

CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE (Chinese – Jewish Wedding)

Music for ingathering

Groomsmen come from the Vestry. To music, Groom and his parents process up the aisle. Groom stands on Lay Chaplain's left side of the chuppah. Then the bridal party processes up to the stage. When Bride and her father reach the foot of the stage, Groom comes down to meet Bride, his hand, who then sits. Groom and Bride proceed to the stage to stand under the chuppah.

WELCOME:

Good afternoon and welcome, all good people. I am Lay Chaplain R, a Lay Chaplain here at the Unitarian Church of Vancouver. I am deeply honoured to officiate at this special wedding today. Groom and Bride's relationship spans more than 10 years, often over vast distances. So this ceremony today marks not a beginning for a new life together, but instead an acknowledgement and affirmation of their ongoing commitment in the relationship they have built together.

In the sacredness of our ceremony, I remind you to check that cell phones and pagers are off. Bride and Groom have asked that their extended families stay behind after the ceremony for pictures with the photographer. Thank you.....

As this wedding results in the mixing of two cultures, there are rituals and symbolism involved from Jewish and Chinese culture that you may not be familiar with. Groom and Bride have put together a program that explains the origin and meaning of some of these.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

We who gather here today share with Bride and Groom their celebration of a memorable moment in their lives. Their marriage has been created by themselves through the mutual love and commitment they already share, and will now put into words in the presence of all of us.

It is good that you, their relatives and friends should be present to rejoice with them-- to hear their vows; to extend their good wishes; and to be

reminded of the loves and commitments that are a part of your own lives as well.

CANDLE LIGHTING CEREMONY - PART 1

The Candle Lighting ceremony represents the families that you have come from and the new family that you affirm today. Bride and Groom, you have arrived here today with the help of your families' love and support, their courage and their commitment to you. In recognition of their love for you and their hopes for you in your marriage, your mothers, will come forward to each light a candle to symbolize your present families and your ancestors from which you have come. I'll now ask Bride and Groom's mothers to come forward to light the family candles. *They come up to the stage and together light their tapers, then sit.*

PREFACE TO THE VOWS

I invite you now to join hands as you repeat your vows. The expression in today's vows is simply a visible milestone in your journey together.

VOWS:

I, Groom, pledge to you, Bride,
 A life of giving and hoping,
 A life of growing and loving.
 I shall share with you
 Both my work and my play.
 I shall be with you in your tears and in your laughter,
 Just as I will bring
 My own sorrows and my own joys to you.
 I accept you as my companion
 And pledge to you honour, faith, and love.

I, Bride, pledge to you, Groom,
 A life of giving and hoping,
 A life of growing and loving.
 I shall share with you
 Both my work and my play.
 I shall be with you in your tears and in your laughter,
 Just as I will bring
 My own sorrows and my own joys to you.

**I accept you as my companion
And pledge to you honour, faith, and love.**

THE RING CEREMONY*(Rings are given to the lay chaplain)*

May your rings be always the symbol of the unbroken circle of love. Love freely given has no beginning and no end. Love freely given has no separate giver and receiver. You are each the giver and each the receiver. May your ring always call to mind the freedom and the power of love.

Groom: *(places ring on Bride's finger as far as the knuckle":* **Bride,**I give you this ring as a symbol of our love" *(and gently twists it fully on")*

Bride: *(places ring on Groom's finger as far as the knuckle. Groom,I give you this ring as a symbol of our love" *(and gently twists it fully on")**

CANDLE LIGHTING CEREMONY - PART 2

On behalf of your families, your mothers lit candles symbolizing their love for each of you, and their hopes for you in your marriage. Let the lights you have kindled within your own family be brought together in your life as a married couple. Let this light represent the new family you will start together and as an extension of your families of origin. Together, please light your own family candle.*(The bride and groom each light a taper from their family candles, and light the candle of unity.)*

**Let the light you have kindled together
illuminate your lives and the lives of others
through both sunshine and shadow in the days to come.**

WINE CUP CEREMONY *(an ancient Jewish tradition) (we'll use red grape juice)*

**This cup is symbolic of the cup of life. As you drink, you undertake to share all that the future may bring. All the sweetness life's cup my hold for you will be the sweeter because you drink it together. Whatever drops of bitterness it may contain will be less bitter because you share them.
*(The bride and groom drink from the cup.)***

May their trust bring them strength and confidence, whatever trials and adversities they may meet; may their understanding support an acceptance of each other amid all life's uncertainties; In the tomorrows Groom and Bride enter together, may they find far more in life than either would have found alone. May they find tolerance for the prejudices, reverence for the beauties and respect for the truths they will encounter as they go forward together.

PRAYER/BLESSING:

Read Hebrew version of this passage (Numbers 6:24-26)

Yi-va-re-che-cha adonai ve-yi-shma-re-cha

Y'-air adonai pa-nav ehh-lehh-cha ve-yi-hu-neh-cha

Ye-sa adonai pa-nav ehh-lech-cha

Ve-ye-sem le-cha sha-ah-lom!

English version: May the Lord bless you and keep you, May the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you, May the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace. Amen.

PRONOUNCEMENT:

Since you, Groom and you, Bride have joined yourselves in marriage ,and have signified your commitment to each other in the exchange of vows and rings, you are henceforward husband and wife.

BREAKING OF THE GLASS: In one quick moment, the glass is shattered, and all who witness that event will understand intuitively that the boundless joy, the new and the old, the commitment and the caring for all that is fragile—all this has been stamped into the marriage.

(Lay Chaplain puts the wine glass into a bag and then onto the floor.

Groom steps on the glass and everyone shouts "Mazel Tov!")

KISS: You may now kiss the bride. (enthusiastic cheers)

PRESENTATION:

It gives me great pleasure to present our married couple, Groom and Bride

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MUSIC and Recessional: *first Groom and Bride leave arm in arm, followed by the wedding party in pairs.*