

Chris and Heather
June 12th, 2020
Jackson, NH
4:30 pm

WELCOME:

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

We recognize that New Hampshire is quite a long journey for many of you and Chris and Heather 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.

Chris and Heather 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.

READING:

We will begin with a reading by Amy David, Chris's sister

Cherokee Wedding Prayer

God in Heaven above

Please protect the ones we love.

We honor all you created as we pledge our hearts and lives together.

We honor mother-earth and ask for our marriage to be abundant and grow stronger through the seasons;

We honor fire and ask that our union be warm and glowing with love in our hearts;

We honor wind and ask we sail through life safe and calm as in our father's arms;
We honor water to clean and soothe our relationship that it may never thirsts for love;
With all the forces of the universe you created, we pray for harmony and true happiness
as we forever grow young together . Amen

Read by Kim:

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:

Heather, do you choose Chris 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?

Heather I will.

Chris, do you choose Heather 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?

Chris I will

And, to everybody gathered here today, as the family and friends of Heather and Chris, you are here to express your love, hope and joy for this occasion. Will all of you, who have supported these two in friendship and love, now bestow your blessing upon them? Will you continue to love, support, and respect Heather and Chris in their marriage and in their journey through life?

(Friends and Family) We will.

READING:

And now we'll have a reading by by Garret Ferguson, Heather's brother

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:

Heather, please repeat after me

I Heather, take you Chris
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

Chris, please repeat after me

I Chris, take you Heather
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

SAND CEREMONY: (Violin plays after Kim speaks and while pouring of sand)

Today, as Heather and Chris have sealed their commitment to each other with the exchange of rings, they will now represent this joining through the pouring of individual containers of sand into one. They will also represent the foundation of love that they have been blessed with by their friends and family.

We will begin with Heather's brother Keith, as he pours the white sand, representing all of you here today.

Heather has chosen blue, the color of the sky and of the sea, while Chris has chosen brown, the color of the earth. Both colors represent Heather and Chris's love for the outdoors and nature, and represent each of them as individuals. Go ahead and pour your sand on the foundation of your love.

RING CEREMONY:

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

Heather, as you place the ring on Chris'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.

Chris, as you place the ring on Heather'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.