



ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH  
TOORAK  
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# Non-Biblical Readings *for Weddings*

*A collection of poems & readings for the Wedding Ceremony*



A service of marriage in an Anglican Church always includes at least one reading from the Bible, but you may also choose non-biblical readings in addition to your chosen Bible readings.

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# READINGS

## 1. The love of God | *Dante Alighieri (1265-1321)*

The love of God, unutterable and perfect,  
flows into a pure soul the way that light  
rushes into a transparent object.

The more love that it finds, the more it gives  
itself; so that, as we grow clear and open,  
the more complete the joy of heaven is.

And the more souls who resonate together,  
the greater the intensity of their love,  
and, mirror-like, each soul reflects the other.

## 2. Touched By An Angel | *Maya Angelou (1928-2014)*

We, unaccustomed to courage  
exiles from delight  
live coiled in shells of loneliness  
until love leaves its high holy temple  
and comes into our sight  
to liberate us into life.

Love arrives  
and in its train come ecstasies  
old memories of pleasure  
ancient histories of pain.  
Yet if we are bold,  
love strikes away the chains of fear  
from our souls.

We are weaned from our timidity  
In the flush of love's light  
we dare be brave  
And suddenly we see  
that love costs all we are  
and will ever be.  
Yet it is only love  
which sets us free.

### 3. Destiny | *Sir Edwin Arnold (1832-1904)*

Somewhere there waiteth in this world of ours  
For one lone soul another lonely soul  
Each choosing each through all the weary hours  
And meeting strangely at one sudden goal.  
Then blend they, like green leaves with golden flowers,  
Into one beautiful and perfect whole;  
And life's long night is ended, and the way  
Lies open onward to eternal day.

### 4. Love is a temporary madness | *Louis de Bernières*

Love is a temporary madness, it erupts like volcanoes and then subsides. And when it subsides you have to make a decision. You have to work out whether your root was so entwined together that it is inconceivable that you should ever part. Because this is what love is.

Love is not breathlessness, it is not excitement, it is not the promulgation of promises of eternal passion. That is just being in love, which any fool can do. Love itself is what is left over when being in love has burned away, and this is both an art and a fortunate accident.

Those that truly love have roots that grow towards each other underground, and when all the pretty blossoms have fallen from their branches, they find that they are one tree and not two.



## 5. The Gift of Love | *Andrew Blakemore*

No soul can live without it  
For a precious thing indeed,  
That's born out of compassion  
In the effort to succeed,  
Throughout the world it's needed  
So then heed its mighty call,  
The gift of love for certain is  
The greatest gift of all.

So if you have a bit to spare  
Then send it on its way,  
To places where they need it most  
And make things change this day,  
For if you do ignore it and  
Decide to make it wait,  
By the time you go and do it then  
It may be just too late.

So send your love upon the wind  
For God shall make it blow,  
Across the lands and oceans wide  
So quickly it shall go,  
To find each heart that's lonely

And is wracked by hurt and pain,  
You have the power and the  
strength  
To make them beat again.

While many souls do suffer  
Caught within the pangs of war,  
Don't keep your love unto  
yourself  
For they do need it more,  
To all those who are starving and  
Are barely now alive,  
The gift of love of which you send  
Will help them to survive.

Nobody has the answers so  
You can but only try,  
Just go ahead and do it now  
And never question why,  
Throughout the world it's needed  
So then heed its mighty call,  
The gift of love for certain is  
The greatest gift of all.

## 6. How Do I Love Thee? | *Elizabeth Barrett Browning (1806-1861)*

How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.  
I love thee to the depth and breadth and height  
My soul can reach, when feeling out of sight  
For the ends of being and ideal grace.  
I love thee to the level of every day's  
Most quiet need, by sun and candle-light.  
I love thee freely, as men strive for right.  
I love thee purely, as they turn from praise.  
I love thee with the passion put to use  
In my old griefs, and with my childhood's faith.  
I love thee with a love I seemed to lose  
With my lost saints. I love thee with the breath,  
Smiles, tears, of all my life; and, if God choose,  
I shall but love thee better after death.

7. She Walks in Beauty | *Lord George Gordon Byron (1788-1824)*

She walks in beauty, like the night  
Of cloudless climes and starry skies;  
And all that's best of dark and bright  
Meet in her aspect and her eyes;  
Thus mellowed to that tender light  
Which heaven to gaudy day denies.

