



Sacred Cycles Celebrant Training

Become a Spiritual Leader for Life Cycle Events

Selected Wedding Readings and Vows

Some Optional Readings

1) *Sonnet 17*, Pablo Neruda

I do not love you as if you were salt-rose, or topaz,
Or the arrow of carnations the fire shoots off.
I love you as certain dark things are to be loved,
In secret, between the shadow and the soul.

I love you as the plant that never blooms
But carries in itself the light of hidden flowers;
Thanks to your love a certain solid fragrance,
Risen from the earth, lives darkly in my body.

I love you without knowing how, or when, or from where.
I love you straightforwardly, without complexities or pride;
So I love you because I know no other way

Than this: where I do not exist, nor you
So intimate that your hand on my chest is my hand,
So close that when you fall asleep it is my eyes that close.

2)*Wedding Song*, Naomi Long Madgett

I cannot swear with any certainty
That I will always feel as I do now.
Loving you with the same fierce ecstasy,
Needing the same your lips upon my brow.
Nor can I promise stars forever bright
Or vow green leaves will never turn to gold.
I cannot see beyond this present night
To say what promises the dawn may hold.
And yet I know my heart must follow you
High up to hilltops, low through vales of tears,
Through golden days and days of somber hue,
And love will only deepen through the years
Becoming sun and shadow, wind and rain,
Wine that grows mellow, bread that will sustain.

3)*Adapted from a Hindu Marriage Poem or Mantra*

You have become mine forever. Yes, we have become partners. I have become yours.
Hereafter, I cannot live without you. Do not live without me.
Let us share the joys.
We are word and meaning, united.
You are thought and I am sound.
I am the words and you are the melody. I am the melody and you are the words.

4) Corinthians 13 – New Testament

1 If I speak in the tongues[a] of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast,[b] but do not have love, I gain nothing.

4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

8 Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10 but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. 11 When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. 12 For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

13 And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

5)

Some sample Vows

1) I give you my promise that this day forward you shall not walk alone.

May my heart be your shelter and my arms be your home.

May we walk together though 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 you my heart. I have no greater gift to give.

2) I _____, take you, _____ to be my beloved wife/husband., to have and to hold you, to honor you, to treasure you, to be at your side in sorrow and in joy, to laugh with you in the good times, to comfort and solace you in the bad, and to love and cherish you always.

I promise you this from my heart, with my soul, for all the days of my life, eternal.

3) I, _____, take you to be my husband/wife, to laugh with you in joy, to grieve with you in sorrow, to grow with you in love, serving humankind in peace and hope.

4) I give you my promise

To always hold you by my side

To honor you with my love and respect

To help you become who you want to be

And to love you deeply and truly

From this day forward, may we face each challenge together as one

May my arms provide you warmth and happiness

May you feel deeply loved, for indeed you are.

5) I (Kevin/Lily), take you (Lily/Kevin) to be my (husband/wife), my partner in life and my one true love. I will cherish our union and love you more each day than I did the day before. I will trust you and respect you, laugh with you and cry with you, loving you faithfully through good times and bad, regardless of the obstacles we may face together. I give you my hand, my heart, and my love, from this day forward for as long as we both shall live.

Exchange of Rings

1) Take this ring as a sign of my love, faith and commitment.

2) "I give you this ring, and with it, all that I have and all that I am."