

The Wedding

Wedding Service

*P*our my cup of wine with thine into
one vessel

Fill the emptiness
with drink of laughter, song and love

Drink together
Let us be strengthened in each other.

Our lives, like our wines, are intermingled
An extraordinary arithmetic
union without subtraction

Two persons into one
one person into two
Fusion without coercion
merged without loss of identity.

Odd geometry
distance without isolation
space between us without alienation
Like the four poles of the wedding canopy stand apart
too close and the curtain falls
too far and the foundation will not support.

Take this ring
round as a circle not to exclude
For love enlarges
joins families and friends
embraces causes that reach out to touch the hem of God.





Take this ring
 unadorned, unadorned love
 not blinded by glitter love
 not opulence
 measured by the weight of gold
Like the ring, love is simple.

This glass we break at last reminds us
 of two fragilities
Fragile we are
 however strong our outer self words
 hurt, silence pains
Our strength is in the wisdom of the heart
Gentle now, tender now, soft now, dear heart.

The other fragility in the world about us
The temple is destroyed
 poverty, homelessness, hunger, sickness, hates abound
And we two blessed with God's greatest gift to creation - love
 pledge ourselves to bind up the bruises of broken spirits
 to make whole fragmented lives
Bring joy to the joyless
Laughter to the heavy-hearted.

For love is more powerful than death
Love heals, love binds, love cures, love resurrects
Love and marriage are a cosmic joy
Heaven and earth embrace and create
where there is love there is life.

Rejoice with me
 the birth of a new syntax not
 mine or yours
 but
 "us" and "ours"
 a new word is born
 a new beginning
 a new promise.

Blessed art Thou who has created
 mirth and exultation pleasure and delight
I and you
 "we" together.