One shade the more, one ray the less,  
Had half impaired the nameless grace  
Which waves in every raven tress,  
Or softly lightens o'er her face;  
Where thoughts serenely sweet express,  
How pure, how dear their dwelling-place.

And on that cheek, and o'er that brow,  
So soft, so calm, yet eloquent,  
The smiles that win, the tints that glow,  
But tell of days in goodness spent,  
A mind at peace with all below,  
A heart whose love is innocent!

8. I Will Be Here | *Stephen Curtis Chapman (b.1962)*

Tomorrow morning if you wake up,  
And the sun does not appear  
I will be here.

If in the dark we lose sight of love,  
Hold my hand, and have no fear  
I will be here.

When you feel like being quiet  
When you need to speak your mind,  
I will listen.

When the laughter turns to crying  
Through the winning, losing and trying  
I will be here.

Tomorrow morning if you wake up,  
And the future is unclear  
I will be here

As sure as seasons are made for change,  
Our lifetimes are made for years  
I will be here.

You can cry on my shoulder,  
When the mirror tells us we're older,  
I will hold you.

I will be here to watch you grow in beauty  
And tell you all the things you are to me  
I will be here.

I will be true to the promise I have made  
To you and to the One who gave you to me  
I will be here

9. I Promise | *Dorothy R. Colgan*

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

I promise to respect you as your own person  
and to realise that your interests, desires and needs  
are no less important than my own.

I promise to share with you my time and 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 that I have to give,  
and all I feel inside in the only way I know how

Completely and forever.

10. Today I Married My Best Friend | *Rachel Elizabeth Cooper (b.1977)*

Today I married my best friend,  
Our bond complete, it hath no end,  
We share one soul, we share one heart,  
A perfect time - a perfect start.

With these rings we share together,  
Love so close to last forever,  
This special day - two special hearts,  
Let nothing keep this love apart.



11. Love | *Roy Croft (1907-1973)*

I love you,  
Not only for what you are,  
But for what I am when I am with  
you.

I love you,  
Not only for what you have made of  
yourself,  
But for what you are making of me.

I love you for  
the part of me that you bring out;  
I love you for  
putting your hand into my heaped-up  
heart  
And passing over all the foolish, weak  
things  
that you can't help dimly seeing  
there,

And for drawing out into the light  
All the beautiful things  
that no one else had looked  
Quite far enough to find.

I love you because you have done  
More than any creed  
Could have done  
To make me good,  
And more than any fate could have  
done  
To make me happy.

You have done it  
Without a touch,  
Without a word,  
Without a sign.

12. I Carry your Heart with Me | *E. E. Cummings (1894-1962)*

I carry your heart with me (I carry it in my heart)  
I am never without it (anywhere  
I go you go, my dear; and whatever is done  
by only me is your doing, my darling)

I fear no fate (for you are my fate, my sweet)  
I want no world (for beautiful you are my world, my true)  
and it's you are whatever a moon has always meant  
and whatever a sun will always sing is you

Here is the deepest secret nobody knows  
(here is the root of the root and the bud of the bud  
and the sky of the sky of a tree called life; which grows  
higher than soul can hope or mind can hide)  
and this is the wonder that's keeping the stars apart

I carry your heart (I carry it in my heart)



13. Married Love |

*Guan Daosheng*

(aka 'Lady Zhongji' or 'Kuan Tao-Sheng', 1262-1319)

You and I  
have so much love,  
that it burns like a fire,  
in which we bake a lump of clay  
molded into a figure of you  
and a figure of me.

Then we take both of them,  
and break them into pieces,  
and mix the pieces with water,  
and mold again a figure of you,  
and a figure of me.

I am in your clay.

In life we share a single quilt.

In death we will share a single coffin.



## 14. Desiderata | *Max Ehrmann (1872-1945)*

Go placidly amid the noise and the haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence. As far as possible, without surrender, be on good terms with all persons.

Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even to the dull and the ignorant; they too have their story.

Avoid loud and aggressive persons; they are vexatious to the spirit. If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain or bitter, for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself.

Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans. Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time.

