NON-DENOMINATIONAL CEREMONY

Good Evening everyone. May the Lord be with you! (and also, with you)

Today we are gathered here to celebrate one of life's greatest moments,

the joining of two hearts.

In this ceremony today we will witness the joining Odalis & Lyndell in Holy Matrimony.

**Opening:**

Today we have come together to witness the joining of these two lives. For them, out of the routine of ordinary life, the extraordinary has happened. They met each other, fell in love and are finalizing it with their wedding today. Romance is fun, but true love is something far more and it is their desire to love each other for life and that is what we are celebrating here today.

**The Art of Marriage**

A good marriage must be created.

In marriage 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 standing together and facing the world.

It is speaking words of appreciation, and demonstrating gratitude in thoughtful ways.

It is having the capacity to forgive and forget.

It is giving each other an atmosphere in which each can grow.

It is a common search for the good and the beautiful.

It is not only marrying the right person -- it is being the right partner

**Consent**

\_\_\_\_\_, do you take \_\_\_\_\_\_ to be your Wife? ("I do")

Do you promise to love, honor, cherish and protect her, forsaking all others and holding only unto her forevermore? ("I do")

\_\_\_\_\_, do you take \_\_\_\_\_ to be your Husband? ("I do")

Do you promise to love, honor, cherish and protect him, forsaking all others and holding only unto him forevermore? ("I do")

**Reading** *A reading from the 1st Letter of Paul to the Corinthians 13: 4-7*

Love is very patient and kind, never jealous or envious, never boastful or proud. Love is never haughty or selfish or rude. Love does not demand its own way. Love is not irritable or touchy. Love does not hold grudges and will hardly notice when others do it wrong. Love is never glad about injustice, but rejoices whenever truth wins out. If you love someone, you will be loyal to them no matter what the costs. You will always believe in them, always expect the best in them, and will always stand your ground in defending them.

**Vows** (face each other and hold hands) (repeat after me)

So, I give you my life to keep

in the name of the father, and of the son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Remembrance & Acknowledgement**

\_\_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_\_ would like to take a moment to remember those special people in their lives who are not with us here today.   May their spiritual presence here today and always continue to influence their lives, providing Love, Strength and Courage to be the best person they can be.

**Reading A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John 4:7-12**

Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God.

Anyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

But anyone who does not love does not know God—for God is love.

God showed how much he loved us by sending his only Son

into the world so that we might have eternal life through him.

This is real love. It is not that we loved God,

but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other.

No one has ever seen God.

But if we love each other, God lives in us,

and his love has been brought to full expression through us.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Ring Exchange** (who has the rings) (repeat after me)

The ring is a symbol of the unbroken circle of love. Love freely given has no beginning and no end, no giver and no receiver for each is the giver and each is the receiver. May these rings always remind you of the vows you have taken.

\_\_\_\_\_ please repeat after me:

I \_\_\_\_\_\_, take thee, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to be my Wife, to have and to hold, in sickness and in health, for richer or for poorer, in joy and sorrow, and I promise my love to you. Take this ring as a sign of my love and fidelity in the name of the father, and of the son, and of the Holy Spirit.

\_\_\_\_\_ please repeat after me:

I \_\_\_\_\_\_, take thee \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, to be my Husband. To have and to hold, in sickness and in health, for richer or for poorer, in joy and sorrow, and I promise my love to you. Take this ring as a sign of my love and fidelity in the name of the father, and of the son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Lord, bless and consecrate this groom and bride in their love for each other. May these rings be a symbol of their true faith in each other, and always remind them of their love through the Christ to God.

**Wedding Prayer**

Bless their marriage, O God, as they begin their journey down the road of life together.

We don't know what lies ahead for the road turns and bends. But help them to make the best of whatever comes their way.

Help them to continue to enjoy each other as they did when they first met. Help them to realize that nothing nor no one is perfect and to look for the good in all things and all people including themselves.

Help them to respect each other's likes and dislikes, opinions and beliefs, hopes and dreams and fears even though they may not always understand them.

Help them to learn from each other and to help each other to grow mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. Amen

**Closing Comments**

 To make your relationship work will take love. This is the core of your marriage and why you are here today.

It will take trust, to know, that in your hearts, you truly want what is best for each other.

It will take dedication, to stay open to one another - and to learn and grow together.

It will take faith, to go forward together, without knowing exactly what the future brings.

And it will take commitment, to hold true to the journey you both have pledged to today.

**Lord’s Prayer**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Our Father, who art in heaven,

 Hallowed be thy Name,

 Thy kingdom come,

 Thy 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,

 Forever and ever. Amen.

**Pronouncement**

And now the power vested in me by the Great State of New Jersey, I am happy to pronounce you Husband & Wife. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, You may kiss your Bride.

**Introduction**

I would like to introduce the happy couple for the first time in public \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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