

Welcome, we are here today to celebrate love. Groom and Bride have chosen this day as their wedding day. Let us surround them with our love and best wishes.

Marriage is often defined as a covenant of love.

Love is the greatest gift that we can offer to one another. That is what makes marriage so very special, and a cause for joy and celebration for all of us who have come here today to share in this event. When you are in love, you take it with you in your daily life.

You don't have to travel to the top of a mountain or a far away land to feel something important; you can feel that same beauty and enormity within your own heart.

And that is really why we are here today. Because love is enormous, and to take even a tiny piece into yourself and be able to experience and understand it is the greatest gift in the world.

Today, we take the time to celebrate sublime moments in our lives and to remember just how important love is to all of us. When we were children, it was easy to see magic in the world; now we need days like this to remind us.

It is my personal hope and prayer that those of you who have already taken the vows of marriage will witness the love of these two people, and as you listen to them share their vows, perhaps it will strengthen for you the memory of your happy day, and remind you of the meaning of the vows you yourselves once took.

Perhaps it will even strengthen just a little bit the bond of love that has been growing between you, and if any of this should happen, it would certainly be the greatest gift that Groom and Bride could offer all of us on their wedding day.

Bride and Groom, your relationship began as a friendship, you have nurtured that friendship, building a strong foundation for your relationship based on honesty, respect & dedication to each other.

You have found joy in one another's company, and you have become better, more fulfilled people because of your connection. You have been able to stay together through the varied challenges of distance because of your shared values, humor, history, and unconditional love for one another.

As long as you maintain these qualities, you will have a long and successful marriage.

For love and marriage to stay vibrant and alive is not something that just happens.

A good marriage must be created each and every day.

The words we say today have no magic or prophetic powers. The power of the wedding vows is merely a reflection of a reality that already exists in the hearts and minds of these two people.

Bride and Groom, nothing I can say, or nothing you can say to each other, will ensure a long and happy, satisfying and committed marriage. Only your love for one another, and your integrity to make your commitment real, can do that.

It is choosing each and every day to be married, make this choice, for to love and to be loved, to feel loved, to feel heard is to be recognized as existing which is the greatest gift one can give to another.

Author William A. Peterson in "The Art of Marriage," I believe has captured in words, the essence, of that commitment. I hope you will keep his words upon your heart, and refer to them again.

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 all 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 in 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 expecting the husband to wear a halo or the wife to have the wings of an angel.

It is not looking for perfection in each other. It is cultivating flexibility, patience, understanding, and a sense of humor. It is having the capacity to forgive and forget.

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

It is not only marrying the right partner, it is BEING the right partner.

These hands that are holding yours on your wedding day as you promise to love each other all the days of your life are the hands of your best friend.

These are the hands that will work alongside yours, as together you build your future, as you laugh and cry, as you share your innermost secrets and dreams.

These are that hands that will love you and cherish you through the years, for a lifetime of happiness.

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 massage tension from your neck and back in the evenings, write love notes and dance with you in the rain.

These are the hands that will hold you tight as you struggle through difficult times

These are the hands that will comfort you when you are sick, or console you when you are grieving.

These are hands that can touch your heart like no other.

These are hands that with unspoken tenderness, can say with just a gentle touch, I love you, I am here for you, and you make me so very happy!

Let us ask blessings upon these hands.

Dear God, We ask that Bride and Groom's hands be always be held by one another, may they be given the strength to hold on during the storms of stress and the dark of disillusionment. That they may they stay tender and gentle as they nurture each other and grow in love.

May their hands continue building a relationship rich in caring. May Groom and Bride see their four hands as healer, protector, shelter and guide. May their hearts be always each other's home. Blessed are You God, who brings joy to the hearts of this couple. Amen

Bride and Groom In a few moments you will say a few words that creates the anchor that holds your past and your future together.

Today you are beginning a journey together that will last the rest of your lives. And like any journey, there will be amazing experiences on mountaintops, today hopefully being one such experience.

Sometimes you will walk through valleys and have trouble finding your way. But no matter where you go, and no matter how long the journey is or how difficult, the person beside you will make your journey worthwhile. And let me just remind you that love and loyalty are the essence of a happy and enduring marriage.

No other human ties are more tender, and certainly none are more sacred than those that you are about to share.

The Dalai Lama wrote that The Art of Happiness is The Act of Acceptance or acknowledging that change is a natural part of our interactions with others can play a vital role in our relationships. (over time) our relationship may no longer be based on intense passion, the view of the other as the embodiment of perfection, or the feeling that we are merged with the other,

But in exchange for that, we are now in a position to truly begin to know the other, to see the other as he or she is, a separate individual with faults and weaknesses perhaps, but a human being like ourselves. It is only at this point that we can make a genuine commitment, a commitment to the growth of another human being, an act of true love.

