

August 20, 2011
5:30pm

(Processional)

Good evening,

On behalf of _____ and _____, I welcome you to this special moment in their lives. When two people gather together with their families and friends to participate in a wedding ceremony, it is to celebrate what in fact has already occurred. Emotionally, they have been married before today, but they are here now to publicly declare the love already present and guiding their relationship into the future. This public declaration is neither an end nor a beginning, but rather a time of momentary pause before continuing and changing and growing over the months and years to come.

_____ and _____ have asked for us to remember those loved ones who have gone before us in death, and would especially like us to remember, _____'s grandparents: _____ and _____'s sister, _____.

It is fitting and appropriate that you, the families and friends of _____ and _____ are here to witness and participate in their wedding, for the ideals, the understanding, and the mutual respect which they bring to their marriage, have their roots in the love, friendship and guidance given to them by you. Marriage makes us aware of the changes wrought by time, but the new relationship will continue to draw much of its beauty and meaning from the intimate associations of the past. Let us celebrate the now and future of their love.

In the spirit of celebration and love, I ask you to take a moment to rise as you are able and turn to those around you to welcome them today by offering your hand in peace.

_____ and _____, now is the time to inquire about your readiness to enter into this promise of marriage.

Do you, _____, of your own free will and consent, take _____ to be your wife, and do you promise to love, honor and cherish her throughout life? Response: I do.

Do you, _____, of your own free will and consent, take _____ to be your wife, and do you promise to love, honor and cherish her throughout life? Response: I do.

Marriage makes us aware of the changes of time, but the new relationships that all of you will share will continue to draw much of their beauty from those warm associations of the past.

At this time _____ and _____ would like to honor their families and friends. To their parents: _____ & _____ and _____ & _____, they thank you for the values you gave them and the many sacrifices you made while raising them. You have been a source of inspiration in their lives, and they honor you today. To their friends gathered here, and to those who cannot be here, they value your friendship, and hope that these friendships will grow in the coming years.

Very much involved in _____'s and _____'s love is the wonderful child, _____. He is a special part of this ceremony as himself and in the family, already

formed, that they symbolize. We wish for his life to be filled with love and happiness.

_____ and _____, you have chosen a special reading from Corinthians to enrich the meaning of this moment for the two of you. It says:

Love bears all things, believes all things,
Hopes all things, endures all things.
Love never ends.
1 Corinthians 13:7-8

In marriage, two persons turn to each other in search of a greater fulfillment than either can achieve alone. Marriage is a going-forth, a bold step into the future; it is risking what we are for the sake of what we yet can be. Only in giving of oneself and sharing with another can the mysterious process of growth take place. Only in loyalty and devotion bestowed upon another can that which is eternal in life emerge and be known. In this ceremony we celebrate love come to life for _____ and _____.

On this day you stand somewhat apart from all other human beings. You stand within the charmed circle of your love. But love is not meant to be the possession of two people alone. Through the strength of your relationship, may you also become more loving towards others. May your love for each other help you grow closer together than before. May you also continue to love one another in sickness and in health, for better and for worse. At the same time, may your love give you the strength to stand apart, to seek out your unique destinies, to make your special contribution to the world which is always part of us and more than us. As you join your lives in marriage, there is a vast and unknown future stretching out before you. The possibilities and potentials of your life together are great. You have the task of choosing values and making real the dreams that will create meaning and purpose in your life. In a sense you begin your lives over again today. May both your love and friendship grow stronger and endure. We rejoice in its presence among us.

Will Melissa please take _____'s bouquet?

_____ and _____, your separate paths of life join now in a single pathway. I ask you both to remember that love, loyalty, and understanding alone avail as the foundation of a happy and enduring marriage. So let kind speech and gentle manners and faith and confidence and encouragement keep your love alive. If your vows be kept intact, and if you take seriously your declaration of love, your lives will indeed be full of joy, and the home you are establishing will abide in peace.

To symbolize this coming together of your lives you have chosen different colors of sand, Lavender for _____, Black for _____, and White for _____. I ask you each to pick up your glass of sand and together pour them into the vase. As the colors enter the vase, each maintains its color but mixes with the others to form a new creation of color, just as your lives are now mixed to form a new creation of love.

_____ and _____, will you please turn toward each other, join hands, and repeat the vows you have written for each other.

_____ 's vows

_____ ,

There are so many ways to tell you I love you....

I love you, you mean the world to me, I couldn't live without you, you are my everything....I could go on for days.

Instead, to save us all a little bit of time; we will go with this.....

When the rest of the world tells me that who I am is not okay,

I turn to you and realize that I am exactly who I was meant to be.

When I have trouble putting on a brave face,

You help find me the confidence I need to go out and face the world.

And, when I get a little crazy with the what if's,

You reel me in and help me feel like everything is going to be all right.

I have fallen in love with the tender heart that you share only with me, and those quiet moments we share when the world around us is silenced, and leaves us to be us.

You have helped me raise my, soon to be our son, _____ become a young man with respect and candor, and we vow to be the family that you have always wanted. We promise to love and support you in all the decisions we have to make in this crazy life.

I vow to grow old with you,

And be your partner in life.

I love you, and I can't wait to begin the rest of our life together.

_____ 's vows

May I have the rings please?

May these rings be symbols of the love and devotion that you share. May they remind you of the beauty of the universe and of the gift of your life together. As in the circle of the ring, may your love encircle each other.

_____, place the ring on _____'s finger and repeat after me:
Please accept this ring as a symbol of my love.

_____, place the ring on _____'s finger and repeat after me:
Please accept this ring as a symbol of my love.

To _____ and _____ who have pledged their love and joined their lives: May yours always be a shared adventure, rich with moments of serenity, as well as excitement; vital with problems that test, as well as successes that lift; marked by a sense of personal freedom, as well as mutual responsibility.

May you find in each other companionship as well as love; understanding as well as compassion; challenge as well as agreement.

Above all, may you find an ever richer meaning and joy in your lifelong adventure of loving and learning together.

_____ and _____, in the presence of family and friends, you have spoken vows and exchanged rings and are now joined together in marriage.

May you always respect the individuality of each other. May your communication always be open and honest. May your relationship always be one of love and trust. May the happiness you share today be with you always.

You may kiss.

Please return the bouquet.

I invite you all to share your blessings with this couple at the reception to follow.

May you go anew in peace and love. May all life's blessings be with you.

(Recessional)