

## Processional

Windsong (John Denver)

The wind is the whisper of our mother the earth  
The wind is the hand of our father the sky

The wind watches over our struggles and pleasures  
The wind is the goddess who first learned to fly

The wind is the bearer of bad and good tidings  
The weaver of darkness, the bringer of dawn

The wind gives the rain and builds us a rainbow  
The wind is the singer who sang the first song

The wind is a twister of anger and warning  
The wind brings the fragrance of freshly mown hay  
The wind is a racer and a white stallion running  
And the sweet taste of love on a slow summer's day

The wind knows the songs of cities and canyons,  
Thunder of mountains, roar of the sea  
The wind is the taker and giver of morning  
The wind is the symbol of all that is free

So, welcome the wind and the wisdom she offers  
Follow her summons as she calls again  
In your heart and your spirit, let the breezes surround you  
Lift up your voice then and sing with the wind

## Welcome and Introduction

We are gathered here today to join these two persons in holy matrimony. The Lord says...

Hah! I had you going there for a minute, didn't I? Welcome friends, welcome family, welcome Autumn, welcome creation, welcome Creator.

What is Tradition? It infuses our lives, gives them meaning and structure. Gives structure to a cultural identity, whether familial, regional, nation, ethnic. Tradition tells us when and how to celebrate our Creator. It tells us what cheer to yell when our football team trounces the Bruins, tells us how soon after dinner is served is acceptable to excuse ourselves to go watch Buffy the Vampire Slayer. But like the proverbial forest, ignored for the trees, we rarely take the time to NOTICE our traditions, to think about what they mean, and why and where they came from.

Tradition is the offspring of ritual. Ritual is mandated, obligatory, an outward manifestation of spirituality, a praise, an offering, a celebration for the Creator. As the origin of ritual fades into history and legend, it bears tradition. And superstition. And tradition itself fades, and we forget.

Something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue, a lucky six pence in her shoe. That's a tradition. Do you know why? Flowers, decorations, garments, presents, toasts, dances, party favors, traditions. Familiar, comfortable... unexamined.

There are those who would say that the ritual of weddings were never about love, that it's always been a spectator sport. A witness to property exchange, dowrys paid, political alliances, bloodlines furthered, obligations met. That the celebration of love, the creation of families; these are recent additions to the tradition, that love is a new requirement where it once was a bonus.

That a wedding celebrates love is a new tradition. But even still, we forget. In the familiarity of the traditions, the superstitions, the habits and obligations, we forget the spirit, the meaning, the reason. For all the trees: finery, the invitations, the decorations, the impeccably decorated cake, the Martha Stewart hors d'oeuvres... We forget there's a forest out there.

We are here to celebrate love. To celebrate friendship, and family, and love. We are here, not to watch love get dressed up and exchange rings and feed us lunch, but to celebrate love. To actively participate. To support these women, who have pledged their lives together. To create a new family, not of two women, but of everyone present. We too are taking vows today, vows of friendship, of love, to each other, to our own relationships, to our own friendships, to the women whose love and commitment and challenging paper projects have brought us here today.

We have brought food to feed each other, we have not come to be fed. We have come to love and support the family in front of and around us, we have not come to watch. We have come for the forest, not the trees.

Think on your own friendships, and families, and loves and make new vows to cherish them, to strengthen them, even as we cherish and strengthen the love and family and friendship of Marty and Mo'. Let us leave here today, not having observed a tradition, but having participated in a ritual. A ritual of love, in celebration of spirit, in honor to the Creator. We are all relations: Mitakue Oyasin!

## Blessing

Becca: May the creator in heaven above please protect the ones we love  
Marty: We honor all you created as we pledge our hearts and lives together  
Mo: We honor Mother Earth and ask for our marriage to be abundant  
and grow Stronger through the seasons  
Marty: We honor fire, and ask that our union be warm and glowing with love  
in Our hearts  
Mo: We honor wind and ask that we sail through life safe and calm as in  
ourFathers arms  
Marty: We honor water to clean and soothe our relationship that it may  
never thirst For love  
Mo: With all the forces of the universe you created, we pray for harmony  
and True happiness as we forever grow young together

### **Giving Away**

Becca: Mr. And Mrs. Young, do you give Martha away to enter into this union?

Parents: She gives herself freely, with our blessing

Becca: Mr. And Mrs. Seller, do you give Maureen away to enter into this union?

Parents: She gives herself freely, with our blessing

### **Promise of Participation**

Becca: Now we call on all of you present to bless this ceremony. Are you here of Your own free will to lend your blessing and approval that this union should Take place? If so, answer "We are."

Audience: We are.

Becca: And will all of you promise your love, support and guidance to these women In their life's journey together? If so, answer "We will."

Audience: We will.

## Partnership and Union

The little things are the big things.  
It is never being too old to hold hands.  
It is remembering to say "I love you" at least once a day.

It is never going to sleep angry.  
It is at no time taking the other for granted; the courtship should not end with the honeymoon,  
it should continue through all the years.

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 not expecting the husband to wear a halo or the wife to have wings of an angel.  
It is not looking for perfection in each other.

It is cultivating flexibility, patience, understanding and a sense of humor.  
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.

## Vows

Marty: Maureen, you are my partner and my best friend. Here in front of our family And friends, I promise to share with you my life and my love, my day and my night, my past and my future. I will be with you for all of your beginnings and all of your ends. I will share with you all of your sorrows and all of your joys. I will support your endeavors and shoulder your burdens. I promise to honor you, to cherish our friendship always and to love you as much each days as the first day I fell in love with you.

Maureen: Marty, you are my partner and my best friend. Here in front of our family And friends, I promise to share with you my life and my love, my day and my night, my past and my future. I will be with you for all of your beginnings and all of your ends. I will share with you all of your sorrows and all of your joys. I will support your endeavors and shoulder your burdens. I promise to honor you, to cherish our friendship always and to love you as much each days as the first day I fell in love with you.

## Presentation of Rings

Becca: A circle is the symbol of the sun and the earth, of wholeness, perfection and peace. May these rings forever symbolize the unbroken circle of your love. Love freely shared has no giver or receiver, no beginning and no end. May these rings forever symbolize the love you share as partners.

Marty: With this ring, I pledge my life to you, with love, forever.

Maureen: With this ring, I pledge my life to you, with love, forever.

### Lighting of Candle

Becca: In many cultures, the origin of fire marks the beginning of the happier times and prosperity. Martha and Maureen will be lighting a Unity candle to symbolize the beginning of the happier times and the prosperity for their lives together. Each year, on their anniversary, they will light the candle to remind them where their relationship began and how far it has come.

Martha and Maureen, as you each take your candle and light the center candle for the first time, you create one flame. The individual candles represent your lives as individuals before today. Lighting the center candle signifies that your two lives are now joined, creating one light.

### The Kiss

A tuning fork was struck upon a star, and they kissed...



### **Final Blessing**

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 warmth to the other.  
Now there will be no 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.

Treat yourselves and each other 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, difficulty and fear assail your relationship, as they threaten all relationships at times, remember to focus on what is right between you and not only the part which seems wrong. In this way, you can ride out the storms when clouds hide the face of the sun in our lives, remembering that even if you lose sight of it for a moment, the sun is still there.

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

### **Presentation of Couple**

As a symbol of their family union, Martha and Maureen have decided to join their surnames.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I'd like to be the first to present, Martha and Maureen Young-Seller.

### **Recessional**