Exercise caution in your business affairs, for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals, and everywhere life is full of heroism.

Be yourself. Especially do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment, it is as perennial as the grass.

Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth.

Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with dark imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness.

Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself. You are a child of the universe no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here.

And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should. Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be. And whatever your labors and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life, keep peace in your soul. With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be cheerful. Strive to be happy.

## 15. Blessing for a Marriage | *James Dillet Freeman (1912-2003)*

May your marriage bring you all the exquisite excitements a marriage should bring, and may life grant you also patience, tolerance, and understanding. May you always need one another – not so much to fill your emptiness as to help you to know your fullness.

A mountain needs a valley to be complete;  
the valley does not make the mountain less, but more;  
and the valley is more a valley because it has a mountain towering over it.  
So let it be with you and you.

May you need one another, but not out of weakness.  
May you want one another, but not out of lack.  
May you entice one another, but not compel one another.  
May you embrace one another, but not out encircle one another.  
May you succeed in all important ways with one another,  
and not fail in the little graces.

May you look for things to praise, often say, “I love you!”  
and take no notice of small faults.  
If you have quarrels that push you apart, may both of you hope to have good sense enough to take the first step back.

May you enter into the mystery, which is the awareness of one another’s presence — no more physical than spiritual,  
warm and near when you are side by side,  
and warm and near when you are in separate rooms or even distant cities.  
May you have happiness, and may you find it making one another happy.  
May you have love, and may you find it loving one another.



## 16. On Marriage | *Kahlil Gibran (1883-1931)*

You were born together, and together you shall be forevermore.  
You shall be together when the white wings of death scatter your days.  
You shall be together even in the silent memory of God.  
But let there be spaces in your togetherness,  
And let the winds of the heavens dance between you.

Love one another, but make not a bond of love:  
Let it rather be a moving sea between the shores of your souls.  
Fill each other's cup but drink not from one cup.  
Give one another of your bread but eat not from the same loaf.  
Sing and dance together and be joyous, but let each one of you be alone,  
Even as the strings of a lute are alone though they quiver with the same music.

Give your hearts, but not into each other's keeping.  
For only the hand of Life can contain your hearts.  
And stand together yet not too near together:  
For the pillars of the temple stand apart,  
And the oak tree and the cypress grow not in each other's shadow.

## 17. Love has no other desire | *Kahlil Gibran (1883-1931)*

Love has no other desire but to fulfill itself.  
But if you love and must needs have desires, let these be your desires:  
To melt and be like a running brook that sings its melody to the night.  
To know the pain of too much tenderness.  
To be wounded by your own understanding of love;  
And to bleed willingly and joyfully.  
To wake at dawn with a winged heart  
and give thanks for another day of loving;  
To rest at the noon hour and meditate love's ecstasy;  
To return home at eventide with gratitude;  
And then to sleep with a prayer for the beloved in your heart  
and a song of praise upon your lips.

## 18. I Held out my Hand | *Lisa Integali*

I held out my hand and you were there.  
You took my foolishness and gently showed me the path.  
You took my pride and made me laugh at myself.  
You took my wounds and covered them with the balm of love.  
In your light I have the faith I need to succeed.  
In your presence I can explore myself.  
In your arms I find peace.  
I give myself to you because I want to.  
Because I trust that I can.

## 19. Love is a Mighty Power | *Thomas à Kempis (1380-1471)*

Love is a mighty power, a great and complete good.  
Love alone lightens every burden, and makes rough places smooth.  
It bears every hardship as though it were nothing, and renders all bitterness  
sweet and acceptable.

Nothing is sweeter than love,  
Nothing stronger,  
Nothing higher,  
Nothing wider,  
Nothing more pleasant,  
Nothing fuller or better in heaven or earth; for love is born of God.

Love flies, runs and leaps for joy.  
It is free and unrestrained.  
Love knows no limits, but ardently transcends all bounds.  
Love feels no burden, takes no account of toil,  
attempts things beyond its strength.

Love sees nothing as impossible,  
for it feels able to achieve all things.  
It is strange and effective,  
while those who lack love faint and fail.

Love is not fickle and sentimental,  
nor is it intent on vanities.  
Like a living flame and a burning torch,  
it surges upward and surely surmounts every obstacle.

