

Chosen

To see both of you
Stand side-by-side
Before your families, friends and this congregation
Is to witness the wonder of choice.

No one can choose for you
No stars in the heavens
No voice from above
No imperious command
No claim to destiny or to fate
The choice is yours alone
The choice is your self revelation.

Marriages may be made in Heaven
But they are sealed here on earth
Here we sing, here we sigh, here we dream, here we dare
Here we find the other half of our selves.

You have chosen
You have chosen to share your professions and vocations
Your days and nights
Your Sabbaths and weekdays
You have chosen
To share memories of your past.

And dreams of your future
To share your fasts and festivals
Your celebrations and commemorations.



You have chosen vows
Vows that bind you inextricably.

“Entreat me not to leave thee
And to return from following thee
For whither thou goest I will go,
And where thou lodgest I will lodge
Thy people shall be my people
Thy God, my God
Where thou diest, I will die;
And there will I be buried.”

Your choice rises out of layers
Of culture and ethics
Out of things heard and overheard
Out of table talk whispered at home
Out of lectures from the podium
And sermons from the lecturn
Out of songs and silliness.

Chose me whole
Chose me entire
For I am of many parts.

Should I falter or should I sprint
Should I triumph or should I fail
See beneath my diversity
The unity of my being.

Choice is not partial
Choice is whole
With all my heart, soul and might
I embrace the oneness of you
As you embrace my own
Be thou consecrated unto me
As I am consecrated unto you.

Live with joy
Live with purpose
Continue the dialogue
That you have begun
The constant conversation
The unending interchange.

