

Prelude Music

Introduction

Dear friends and family, it is my pleasure to extend to each of you a very sincere welcome on behalf of Jennie and Peter. My name is Martin Frith. I am an officiant with the Humanist Association of Canada.

After the recessional, the bride and groom invite you to move to the room beside us (gesture left) for appetizers and cocktails where they will join you after they sign the license and register.

This is a very happy day and you too have a part to play in the formal proceedings. You will be asked to signify your support with AN ENTHUSIASTIC response. So when I direct the question to all of you, that's your cue to answer in one hearty voice. *We will!!!*

Finally, and most importantly, a word about the ceremony; just as Jennie and Peter have chosen each other from among the world's multitudes, they have carefully chosen and designed each element of this ceremony – from their vows to the inclusion of a Chupah and the Breaking of the Glass.

The Chupah, under which the ceremony will take place, represents the future home that Peter and Jennie will make together. It is open on all four sides, symbolizing you are always welcome.

The breaking of the glass at the end of the ceremony is to mark the end of the solemnity of the marriage ritual and the beginning of the celebration of marriage. It also serves as a reminder of the fragility of love and friendship.

With their attention to every detail, this service is truly a labour of their love. Jennie and Peter thank you very much for your presence and support here today.

Procession

Music starts here

Opening Words

Jennie and Peter are here today, with you, their family and friends, to declare publicly their love for one another, and to be joined in marriage. This is much more than a social and civil occasion, because it is the declaration of their hearts, built upon experience, and enriched by their love.

With love it is possible to live a life together, each seeking and encouraging the joy, the comfort, the health, and the enrichment of the other, all of which will divide sorrow and multiply satisfactions.

Declaration of Intentions

Jennie and Peter, do you come with joy and anticipation to this moment when you will be legally joined in marriage? Do you pledge to treat each other with kindness, respect and compassion, to listen to each other and to speak to each other with honesty, today and always? Reply: We do.

Recognition of the Gathered Company

To parents (Invite Forward)

The ideals, the understanding and the mutual respect, which these two bring to their marriage, have roots in the love, friendship and guidance with which you have provided them. Do you, then, grant these two your blessings and offer them your love and acceptance? Reply: We Do.

To the gathering of families and friends

Each of you has been invited here because you are a special person in the lives of Jennie and Peter. You have come to celebrate with them and to witness their commitment to one another. Will you, their friends and family, do all in your power to support this couple now, and in the years ahead? Reply: We will.

Words to the Couple

Peter and Jennie, you have come to love each other deeply and sincerely. That love has given you the desire to unite in marriage and to establish a home together. In this ceremony you are dedicating yourselves to give happiness and well-being, each to the other. Your marriage is an act of trust. It must not be based on the vain hope of what the other will do or will not do, might become or might not become. It must be based on the firm belief in your own individual worth and that of the other. Your pledge today is an expression of your devotion. The words spoken in this ceremony will validate your marriage only if your love and commitment to one another are strong enough to sustain it. Today you announce your love for each other in the presence of families and friends. We rejoice with you and we wish you well.

Reading Couple Reads each other a love poem

Jennie:

I love you simply - the secret little things about you

Peter:

I love you easily because our laughter makes us strong.

Jennie:

I love you not only for what you are, but for what I am when I am with you

Peter:

I love you not only for what you have made of yourself, but for what you are making of me.

Betrothal

Jennie and Peter, do you take each other as partners in life? Will you love each other, care for each other and respect each other? Will you cherish each others' uniqueness and respect each others' individuality as you enter into this union of love and trust? Jennie & Peter: We will

Exchange of Vows

Jennie:

Peter, you are my love and I am yours. You and I will remain companions, through the good times as well as the bad. I believe that through compassion and understanding, respect and kindness, our marriage will be full of joy.

Peter:

Jennie, you are my love and I am yours. You and I will remain companions, through the good times as well as the bad. I believe that through compassion and understanding, respect and kindness, our marriage will be full of joy.

Martin: The hand offered by each of you is an extension of self, just as is your mutual love. Cherish the touch, for you touch not only your own, but another life. Be ever sensitive to its pulse. Seek always to understand and to respect its rhythm.

I Peter, take you Jennie, to be my wife- with all your gentleness and sensitivity; with your warm heart and your appreciation of me; and with your willingness to embark along life's path with me.

I Jennie, take you Peter, to be my husband- with all your gentleness and sensitivity; with your warm heart and your appreciation of me; and with your willingness to embark along life's path with me.

Exchange of Rings

The circle is the symbol of the sun and earth and universe. It is the symbol of holiness and perfection and peace. In this ring it is the symbol of unity, in which these two lives have joined in one unbroken circle, in which, wherever you go, you will always return to one another and to your togetherness.

As the ring is placed on the finger, each party says:

Peter: Jennie, with this ring I marry you and promise my love and commitment to the end of our days

Jennie: Peter, with this ring I marry you and promise my love and commitment to the end of our days

Pronouncement (*wine glass is placed near groom*)

No single event marks a marriage. A marriage is the freely chosen union of two individuals. It is both culmination and commencement of a lifetime of love.

Peter and Jennie, you have declared your purpose before this gathering, and you have made your pledges, one to the other you are now husband and wife. May your days be long upon the earth and may you dwell in love and joy together.

Peter breaks the glass

Nuptial Kiss

Closing Words (*Richard Bach, excerpt from "The Bridge Across Forever"*)

A soulmate is someone who has locks that fit our keys, and keys to fit our locks. When we feel safe enough to open the locks, our truest selves step out and we can be completely and honestly who we are; we can be loved for who we are and not for who we're pretending to be. Each unveils the best part of the other. No matter what else goes wrong around us, with that one person we're safe in our own paradise. Our soulmate is someone who shares our deepest longings, our sense of direction. Our soulmate is the one who makes life come to life.

Richard Bach, excerpt from "The Bridge Across Forever"

Jennie and Peter, may you continue to create a home of warmth and understanding; may your lives be filled with peace and beauty; may you always exhibit to one another truth, generosity and love.

Presentation of Couple

Family and friends, it is my privilege to present Peter and Jennie Doe!

Recessional Music

Peter and Jennie leave the room to sign the License & Register