

# UNITY CANDLE CEREMONY

## **(1) The point of this ceremony**

A Unity Candle is a candle used in a wedding ceremony to symbolize two people joining in marriage. The flame may be said to represent the passion in each individual's soul for their spouse. For Christians it may be compared to the Holy Spirit who is the light of the world, within the souls of those who are baptized. The lighting of a Unity Candle is a relatively new custom in wedding ceremonies. There is no record of it in the Bible. The custom first became popular in the 1950's in American Christian weddings. The origins are unclear, however the use of a Unity Candle in a 1981 episode of General Hospital may have helped to make it become popular. Two taper white candles are initially lit and used by each member of the marrying couple. These tapers are then used to light a larger white pillar candle in the centre. When the practice is intended to symbolize the joining together of the bride and groom, the tapers may be blown out to indicate that the two lives have been permanently merged, or they may remain lit beside the centre candle symbolizing that the now married partners have not lost their individuality.

## **(2) Who is included in this add on**

Parents may be included in this add on. By lighting additional tapers used by parents to light the tapers that represent the individuals being married. It is common for the two mothers to lit them to represent their son or daughter. Once the mother's have lit the candles the couple then use the candles to light the Unity and let.

## **(3) Some possible wording to use.**

As you light this candle today May the brightness of the flame shine throughout your lives. May it give you courage and reassurance in darkness, warmth safety in the cold, and strength and joy in your bodies, minds, and spirits. May your union be forever blessed. Some people prefer songs in a Unity Candle Ceremony. Songs are used a lot. Some examples are The Wedding Song (There Is Love) by Peter, Paul and Mary and From This Moment On by Shania Twain.

2 poems or quotes suitable for a wedding:

### **The Portrait of a Lady (By Henry James)**

It has made me better loving you. It has made me wiser and easier,  
and I won't pretend to deny brighter and nicer and even stronger. I  
used to want a great many things before, and to be angry that I  
didn't have them. Theoretically, I was satisfied as I once told you.  
I flattered myself I had limited my wants. But I was subject to irritation. I used to have morbid, sterile, hateful  
fits of hunger, of desire.  
Now I really am satisfied because I can't think of anything better.

### **Doves Poem (Author Unknown)**

Two doves meeting in the sky  
Two loves hand in hand, eye to eye  
Two parts of a loving whole  
Two hearts and a single soul  
Two stars shining big and bright  
Two fires bringing warm than light

Two songs played in perfect tune  
Two flowers growing into bloom  
Two doves gliding in the air  
Two loves free without a care  
Two parts of a loving whole  
Two hearts and a single soul  
Two dreams found before to late  
Two lives together bound by fate  
Two people cling to one another  
Two people in love with each other  
Two doves, can you see them soar?  
Two loves who could ask for more?  
Two parts of a loving whole  
Two hearts and a single soul.

### **Two quotes or poems suitable for a funeral**

#### **Afterglow. (Helen Lowrie Marshall)**

I'd like the memory of me to be a happy one.  
I'd like to leave an afterglow of smiles when life is done, I'd like  
to leave an echo whispering softly down the ways, Of happy times and  
laughing times and bright and summer days.  
I'd like the tears of those who grieve, to dry before the sun, Of  
happy memories that I leave When life is done.

#### **When Tomorrow Starts Without Me (David M Romano)**

When tomorrow starts without me  
And I'm not here to see  
If the sun should rise and find your eyes  
All filled with tears for me

I wish you wouldn't cry  
The Way you did today  
While thinking of the many things  
We did not get to say

I know how much you love me  
As much as I love you  
Each time that you think of me  
I know you will miss me too

When tomorrow starts with out me  
Please try to understand  
That an angel came and called my name

And took me by the hand

The angel said my place was ready  
In heaven far above  
And That I would have to leave behind  
All those I Dearly Love

But When I walked through Heaven's Gates  
I felt so much at home  
When GOD looked down and smiled at me  
From his golden throne

He said This Is Eternity  
And All I promised you  
Today for life on earth is done  
But Here it starts a new

I promise no tomorrow  
For today will always last  
And Since each day's the exact same way  
There is no longing for the past

So When Tomorrow starts without me  
Do not think we're apart  
For every time you think of me  
Remember I'm right here in your heart

### **Child Naming service**

A naming ceremony is non religious. It gives parents the opportunity to gather with family and friends to welcome their child into the family. Together with the celebrant parents discuss promises, readings, poems, rituals and music they may like. Rose petals make a beautiful ritual in the ceremony. The rose petals are sprinkled over the baby's head while special blessings are being read. It is also nice to include godparents, grandparents. Each colour of the rose petals represent different qualities such as innocence, friendships to come, tender love and compassion. As well as kindle the fire of love for life.

### **5 words to describe the best qualities of a wedding officiant**

Professional, Punctual, Organizer, Compassionate, Empathetic

### **5 words to describe the best qualities of a funeral officiant**

Professional, Dedication, Courage, Compassionate, Empathetic