

Wedding Bells Are Ringing

Creative Custom Ceremonies For All Occasions



'Candle Lighting Ceremony'

This is probably the most common ritual done at weddings (aside from the exchanging of rings). It is done with at least two skinny candles and one thicker candle, also called a unity candle. It is aptly named because it symbolizes the unity of the couple.

This can be done a few different ways. The simplest way is to have the officiant light the two tapered candles before the ceremony. When the ceremony calls for it, the officiant moves aside, the couple steps up and each takes a tapered candle, lighting the center one together.

Another way is to have the mothers of the bride and groom walk down the aisle during the processional, up to the altar, and each light a tapered candle then. Another suggestion is to have the mothers of the bride and groom each hold a tapered candle during the beginning of the ceremony. When the time is right, they can light their candles, stand, give them to their children respectively, then sit down. The couple then proceeds to the unity candle and lights it.

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Candle Lighting Ceremony #1

<Groom> and <Bride>, together as you light this candle of unity, you symbolize the flame of your own individual selves joining to ignite the partnership of marriage. You also bring the warmth, strength and wisdom of your family's fire as kindling for your own.

As <Bride> and <Groom>, your flames are separate, yet they feed the same fire. From this day onward, may you bask in the beauty of the light of your love, may its light shine bright and steady upon your path together and may its heat keep you warm through all the days of your lives and beyond.

Candle-Lighting Ceremony #2

This candle you are about to light is a candle of Marriage. Its fire is magical because it represents the light of two people in love.

This candle before you is a candle of Commitment because it takes two people working together to keep it aflame. This candle is also a candle of Unity because both must come together, a spark of themselves, to create the new light.

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 and safety in the cold; and strength and joy in your bodies, minds, and spirits.

May your union be forever blessed.

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Candle Lighting Ceremony #3

These two candles are symbolic of two people as two separate individuals in their own right. From the uniqueness of these separate flames, <Bride> and <Groom> kindle a larger and brighter flame which represents the union they are forming this day. The side candles remain burning to further symbolize the continuing importance of the individual integrity within the marriage relationship. The greater height of the center candle depicts their belief that together they can become greater than either could alone.

Candle Lighting Ceremony #4

From every human being there flows a special light that comes from within. When two spirits, destined to be together, find each other, their streams of light flow together, and a single, brighter light goes forth from their union.

<Bride> and <Groom>, in committing yourselves to one another today, you kindle the flames that burn within you and produce your inner lights – the lights that have joined with one another, creating the bright light that flows from your union. May you always do your best to see the light in one another, to nurture the special light that shines from your union, and to tend to the flame that burns within your partner as best you can, especially in difficult times, when this may be hardest to do.

<Bride>, take this candle as a symbol of your spirit; and <Groom>, take this candle as a symbol of yours. Now, joining your individual flames together, light the center candle which symbolizes the spirit of your union and the new, greater flame of your marriage. May you always tend to the spirit of this union, and never forget that just as this union is made stronger by your strength as individuals, so are you, as individuals, made stronger by the strength of this union.

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Candle Lighting Ceremony #5

The lighting of the Unity Candle is a ritual that symbolizes the joining of a man and a woman together in Holy Matrimony.

The individual candles symbolize the individuality of <Bride> and <Groom> as they enter into this sacred union with one another. The lighting of the Unity Candle in the presence of God symbolizes the great mystery of marriage, where two become one.

<Bride> and <Groom>, as you bring these lights, which symbolize your individual selves, closer and closer together, your individual flames shall merge into the greater light of your union.

And now, as <Bride> and <Groom> light the Unity Candle to symbolize the enduring flame of their marriage, let us each take a moment to send our blessings and wishes for great happiness and joy in this marriage. And let us remember that just as <Bride> and <Groom> are becoming one, so too, are we coming together into a circle of family and friends in loving support of this marriage.

<Bride> and <Groom>, may you always tend the light of your loving union with great devotion and kindness and may you be blessed with a lifelong partnership of loving and learning through God's grace.

Candle Lighting Ceremony #6

<Bride> and <Groom>, this flame you ignite before us today is strong and shining brightly. May you tend it well so that it may shine throughout your lives. May the warmth of the love it symbolizes forever bring you courage, reassurance, and comfort and fill you both with strength and joy.

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Candle Lighting Ceremony #7

Within each human being burns the spark of the divine light that illuminates us all. As <Bride> and <Groom>'s mothers/parents light their candles, we are reminded of the faith, wisdom, and love that have been passed on to <Bride> and <Groom> from the generations before them. Each generation has passed on their light through the mystery of two becoming one. And here again today, we witness the gathering light as two families become one. As they light <Bride> and <Groom>'s candles, they pass their heritage into this newly forming family and once again, two become one.

Now, as <Bride> and <Groom> light the Unity Candle, they are symbolically stepping onto the shared path of their marriage. May their love for each other grow deeper each day, and may they tend this union well, so they may enjoy the fruits of its harvest – abiding in peace, joy, and happiness.

Additional Candle Lighting Ceremony Option

The following poem is by Harold Douglas. I can combine it with any of the above ceremonies to be read while you two light the Unity Candle:

Soft mists embrace two golden flames,

Alone they search the night.

Two souls adrift in dreams of love,

They seek to claim the light.

The path is long from which they came,

But sure they are it's right.

Two flames embrace in dreams of love,

Two Souls - Two Hearts Unite.

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