

*Diane & Dan*  
*July 7, 2020*  
*3:00pm*  
*Bretton Arms*

**Opening: by Dan**

Before we begin, we would like to remember our loved ones that cannot be here today. Though not here in body, we know they are here in spirit to celebrate this day.

We feel their love and presence like sunlight through our hearts;  
A light that lights the candle of the marriage that is about to start.  
We light this candle for Nancy, Jack, Rita, and Ralph on this special day

Because they were like sunshine before they went away.

But even though our families are not with us, their presence is strong

Cause in our hearts we'll always know the love for which we long.

**Marriage:**

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.

Marriage is not about marrying the right partner, it is being the right partner.

**Reading:**

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 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 of 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 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.

### **Introduction to Vows:**

You give your love more precious than gold.  
You give yourself before God, family and law.  
Will you travel with one another and stick by each other as long as you live?

### **Vows:**

Diane and Dan have written their own vows and will read them now.

#### ***By Diane***

On this day of happiness and good fortune, I, Diane, take you, Dan, as my partner in love and in friendship. I accept you as you are and ask that you be no one but yourself. I look forward to celebrating life's journey no matter where it takes us in good times and misfortune and to be your partner for all the days of our lives.

#### ***By Dan***

On this day of happiness and good fortune, I, Dan, take you, Diane, as my partner in love and in friendship. I accept you as you are and ask that you be no one but yourself. I look forward to celebrating life's journey no matter where it takes us in good times and misfortune and to be your partner for all the days of our lives.

### **Ring Ceremony:**

The rings that you are about to exchange mark the continuation of your long journey together, a journey that began over 8 years ago. Let your rings be a reminder of your union and the love you share. May your life together express a unity with this exchange.

### **Blessing of Unity:**

Modified Irish Blessing

May your mornings bring joy and your evenings bring peace.

May your troubles grow few as your blessings increase.

May the saddest day of your future

Be no worse than the happiest day of your past.

May your hands be forever clasped in friendship

And your hearts joined forever in love.

Your lives are very special.

God has touched you in many ways.

May his blessing rest upon you and fill all your coming days.

### **Prayer of Faith: *by Dan***

Lord, grant that Diane and I may have a true and understanding love for each other. Grant that we may both be filled with faith and trust. Give us the grace to live with each other in peace and harmony.

May we always bear with one another's weaknesses and grow from each other's strengths. Help us to forgive one another's failings and grant us patience, kindness, cheerfulness and the spirit of placing the well-being of one another ahead of self.

May the love that brought us together grow and mature with each passing year. Bring us both ever closer to You through our love.

**Family Ceremony:**

There are children who will be touched by the covenant made here today. It will influence them both enriching and complicating their lives. They will also have to contribute to this family. We realize that in order for the home to be a happy one, it is essential that respect, understanding, compassion and love exist between its members during life's passion.

It is the desire of Diane and Dan to extend their commitments to Jeff and Kaitlyn and honor their presence in their lives. Please join hand to form a circle of life.

Diane and Dan, do you promise to always be there for Jeff and Kaitlyn providing for their needs as well as a good listener, loving counselor and friend?

***By Diane***

I want you to know that I love your father very much. I will not and cannot replace your mother. However, I can promise you that I will love and care for you. I promise to be a committed listener, to give you my trust, to be fair and supportive, to share what knowledge I can and to be a friend. I hope and pray that you can accept me in this role.

***By Dan***

Jeff and Kaitlyn, we hope to weave together a fabric of mutual help and comfort, of support and challenge, and create a way of life in which all of us may grow into the fullness of the best people you can be.

**Modified Sand Ceremony:**

We are now going to perform a ceremony that is a ritual designed to symbolize the joining of lives and the ongoing existence of each person's individuality. Each of you has colored beads that represent you as individuals. Please pour the beads into the jar.

You will notice that each color maintains its own identity and its own layer. Over time, these layers will shift and blend together in ways that only God can imagine. This is how it should be in your household. Each bead maintains its own space even as the colors merge. Never losing itself but blending together to support the structure of combination.

**Prayer: by Diane, Dan, Jeff & Kaitlyn**

By St. Francis of Assisi

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let us sow love.  
Where there is injury, pardon.  
Where there is discord, union.  
Where there is doubt, faith.  
Where there is despair, hope.  
Where there is darkness, light.  
Where there is sadness, joy.  
O Divine Master, grant that we may not so much seek  
To be consoled as to console,

To be understood as to understand,  
To be loves as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive.  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned.  
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.  
Amen

**Closing:**

Today is a brief moment but in the years ahead, may Diane and Dan always apply tenderness and strength to the trials that may befall them. May their love and compassion serve to guide them with openness and acceptance through the unpredictability of life. May they remember to rejoice in good times and good fortune and may they always appreciate the life they found with each other.

At this time, I am pleased to say “by the power vested in me by the State of New Hampshire, I pronounce you husband and wife.” Please seal this ceremony with a kiss.