

Andrew and Kelly  
September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015  
Whitney's Inn 4:30pm

**Opening words:**

On behalf of Andrew and Kelly, I would like to welcome you all here and thank you for joining us on this beautiful day in New Hampshire. We appreciate all it took for you to get here, whether you are coming from near or far.

It is a time of great change and new beginnings and each of you has given love, support, and guidance to Andrew and Kelly to get them to this moment in their lives and this point in their relationship. Your presence here, to be witnesses on this day, shows the couple how much you care about them, and they are honored to share the day with you.

Andrew and Kelly would like to thank their parents for the incredible journey of love and support. They would also like to honor Kelly's mother and Andrew's father, who are no longer with us, but remain in our hearts and in our memories, especially today.

(pause)

Today, on the eve of the autumnal equinox, we bring closure to summer, and we welcome the new season with an inspired appreciation for change and for the beauty that emerges from new beginnings. As we look around this beautiful landscape of New Hampshire, we can see glimpses of autumn's red and orange emerging from summer's green. This autumn is new. It is fresh

and just beginning. Just as Andrew and Kelly's marriage begins today, so does a new season -- both are full of beauty, change, and new colors.

I will now ask the couple's friend, Ben, to share an excerpt from Thoreau's *Autumnal Tints*:

### **Reading (Ben Cohan):**

Here is not merely the plain yellow of the grains, but nearly all the colors that we know...the early blushing maple, the poison sumac blazing its sins as scarlet, the mulberry ash, the rich chrome yellow of the poplars, the brilliant red huckleberry, with which the hills' backs are painted...the frost touches them, and, with the slightest breath of returning day or jarring of earth's axle, sees in what showers they come floating down! The ground is all parti-colored with them. But they still live in the soil, whose fertility and bulk they increase, and in the forests that spring from it. They stoop to rise, to mount higher in coming years, by subtle chemistry, climbing by the sap in the trees; and the sapling's first fruits thus shed, transmuted at last, may adorn its crown, when, in after years, it has become the monarch of the forest.

### **Marriage Description:**

As Thoreau described, the Tree, the monarch of the forest, is fed with experience and time. Relationships, too, grow and strengthen through experiences shared, and support given.

Throughout Andrew and Kelly's relationship, their love for adventure and the outdoors have opened the door to many experiences, and have led them on various journeys, both near and far. Today we are celebrating a different type of journey, and for this journey they have found in one another a partner, and a best friend. One with whom to experience the world, to embark on another journey.

(Pause)

Marriage symbolizes the intimate sharing of two lives. This sharing does not diminish the individuality of each partner; it enhances it. A good and balanced relationship is one in which

neither person is overpowered or absorbed by the other. A marriage that lasts is one which is continually developing and adapting, and one in which each person continues to grow as an individual.

To quote the writer, Amy Bloom:

Marriage is not a ritual or an end. It is a long, intricate, intimate dance together and nothing matters more than your own sense of balance and your choice of partner.

**Intentions:**

Andrew, will you have Kelly as your wife, in times of good fortune as well as adversity, forsaking all others to be a kind and faithful husband?

*Andrew:* I will

Do you promise to base your life with Kelly on love, caring, and understanding? Do you pledge to speak and to listen, to give and to receive, and to be considerate of her wishes and desires?

*Andrew:* I do

Kelly, will you have Andrew as your husband, in times of good fortune as well as adversity, forsaking all others to be a kind and faithful wife?

*Kelly:* I will

Do you promise to base your life with Andrew on love, caring and understanding? Do you pledge to speak and to listen, to give and to receive, and to be considerate of his wishes and desires?

*Kelly: I do*

**The Hands Ceremony:**

Andrew and Kelly, please face each other and take each other's hands, so that you may see the gift that they are to you.

*(Cloth is draped over hands)*

These are the hands of your best friend, 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 you build your future together.

These are the hands that will hold you and comfort you when you experience fear or grief.

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

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

These are the hands that will give you support and encourage you to chase your dreams.

Together, everything you wish for can be realized.

*(Cloth is tied into a knot.)*

May your love find lasting permanence, bound together in the fabric of life. May the protection of marriage surround you, sustain you and comfort you. In the binding of this cloth, may you remember the binding of your words: The vows of fidelity and trust you make today. Though the cloth has two sides, it is of one piece; so now there are two lives, but bound together in one heart.

**Vows:**

Andrew and Kelly have written their own vows, and will read them now. Andrew will go first...

*Andrew reads his vows*

*Kelly reads her vows*

**Kim:** I would like to invite the couple's friend, Greg, to share a poem written by Lao Tzu, based on the *Tao Te Ching*:

## **Reading (Greg Fournier):**

Explore and discover that which is within.  
When we find ourselves,  
we are more easily found by others.  
Without words, without even understanding,  
lovers find each other.  
The moment of finding is always a surprise,  
like meeting an old friend never before known.  
Life and marriage are a wondrous journey,  
ever unfolding an opportunity  
to rediscover ourselves and our beloved  
again and again for even on a shared journey  
the only thing constant is change.

Embrace it and let it lead you  
to many a glorious tomorrow.

## **Ring Exchange:**

The ring, a circle, is one of nature's simplest forms. The arc of the rainbow, the halo of the moon and the smallest of raindrops simulate the circle. When a stone is cast upon a pond, it generates waves in ever expanding circles.

Consider this marriage as being two stones striking the water simultaneously. The ensuing waves interlock, and the growth of the enlarging circles show the combined energies of the lives of you both. The interlocking of your two lives will be symbolized in the exchange of these rings.

Andrew, as you place the ring on Kelly's left hand please repeat after me:

Kelly, I give you this ring  
as a sign of my devotion and love  
and with my all my heart  
I promise to you all that I am.  
With this ring I marry you  
and join my life to yours.

Kelly, as you place the ring on Andrew's left hand please repeat  
after me:

Andrew, I give you this ring  
as a sign of my devotion and love  
and with my all my heart  
I promise to you all that I am.  
With this ring I marry you  
and join my life to yours.

**Pronouncement:**

With rings exchanged and vows given, you are now moving into a  
new season of your lives together, just as summer transitions to  
fall.

May your seas be calm, your adventures, many; and your love, the  
compass that guides you though the journey to come.

And now, by the power vested in me by the state of New  
Hampshire, I pronounce you husband and wife. Andrew, you may  
kiss your bride!

**Closing:**

Honored family and friends, I present to you Andrew and Kelly  
Jones!