## 20. The Art of Marriage | *Wilferd Arlan Peterson (1900–1995)*

Happiness in marriage is not something that just happens.

A good marriage must be created. In marriage the little things are the big things.

It is never being too old to hold hands.

It is remembering to say “I love you” at least once a day.

It is never going to sleep angry.

It is at no time taking the other for granted; the courtship should not end with the honeymoon, it should continue through the years.

It is having a mutual sense of values and common objectives.

It is standing together facing the world. It is forming a circle of love that gathers the whole family.

It is doing things for each other, not in the attitude of duty or sacrifice, but in the spirit of joy.

It is speaking words of appreciation and demonstrating gratitude in thoughtful ways.

It is not looking for perfection in each other.

It is cultivating flexibility, patience, understanding and a sense of humour.

It is having the capacity to forgive and forget.

It is giving each other an atmosphere in which each can grow old.

It is a common search for the good and the beautiful.

It is establishing a relationship in which the independence is equal, dependence is mutual and the obligation is reciprocal.

It is not only marrying the right partner; it is being the right partner.

## 21. Marriage Lines | *Gloria Matthew*

In a marriage where love lives  
There's realism and Truth,  
There's pleasure in giving of time  
Closeness and security  
Freedom and individuality  
No need to possess or confine

In a marriage where one lives  
True friendship is present  
With respect for each point of view  
Through disappointment sharing  
Comes deeper caring  
Happiness deeper for two.

In a marriage where love lives  
There's no need for rules  
There's understanding when harsh  
words are spoken  
Apologies are accepted  
Trust is effected

The true bond of love is never  
broken.

## 22. Marriage is Love | *Gloria Matthew*

If two are caring as they are sharing life's hopes and fears.  
If the music of laughter outweighs sadness and tears.  
Marriage is togetherness.

If both derive pleasure from the mere presence of each other,  
yet when parted no jealousies restrict,  
worry or smother.  
Marriage is freedom.

If achievements mean more when they benefit two and consideration is shown  
with each point of view.  
Marriage is respect.  
And if togetherness,

freedom and respect are combined with a joy that words can never fully define,  
then marriage is love.

## 23. Oodgeroo's Song | *Oodgeroo Noonuccal*

Life is ours in vain  
Lacking love, which never  
Counts the loss or gain.  
But remember, ever  
Love is linked with pain.

Light and sister shade  
Shape each mortal morrow

Seek not to evade  
Love's companion Sorrow,  
And be not dismayed.

Grief is not in vain,  
It's for our completeness.  
If the fates ordain  
Love to bring life sweetness,  
Welcome to its pain.

## 24. Somebody | *Depeche Mode*

I want somebody to share, share the rest of my life  
Share my innermost thoughts, know my intimate details  
Someone who'll stand by my side and give me support  
And in return, they'll get my support.

They will listen to me when I want to speak  
About the world we live in and life in general.  
Though my views may be wrong, they'll hear me out  
And won't easily be converted to my way of thinking,  
They'll often disagree, but at the end of it all,  
They will understand me.

I want somebody who cares for me passionately  
With every thought and with every breath  
Someone who'll help me see things in a different light  
All the things I detest, I will almost like  
I don't want to be tied to anyone's strings  
I'm carefully trying to steer clear of those things  
But when I'm asleep I want somebody  
Who will put their arms around me and kiss me tenderly.

## 25. The Symposium | *Plato (c.427-348 BC)*

Anciently is mutual love ingrained in mankind.

When one happens on his own particular half, the two of them are wondrously thrilled with affection and intimacy and love, and are hardly to be induced to leave each other's side for a single moment. These are they who continue together throughout life. No one could imagine this to be the mere amorous connection: obviously the soul of each is wishing for something else that it cannot express.

The craving and pursuit of that entirety is called Love. If we make friends with the god and are reconciled, we shall have the fortune that falls to few in our day of discovering our proper favorites. Love is the god who brings this about; he fully deserves our hymns. If we will supply the gods with reverent duty, he will restore us to our ancient life and heal and help us into the happiness of the blest.



