

Chuck and Cindy
Crystal Cascade
Thursday July 9th, 2020
4:00 pm

Introduction:

Greetings. We are gathered here today, at this beautiful site, at the bequest of Chuck and Cindy.

Many Celtic wedding traditions will be performed today, to honor Chuck's Celtic heritage but we also wish to recognize the special place that is Mount Washington; sacred to the Native peoples of this region. This scenic waterfall will also represent the "washing away of the old and a rebirth, or cleansing of the new"; A fitting way to begin your new life together. Chuck and Cindy, you have climbed this mountain numerous times and now, beside this waterfall, you will pledge your commitment to each other.

Loving cup ceremony:

Kim: On this your wedding day, we celebrate the Celtic spirit of the Anam Cara. Anam Cara is translated from the Gaelic as "soul friend." By entering in a partnership with your Anam Cara, you are joined in an ancient and eternal way with this person whom you most cherish. In everyone's life there is a great need for an Anam Cara and so I ask you to toast one another by repeating the following.

(Chuck and Cindy hold the loving cup)

Chuck and Cindy repeat after Kim in unison:

Today I recognize you, my *Anam Cara*
And ask that you become a part of me, in sacred kinship.
With you, I have lost all fear and have found the greatest courage.

I have learned to love and to let myself be loved.
With you, I have found a rhythm of grace and gracefulness.
Love has reawakened in my life; a rebirth; a new beginning.
With you my *Anam Cara*,
I am understood,
I am home.

Kim:

And now, please drink to the love you have shared in the past.

(The couple takes turns sipping from the loving cup)

Kim:

Drink to your love in the present, on this your wedding day.

(The couple takes turns sipping from the loving cup)

Kim:

And drink to your love in the future and forever more.

(The couple takes turns sipping from the loving cup)

Kim:

The Celts believed that the way you view your future actually shapes it. I now ask you to take a moment to visualize a future for yourselves.

(A moment of silence is taken. The Kim then offers this final toast)

Above you are the stars, below you are the stones, as time doth pass,
remember.....

Like a stone should your love be firm; like a star, should your love be
constant. Let the powers of the mind and of the intellect guide you in your
marriage.

Let the strength of your wills bind you together.

Let the power of love and desire make you happy and the strength of your dedication make you inseparable.

Be close to each other but not too close.

Have patience with one another, for storms will come but they will pass quickly.

Be free in giving affection and warmth.

Have no fear and let not the ways of the unenlightened give you unease.

(The couple takes turns sipping from the loving cup)

The Vows – Ring exchange:

Chuck, please repeat after me:

You cannot possess me for I belong to myself.

But I give to you that which is mine to give.

You cannot command me for I am a free person.

But I will listen to your wishes.

I pledge to you that it will be your eyes into which I smile every morning.

I pledge to you my living and my dying, each equally in your care.

I shall be a shield for your back.

I shall not slander you.

I shall honor you above all others.

This is my wedding vow to you.

This is the marriage of equals.

Chuck places the ring on Cindy's finger

Cindy, please repeat after me:

You cannot possess me for I belong to myself.

But I give to you that which is mine to give.

You cannot command me for I am a free person.

But I will listen to your wishes.

I pledge to you that it will be your eyes into which I smile every morning.

I pledge to you my living and my dying, each equally in your care.

I shall be a shield for your back.

I shall not slander you.
I shall honor you above all others.
This is my wedding vow to you.
This is the marriage of equals.
Cindy places the ring on Chuck's finger

Hand fasting with ancient tartan scarf

The Kim drapes the tartan over the wrists of the bride and groom. Each will complete the binding while speaking to the other.

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.

Pronouncement:

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 kiss your bride.