

Unity Candle

A candle-lighting service can be a very meaningful part of your service. But, think through what you want it to symbolize. One option is to have no interpretation of your act, just doing what is suggested in # A-C below in silence or accompanied softly by the organ ("Oh Perfect Love," "O Master Let Me Walk With Thee," etc.), by a solo, a reading of scripture (ex. - 1 Corinthians 13), or another reading. You can more consciously include your parents by having them light the two outside candles before the processional. Add in a statement about them, if you wish. Option C is another way of symbolizing the need for Christ at the center of your marriage. Even with A-D, special music can be used during the actual lighting.

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A. _____ and _____, the two outside candles burning here represent your lives at this moment. Each light is distinct, each able to go its separate way. _____ and _____ are two persons; unique, complex, individual human beings.

And the same Father who gave each of you your individuality and uniqueness is now giving you to each other. The scriptural mystery shall be fulfilled. The two shall become one flesh. From now on, what each of you have been individually, you will become together. What will touch your lives as individuals will become a part of a new unity.

As each of you take a candle, carry the flame to the center candle, and extinguish the small candle, thus let the center fire represent the new unity being celebrated in this service. As the one center light cannot be divided, neither can your lives. May the one in whose name you are joined, who worked in your lives as individuals, continue to walk with you in your life together.

B. The two outside candles have been lighted to represent both your lives in this moment. They are two distinct lights, each capable of going their separate ways. To bring bliss and happiness to your home, there must be the merging of these two lights into one light. This is what the Lord meant when He said, "On this account a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife and the two shall be one flesh."

From now on your thoughts shall be for each other rather than your individual selves. Your plans shall be mutual, your joys and sorrows shall be shared alike.

As you each take a candle and together light the center one, you will extinguish your own candles, thus letting the center candle represent the union of your lives into one flesh. As this one light cannot be divided, neither shall your lives be divided but a united testimony in a Christian home. May the radiance of this one light be a testimony of your unity in the Lord Jesus Christ.

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- C. (There are four candles upon the worship center. Only one is lit, the tallest one standing behind a lower, but perhaps wider candle, two unlit candles are in holders on either side.)

"In God we live and move and have our being," (Acts 17:28). One candle has been lit before and above all others, the candle which represents the presence of God in our lives, the Christ candle.

Together you will each take a candle and light it from the Christ candle. All that each of you have ever been, are now, or ever will be, is grounded in the presence of God.

Together you will light the center candle from your separate lights, symbolizing that you bring your light, and God's light to this marriage. All lights will remain lit as a testimony that God will shine through your marriage and through your own individual lives. Let your lights shine.

- D. The candles which _____ and _____ now light represents the coming together of their two lives in a marriage relationship. Their two individual candles continue burning. In the same way, _____ and _____ will continue to be two unique individuals in the midst of their marriage.
(This can just be printed in the bulletin with no words spoken during the candle lighting.)