26. Sonnet 18 | *William Shakespeare (1564-1616)*

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?  
Thou art more lovely and more temperate:  
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,  
And summer's lease hath all too short a date;  
Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,  
And often is his gold complexion dimm'd;  
And every fair from fair sometime declines,  
By chance or nature's changing course untrimm'd;  
But thy eternal summer shall not fade,  
Nor lose possession of that fair thou ow'st;  
Nor shall death brag thou wander'st in his shade,  
When in eternal lines to time thou grow'st:  
    So long as men can breathe or eyes can see,  
    So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.

27. Sonnet 47 | *William Shakespeare (1564-1616)*

Betwixt mine eye and heart a league is took,  
And each doth good turns now unto the other:  
When that mine eye is famish'd for a look,  
Or heart in love with sighs himself doth smother,  
With my love's picture then my eye doth feast,  
And to the painted banquet bids my heart;  
Another time mine eye is my heart's guest,  
And in his thoughts of love doth share a part:  
So, either by thy picture or my love,  
Thy self away, art present still with me;  
For thou not farther than my thoughts canst move,  
And I am still with them, and they with thee;  
    Or, if they sleep, thy picture in my sight  
    Awakes my heart, to heart's and eyes' delight.



28. Sonnet 116 | *William Shakespeare (1564-1616)*

Let me not to the marriage of true minds  
Admit impediments. Love is not love  
Which alters when it alteration finds,  
Or bends with the remover to remove:  
O, no! it is an ever-fixed mark,  
That looks on tempests and is never shaken;  
It is the star to every wandering bark,  
Whose worth's unknown, although his height be taken.  
Love's not Time's fool, though rosy lips and cheeks  
Within his bending sickle's compass come;  
Love alters not with his brief hours and weeks,  
But bears it out even to the edge of doom.  
    If this be error and upon me proved,  
    I never writ, nor no man ever loved.

29. Love's Philosophy | *Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792-1822)*

The fountains mingle with the river  
    And the rivers with the ocean,  
The winds of heaven mix for ever  
    With a sweet emotion;  
Nothing in the world is single;  
    All things by a law divine  
In one spirit meet and mingle.  
    Why not I with thine?—  
  
See the mountains kiss high heaven  
    And the waves clasp one another;  
No sister-flower would be forgiven  
    If it disdained its brother;  
And the sunlight clasps the earth  
    And the moonbeams kiss the sea:  
What is all this sweet work worth  
    If thou kiss not me?

### 30. Apache Blessing | *Traditional*

Now you will feel no rain,  
for each of you will be a shelter for the other.  
Now you will feel no cold,  
for each of you will be warmth to the other.  
Now there will be no loneliness,  
for each of you will be a companion to the other.  
Now you are two persons,  
but there is only one life before you.

May beauty surround you both in the journey ahead  
and through all the years.  
May happiness be your companion  
and your days together be good and long upon the earth.

Treat yourselves and each other with respect,  
and remind yourselves often of what brought you together.  
Give the highest priority to the tenderness, gentleness  
and kindness that your connection deserves.

When frustration, difficulties and fear assail your relationship,  
as they threaten all relationships at one time or another,  
remember to focus on what is right between you,  
not only the part which seems wrong.

In this way, you can ride out the storms  
when clouds hide the face of the sun in your lives,  
remembering that even if you lose sight of it for a moment,  
the sun is still there.  
And if each of you takes responsibility for the quality of your life together,  
it will be marked by abundance and delight.

### 31. Hawaiian Blessing | *Traditional*

Here all seeking is over,  
the lost has been found,  
A mate has been found  
To share the chills of winter  
Now love asks that you be  
united.

Here is a place to rest,  
A place to sleep,  
A place in heaven.

Now two are becoming one,  
The black night is scattered,  
The eastern sky grows  
bright.  
At last the great day has  
come

### 32. Irish Blessing | *Traditional*

May the road rise to meet you,  
May the wind be always at your back.  
May the sun shine warm upon your face,  
The rains fall soft upon your fields.  
And until we meet again,  
May God hold you in the palm of his hand.

May God be with you and bless you;  
May you see your children's children.  
May you be poor in misfortune,  
Rich in blessings,  
May you know nothing but happiness  
From this day forward.

May the road rise to meet you  
May the wind be always at your back  
May the warm rays of sun fall upon your home  
And may the hand of a friend always be near.

May green be the grass you walk on,  
May blue be the skies above you,  
May pure be the joys that surround you,  
May true be the hearts that love you.

