly any declaration of commitment you'd like to make to _____ at this time: (her vow to him)

_____, I now ask you to say publicly any declaration of commitment you'd like to make to _____ at this time: (his vow to her)

And so we come, _____ and _____, to the presentation of rings by which you symbolize and bind your love. Do you have rings?

<Meaning of the Rings>

In the presence of God and of these families, seal these promises now with rings... sign and token of the life you enter together, the world you will create - single, whole and full.

<Blessing of the Rings>

Let us pray. Bless these rings, O Lord, that in giving them and receiving them, these children of yours may be strengthened in the commitments they make in this hour. Let them dwell in your favor, and continue faithful to each other and to you through all the days of their lives, we ask in Jesus' name, Amen.

<Ring Vows>

_____, please repeat after me: (bride's vow) **With this ring, I give you my promise that from this day forward you shall not walk alone. May my heart be your shelter and my arms your home. May God bless you always. May we walk together through all things. May you feel deeply loved, for indeed you are. May you always see your innocence in my eyes. With this ring, I give to you my heart. I have no greater gift to give. I promise I shall do my best. I shall always try. I feel so honored to call you husband. I feel so blessed to call you mine. May we feel this joy forever. I thank God. I thank you. Amen.**

_____, please repeat after me: (groom's vow) **With this ring, I give you my promise that from this day forward you shall not walk alone. May my heart be your shelter and my arms your home. May God bless you always. May we walk together through all things. May you feel deeply loved, for indeed you are. May you always see your innocence in my eyes. With this ring, I give to you my heart. I have no greater gift to give. I promise I shall do my best. I shall always try. I feel so honored to call you wife. I feel so blessed to call you mine. May we feel this joy forever. I thank God. I thank you. Amen.**

<Prayer>

Dear God, please bless this couple. May their love be nurtured by you, always and forever. May this marriage be held in your hands and ministered unto by your angels. We dedicate this love to you. May it serve your purposes; may it increase your dominion. May this man grow strong in the arms of this woman. May this woman grow glorious in the love of this man. May the earth be brought closer to heaven through this love. May all the world be blessed hereby. Thank you. Amen.

_____ and _____, I remind you that the God who brought you together and nurtured this relationship is the key to your success as a married couple. May you allow into your marriage the presence of a mystical third, who shall guide your thinking and bless your home. Call on this Spirit consistently and often. We bring to mind as well the lives of any children who one day be born to you, and in the spirit of this day, we bless them also. May this marriage be your sanctuary, your haven from worldly pain.

<Vows>

_____, do you take this man, _____, to be your lawful wedded husband, to love him and to honor him, nurture and sustain him, through times of darkness as well as times of light, henceforth and forevermore? Do you promise that times of trouble will not deter you, or tempt you to forsake your love? Do you commit before God to honor this vow all your days? (I do.)

_____, do you take this woman, _____, to be your lawful wedded wife, to love her and cherish her, honor and sustain her, through times of darkness as well as times of light, henceforth and forevermore? Do you promise that times of trouble will not deter you, or tempt you to forsake your love? Do you commit before God to honor this vow all your days? (I do.)

<Pronouncement of Marriage>

(place hands atop one another, officiant on top)

And now, _____ and _____, by the authority vested in me by the state of Colorado, but much more important, by the authority vested in my by the fact that I believe in the power of your agreement this day, the look of love in your eyes, and the seriousness with which you make this commitment, and because I believe my faith is shared by others gathered here, it is my honor and my delight to pronounce you husband and wife.

<Unity Candle Prayer – Optional>

May the blessing of light,
Be with you always,
Light without and light within.
And may the sun shine
Upon you and warm your heart
Until it glows
Like a great fire
So that others may feel
The warmth of your love
For one another.

<*The Lord's Prayer*>

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, they will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

(Bride gets bouquet back from maid of honor, they face each other)

<*Final Benediction*>

<*The Kiss*>

<*Introduction of couple*>

<*Recessional*>