When we feel love and kindness toward others, it not only makes others feel loved and care for, but it also helps us develop inner happiness and peace.

The key to love is inside us all it takes time and patience to unlock all the ingredients that will take you to its threshold; it is the continual learning process that demands a lot of work but the rewards are more than worth the effort.

Groom and Bride, A brief moment in time and the stroke of a pen are all that is required to create the legal bond of marriage, but it takes a lifetime of love, commitment, and laughter to make a marriage durable and eternal.

The process of marriage does not begin or end today; it is a lifelong pursuit.

Your relationship already has all of the necessary components for success, but you must to maintain that from here forward by remembering what is important in your relationship and why you are making this commitment to one another today.

As long as you are both respectful of each other, you will make it through the numerous changes and chapters that your lives will take.

As long as you honor the promises that you will make to each other today, you will create a life of love and happiness.

Look at one another and remember this moment in time. Before this moment you have been many things to one another — acquaintance, friend, companion, lover, dance partner, and even teacher, for you have learned much from one another in these last few years.

Now you shall say a few words that take you across a threshold of life, and things will never quite be the same between you two. For after these vows, you shall say to the world, this — is my husband, this — is my wife.

These words creating a sacred contract between you and God, witnessed by your family and friends.

Bride, understanding the seriousness of the marriage promises you are about to make and their responsibilities and obligations, are you now prepared to make those promises?

Groom, understanding the seriousness of the marriage promises you are about to make and their responsibilities and obligations, are you now prepared to make those promises?

The rings please:

This ring is a symbol of the unbroken circle of love. Love freely given has no beginning and is has no end, no giver and no receiver, for each is the giver and each is the receiver. May this ring always be an outward symbol of the vows you have just taken and the love and joy in your hearts.

Groom as you place Bride's ring upon her finger, please repeat after me,
Bride with this ring I thee wed and promise to you my unconditional love.

Bride as you place Groom's ring upon his finger, please repeat after me,
Groom, with this ring I thee wed and promise to you my unconditional love.

Bride and Groom the relationship that you have nourished together stands for love that will blossom and grow with each passing day.

Before you knew love, you were friends, and it was from this seed of friendship that is now your destiny.

Marriage is the clasping of hands, the blending of hearts, the union of two lives as one.

Marriage is caring as much about the welfare and happiness of your marriage partner as your own.

It is not total absorption into each other.

It is looking outward in the same direction together. Marriage makes burdens lighter because you divide them.

It makes joys more intense because you share them.

It makes you stronger, so that you can be involved with life in ways you dare not risk alone.

To make your relationship work will take love. This is the core of your marriage and why you are here today.

It will take trust, to know in your hearts that you truly want the best for each other.

It will take dedication, to stay open and honest with one another – and to learn and grow together.

It will take faith, to go forward together without knowing exactly what the future brings.

And it will take commitment, to hold true to the journey you both promised today to share together.

An intimate and secure relationship is not based on promises, but rather on trust, respect, faithfulness and the ability to forgive.

It is the ability to listen to what each other is saying, as well as what each other is not saying.

A thriving, lasting marriage is based on all of these components, bound together by love. May love be the heart of your marriage and happiness its spirit.

May you be generous and giving with each other.

May your sense of humor and playful spirit always continue to enliven your relationship.

May you always respect the diversity of humankind.

May you act with compassion to those less fortunate and with responsibility to the communities of which you are a part.

May you appreciate and complement each other's differences.

May you always share yourselves openly with your friends and family.

May your home be a haven of blessing and peace, and may the music of your friends, family and guests surround you.

Exchange of personal vows (I don't know who goes first, whichever is the norm)

I, Groom, vow to love you Bride, forever, never to take you for granted, always respect you, never disrespect you, to be faithful and honest always. I vow to take care of you, tend to your needs and love you through our differences with compassion and understanding, I vow to cherish every day

with you, every moment whenever possible, to appreciate you for the unique, wonderful human being that you are and to always strive for joy, peace and love with you as long as I shall live.

I, Bride, vow to love you Groom, forever, never to take you for granted, always respect you, never disrespect you, to be faithful and honest always. I vow to take care of you, tend to your needs and love you through our differences with compassion and understanding, I vow to cherish every day with you, every moment whenever possible, to appreciate you for the unique, wonderful human being that you are and to always strive for joy , peace and love with you as long as I shall live.

With God's blessings and the blessings of your family and friends, by the laws of the State of Washington, I now pronounce you husband and wife.

Groom please kiss your bride.