### 33. Navajo Blessing | *Traditional*

Now you have lit a fire and that fire should not go out.  
The two of you now have a fire that represents love,  
understanding and a philosophy of life.  
It will give you heat, food, warmth and happiness.  
The new fire represents a new beginning  
- a new life and a new family.  
The fire should keep burning; you should stay together.  
You have lit the fire for life, until old age separates you.



### 34. I knew I had been touched by Love | *Unknown*

I knew that I had been touched by love the first time I saw you,  
and felt your warmth, and I heard your laughter.

I knew that I had been touched by love when I was hurting from  
something that happened, and you came along and made the hurt go away.

I knew that I had been touched by love when I quit making plans with  
my friends, and started dreaming dreams with you.

I knew that I had been touched by love when suddenly I stopped thinking  
in terms of 'me', and started thinking in terms of 'we'.

I knew that I had been touched by love when suddenly I couldn't make  
any decisions by myself anymore, and I had the strong desire to share everything  
with you.

I knew that I had been touched by love the first time we spent alone  
together, and I knew that I wanted to stay with you forever because  
I had never felt this touched by love.

### 35. These are the Hands | *Unknown*

These are the hands of your best friend, young and strong and full of love for  
you, that are holding yours on your wedding day, as you promise to love each  
other today, tomorrow, and forever.

These are the hands that will work alongside yours, as together you build your  
future.

These are the hands that will passionately love you and cherish you through the  
years, and with the slightest touch, will comfort you like no other.

These are the hands that will hold you when fear or grief fills your mind.

These are the hands that will countless times wipe the tears from your eyes;  
tears of sorrow, and tears of joy.

These are the hands that will tenderly hold your children.

These are the hands that will help you to hold your family as one.

These are the hands that will give you strength when you need it.

And lastly, these are the hands that even when wrinkled and aged, will still be  
reaching for yours, still giving you the same unspoken tenderness with just a  
touch.

### 36. True Love | *Unknown*

True love is a sacred flame  
That burns eternally,  
And none can dim its special glow  
Or change its destiny.  
True love speaks in tender tones  
And hears with gentle ear,  
True love gives with open heart  
And true love conquers fear.  
True love makes no harsh demands  
It neither rules nor binds,  
And true love holds with gentle hands  
The hearts that it entwines.

### 37. Marriage Advice | *Jane Wells (1886)*

'Let your love be stronger than your hate or anger.  
Learn the wisdom of compromise, for it is better to bend a little than to break.  
Believe the best rather than the worst.  
People have a way of living up or down to your opinion of them.  
Remember that true friendship is the basis for any lasting relationship.

The person you choose to marry is deserving of the courtesies and kindnesses  
you bestow on your friends.  
Please hand this down to your children and your children's children.  
The more things change the more they stay the same.'

### 38. I Didn't Fall in Love with You | *Kiersten White*

I didn't fall in love with you.  
I walked into love with you,  
with my eyes wide open,  
choosing to take every step along the way.  
I do believe in fate and destiny,  
but I also believe we are only fated to do the things that we'd choose anyway.  
And I'd choose you;  
in a hundred lifetimes, in a hundred worlds,  
in any version of reality,  
I'd find you  
and I'd choose you.

39. Thoughts of Nanushka | *Nan Witcomb (1928-2023)*

If I Love,  
I will love beyond today  
Beyond the sensuous tingling of the body  
Beyond the imprisoned slavery of the mind.

I will love freely  
As love was meant to be  
Like the white wings of a gull  
On a journey to the sun

Like the wonder of tomorrow  
And the wonder of a thousand tomorrows  
With the faith of a thousand yesterdays  
Which have freed me to love this way.

40. This Day | Brian Zouch

This day you shall remember well  
As in your married love you dwell  
And cast your minds back to the time  
You made each other's hearts entwine.

In wedded love you choose to be  
Each binding each and yet each free  
As days and months and years go on  
Your love will hold you firm and strong

The marriage vow this day you say  
A vow you'll build on day by day  
And as you walk the path of life  
The world will know you're man and wife

You two who now are but one soul  
Have each to play a different role  
For in this life you each shall care  
That all you do is all times fair

You pledge this day to be as one  
In all those wondrous years to come



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