

Family and friends, I welcome you to this day of celebration. Dave and Amy have invited us here to this place to share in their declaration of lifelong commitment to each other. Your blessing, support, and encouragement are important to this union, not only now, but in the days and years to come.

Amidst the turmoil of this world, with all of life's struggles and concerns, it is with deep joy and a sense of wonder and awe that we pause to affirm the power of love. As we gather to witness the union of Dave and Amy, we also celebrate blessings we all cherish in our intimate relationships. This ceremony calls us to renew our vows of love and commitment to one another.

READING: 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Love is patient and kind, it is never jealous.

Love is never boastful or conceited, it is never rude or selfish, it does not take offense and is not resentful.

Love takes no pleasure in other peoples faults, but delights in the truth.

It is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope, it is always ready to endure whatever comes.

True love does not come to an end.

Happiness in marriage is not something that just happens. A good marriage must be created. In the art of marriage, the little things are the big things.

It is never being too old to hold hands.

It is remembering to say, "I love you".

It is at no time taking the other for granted.

It is having a mutual sense of values and common objectives; it is standing together facing the world.

It is doing things for each other, not in the attitude of duty or sacrifice, but in the spirit of joy. It is not expecting perfection in each other.

It is cultivating flexibility, patience, understanding, and a sense of humor.

It is having a capacity to forgive and forget. It is establishing a relationship in which the independence is equal, the dependence is mutual, and the obligation is reciprocal.

It is a common search for the good and the beautiful.

It is not marrying the right partner; it is being the right partner.

It is discovering that your love for one another at its best will or be blotted out by the commonplace experiences of life.

Before you are joined in marriage in my presence and in the presence of these your family, friends and witnesses, I am to remind you of the solemn and firm nature of the relationship into which you both are about to enter. It is a relationship that is not to be entered into lightly, but reverently, respectfully, and with full commitment to the promises that you will make to one another today.

Dave and Amy, you have signified your desire to enter into the holy state of matrimony, and none has shown just cause why you may not. If either of you know of any lawful impediment why you can't be married, I charge you now, before God, the Searcher of all hearts to declare it.

Dave, will you take Amy to be your wife? Will you promise to love her, honor her, keep her in sickness and in health, in good times and bad, forsaking all others, so long as you both shall live?

I do/I will

Amy will you take Dave to be your husband? Will you promise to love him, honor him, keep him in sickness and in health, in good times and bad, forsaking all others, so long as you both shall live?

I do/I Will

Dave, please repeat after me:

I Dave, take you Amy, to be my lawfully wedded wife. My constant friend, my faithful partner, and my love from this day forward. In the presence of God, our family, and friends, I offer you my solemn vow to be your faithful partner in sickness and in health, in good times and in bad in joy as well as in sorrow. I promise to love you unconditionally, to support you in your goals, to honor and respect you, to laugh with you and cry with you, and to cherish you for as long as we both shall live.

Amy, I not only promise to be a good and faithful husband to you, but also a patient loving father to Nick and Noah, caring for them and providing for them as my own. I promise to be their strength and their emotional support loving them with all my heart forever.

Amy, please repeat after me:

I Amy, take you Dave, to be my lawfully wedded husband. My constant friend, my faithful partner, and my love from this day forward. In the presence of God, our family, and friends, I offer you my solemn vow to be your faithful partner in sickness and in health, in good times and in bad in joy as well as in sorrow. I promise to love you unconditionally, to support you in your goals, to honor and respect you, to laugh with you and cry with you, and to cherish you for as long as we both shall live.

The children, now part of a loving blended family, please repeat we do, after these words.

Nick and Noah, do you promise to love and respect your mom's new husband? Do you promise to support their marriage and new family? Do you promise to accept the responsibility of being their children and do encourage them and support them in your new life together?

We do

May we have the rings please?

The wedding ring represents a circle that has no ending and no beginning. Let those who give it and those who wear it be reminded that their love, like a circle has no ending and continues on.

Dave, please take your ring, place it on Amy's left hand and repeat after me.

Amy, with this ring, I thee wed. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amy, please take your ring, place it on Dave's left hand, and repeat after me.

Dave, with this ring, I thee wed. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Sand Ceremony

The sand that we have here is representative of four individual persons. These four individual persons

have agreed to live together as one family. As they will soon each take a jar of sand and combine the sand into one larger container, let this remind them that much like their now joined family, the sands that they combine can never be separated or parted. The individual grains of sand are there, of course, to remind them that they are all individuals, but that from this day forward they will not be separated, but united as one family.

Please take your sand and pour them together.

Let us pray:

Gracious God, our hearts are filled with great happiness on this the wedding day of Dave and Amy.

They come before you, pledging their lives and their hearts to one another.

Grant that they may be ever true and loving, living together in such a way as to never bring heartbreak into their marriage.

Temper their hearts with kindness and help them to be sweethearts, helpmates, friend and guide and together may they meet the cares and problems of life more bravely.

May their home be a place of love and harmony where your spirit is ever present. Bless their wedding day, we pray, and walk beside them, through all their life together. Amen.

Dave and Amy, never forget this day that you become husband and wife. Remember as you begin your life together these words of advice. Never let the sun go down on your anger. Do not forget to say I love you. Cherish small victories together. Live together in harmony, and always work together in your relationship.

Forasmuch as you have consented to live together in holy matrimony, and have expressed this desire by the exchange of vows, and the giving and receiving of rings, it is with these in mind that by the authority given to me by the State of Michigan that I now pronounce you to be husband and wife.

You may seal your promises with a kiss.

Ladies and gentlemen for the first time, Dave and Amy _____.