



## **Optional Readings: Poems**

**These can be read by the officiant or by a guest.**

### **Across the Years**

Across the years I will walk with you in deep green forests; on shores of sand and when our time on earth is through, in heaven, too you will hold my hand.

### **Grow Old along with me** by John Lennon & Yoko Ono (from Robert Browning's original poem)

Grow Old along with me the best is yet to be. When our time has come, we will be as one  
God bless our love.

Grow old along with me two branches of one tree. Face the setting sun when the day is done  
God bless our love.

Spending our lives together, man & wife together. World without end.

Grow old along with me whatever fate decrees. We will see it through, for our love is true  
God Bless our Love.

### **I Promise by Dorothy R. Colgan**

I promise to give you the best of myself and to ask of you no more than you can give.

I promise to respect you as your own person and to realize that your interests, desires and needs are no less important than my own. I promise to share with you my time and my attention

and to bring joy, strength and imagination to our relationship. I promise to keep myself open to you, to let you see through the window of my world into my innermost fears and feelings, secrets and dreams.

I promise to grow along with you, to be willing to face changes in order to keep our relationship alive and exciting. I promise to love you in good times and bad, with all I have to give and all I feel inside in the only way I know how - completely and forever.

### **Love is like and Ocean**

Love is like an ocean that starts out as a stream. First just a little trickle and next a flowing stream.

Like a stream just rambles not knowing where to go. Love can start the same and like the stream will grow. And then shortly thereafter the two streams will unite just like star-crossed lovers on a sparkling moonlit night.

As the stream moves onward a river it will soon find just as love ignites the meeting of our mind. The river rages on to unknown territories and as in a new love it shares it's many stories. The final destination the open endless sea where each will become one now just like your love for me.

Yes, love is like an ocean with it's ever flowing tide, welcoming and holding with it's arms open wide.

Never doubt the powers or the strength of an ocean. Never doubt the strength of our love and our devotion.

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### **Perhaps Love by John Denver**

Perhaps love is like a resting place, a shelter from the storm. It exists to give you comfort. It is there to keep you warm. And in those times of trouble, when you are most alone the memory of love will bring you home. Perhaps love is like a window. Perhaps an open door. It invites you to come closer. It wants to show you more. And even if you lose yourself and don't know what to do, the memory of love will see you through. Oh, Love to some is like a cloud; to some as strong as steel; for some a way of living; for some a way to feel.

Some say love is holding on and some say letting go. Some say love is everything. And some say they don't know. Perhaps love is like the ocean, full of conflict, full of change. Like a fire when it's cold outside, thunder when it rains. If we should live forever and all our dreams come true, the memories of love will be of you.

### **These I Can Promise by Mark Twain**

I cannot promise you a life of sunshine; I cannot promise riches, wealth or gold;  
I cannot promise you an easy pathway that leads away from change or growing old.  
But I can promise all my hearts devotion, a smile to chase away your tears of sorrow  
A love that's ever true and ever growing; a hand to hold in yours through each tomorrow.