

Fred and Ginger
October 10th, 2018
Jackson
3:00 pm

Welcome:

Fred and Ginger, I would like to welcome you here to beautiful Jackson, NH, a place that has been either my home or my neighboring community for 30 years. This quintessential New England village is a very special place for thousands of visitors every year as well as the 800+ residents.

Even though you haven't been here before, clearly something caught your eye when you were planning your wedding ceremony and you chose to come here to this picturesque and historic community. For you, and many others, we are delighted to share this special place with you.

For many, the first lure of this area may be the famed fall foliage, or the miles of cross-country ski trails. For others, like myself, we found work in the surrounding mountains and fell in love with the area and later this town. After a career change at the age of 40, I still wasn't ready to

leave this town, this area, and what we call 'the valley'. Performing wedding ceremonies in amazing places like this one, was just one of the reasons I wanted to stay here.

We truly hope that your stay here at the Christmas Farm inn and in Jackson will be a memorable one for you both. Memories that you will treasure beyond the exciting fact that you are getting married today! We hope you'll be tempted to return in other years and other seasons to continue to explore what we have to offer.

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Marriage is a long, intricate, intimate dance together and nothing matters more than your own sense of balance and your choice of a partner. That is what brings us here today.

Reading (Kim):

“From Beginning to End” by Robert Fulghum

You have known each other from the first glance of acquaintance to this point of commitment. At some

point, you decided to marry. From that moment of yes to this moment of yes, indeed, you have been making promises and agreements in an informal way.

All those conversations that were held riding in a car or over a meal or during long walks—all those sentences that began with "When we're married" and continued with "I will and you will and we will"—those late night talks that included "someday" and "somehow" and "maybe"—and all those promises that are unspoken matters of the heart.

All these common things, and more, are the real process of a wedding. The symbolic vows that you are about to make are a way of saying to one another, "You know all those things we've promised and hoped and dreamed—well, I meant it all, every word."

Look at one another and remember this moment in time. Before this moment you have been many things to one another—acquaintance, friend, companion, lover, dancing partner, and even teacher, for you have learned much from one another in these last few years.

Now you shall say a few words that take you across a threshold of life, and things will never quite be the same

between you. For after these vows, you shall say to the world, this—is my husband, this—is my wife.

Intentions:

Ginger, will you have Fred as your husband, in times of good fortune as well as adversity, forsaking all others to be a kind and faithful wife? Do you pledge to speak and listen, to give and receive, and to be considerate of his wishes and desires? Will you be his partner in all of life's adventures, to whom you give your deepest love and devotion?

Ginger: I will.

Fred, will you have Ginger as your wife, in times of good fortune as well as adversity, forsaking all others to be a kind and faithful husband? Do you pledge to speak and listen, to give and receive, and to be considerate of her wishes and desires? Will you be her partner in all of life's adventures, to whom you give your deepest love and devotion?

Fred: I will.

Reading (Ginger):

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.

Reading (Fred):

From Sonnet 14 by William Shakespeare

Not from the stars do I my judgement pluck;
And yet methinks I have Astronomy,
But not to tell of good or evil luck,
Of plagues, of dearths, or seasons' quality;
Nor can I fortune to brief minutes tell,
Pointing to each his thunder, rain and wind,
Or say with princes if it shall go well
By oft predict that I in heaven find:
But from thine eyes my knowledge I derive,

And, constant stars, in them I read such art
As truth and beauty shall together thrive,
If from thyself, to store thou wouldst convert;
Or else of thee this I prognosticate:
Thy end is truth's and beauty's doom and date.

Vows:

Ginger, please repeat after me

I Ginger, take you Fred
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

Fred, please repeat after me:

I Fred, take you Ginger
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 rings that you are about to exchange mark the beginning of a long journey together. They are also a symbol of infinity, time without end. Let your rings be a reminder of your union, and of the love that you share. As a ring is unbroken, so will your love for each other be without end.

Ginger, as you place the ring on Fred's finger, please repeat after me

The words I say to you now
are words I say in friendship, respect, and love.
I offer you all the days before me,
no matter what may come our way.
I freely take you as my husband.
Take this ring as a symbol of my commitment.

Fred, as you place the ring on Ginger's finger, please
repeat after me

The words I say to you now
are words I say in friendship, respect, and love.
I offer you all the days before me,
no matter what may come our way.
I freely take you as my husband.
Take this ring as a symbol of my commitment.

Blessing:

Poem by JRR Tolkien to his wife

Lo! Young we are and yet have stood
like planted hearts in the great Sun
of Love so long (as two fair trees

in woodland or in open dale
stand utterly entwined and breathe
the airs and suck the very light
together) that we have become
as one, deep rooted in the soil
of Life and tangled in the sweet growth.

Pronouncement:

Today I am privileged to share with you this moment that you begin your new life together. In the years ahead, may you always apply tenderness and strength to the trials that may befall you. May your love be a shield from the unpredictability of life. May you remember to rejoice in good times and good fortune, and may you always appreciate the life that you found with each other.

Closing:

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.