

Amy and Craig
December 10th, 2020
Jackson, NH
4:00 pm

*Once guests are seated, music is started
Kim proceeds to the front
Craig follows with John behind to take their places
Nick walks in and takes his place
Amy's mother walks in and takes her place
Kim asks all to stand
Trey and Amy walk in and she takes her place
Kim asks all to sit*

Welcome:

May I ask who gives this woman?

Her mother and I do.

Welcome everyone and thank you for joining us on this very special occasion.

We recognize that New Hampshire is quite a trek for many of you and Craig and Amy appreciate all it took for you to get here. Each of you have played important parts in their lives and it means a great deal to both of them that you could be here today.

Craig and Amy chose the White Mountains of New Hampshire for their wedding celebration because they wanted to share this special area with all of their loved ones. They have enjoyed many weekends hiking and camping in the area and felt it was the perfect location to signify this important step in their relationship.

Marriage Description:

Marriage is the sharing of two lives. A good and balanced one is a relationship in which neither person is overpowered nor absorbed by the other. It is a union of two individuals in which independence is equal, dependence is mutual and the obligation is reciprocal.

Marriage involves adapting to life's challenges and continuing to grow. It is having a mutual sense of values, perspectives and beliefs to face the world together.

Doing things for each other not in the attitude of duty or sacrifice but in the spirit of joy. Not looking for perfection in each other and having the capacity for patience, understanding, flexibility, joy and forgiveness.

Intentions:

Amy, do you choose Craig to be your partner in all of life's adventures, to whom you give your deepest love and devotion? Do you pledge to speak and listen, to give and receive, and to be considerate of his wishes and desires?

Amy I will.

Craig, do you choose Amy to be your partner in all of life's adventures, to whom you give your deepest love and devotion? Do you pledge to speak and listen, to give and receive, and to be considerate of her wishes and desires?

Craig I will

Reading:

From "Gift From The Sea" by Anne Morrow Lindbergh

When you love someone, you do not love them all the time, in exactly the same way, from moment to moment. It is an impossibility. It is even a lie to pretend to. And yet this is exactly what most of us demand.

We have so little faith in the ebb and flow of life, of love, of relationships. We leap at the flow of the tide and resist in terror its ebb. We are afraid it will never return. We insist on permanency, on duration, on continuity; when the only continuity possible, in life as in love, is in growth, in fluidity - in freedom, in the sense that the dancers are free, barely touching as they pass, but partners in the same pattern.

The only real security is not in owning or possessing, not in demanding or expecting, not in hoping, even. Security in a relationship lies neither in looking back to what was in nostalgia, nor forward to what it might be in dread or anticipation, but living in the present relationship and accepting it as it is now.

Relationships must be like islands, one must accept them for what they are here and now, within their limits - islands, surrounded and interrupted by the sea, and continually visited and abandoned by the tides.

Vows:

Amy, please repeat after me

I Amy, take you Craig
to be my husband
in friendship and love,
in strength and weakness
On this day I affirm
the relationship we have enjoyed,
and look to the future
to deepen and strengthen it
Together we will dream,
and we will stumble but restore each other
I ask you to share this world with me,
for good and ill
and to celebrate life with me, forevermore

Craig, please repeat after me

I Craig, take you Amy
to be my wife
in friendship and love,
in strength and weakness
On this day I affirm
the relationship we have enjoyed,
and look to the future
to deepen and strengthen it
Together we will dream,
and we will stumble but restore each other
I ask you to share this world with me,

for good and ill
and to celebrate life with me, forevermore

Ring Exchange:

The ring is a symbol of the unbroken circle of love. Love freely given has no beginning and no end, no giver and no receiver, for each is the giver, and each is the receiver. May these rings always remind you of the vows you have taken

Amy, as you place the ring on Craig's finger, please repeat after me

I offer you this ring,
shaped as a symbol
of completeness and eternity,
please wear this ring
as a symbol of our love
and as a reminder
of the promises we have made today.

Craig, as you place the ring on Amy's finger, please repeat after me

I offer you this ring,
shaped as a symbol
of completeness and eternity,
please wear this ring
as a symbol of our love
and as a reminder
of the promises we have made today

Blessing:

Apache Blessing

Now you will feel no rain,
for each of you will be 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 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

And now, it gives me great pleasure to say, by the power vested in me by the State of New Hampshire, I now pronounce you husband and wife.

You may begin your married life with a kiss.