

Family and friends I call upon all of you gathered here to be fellow witness with me in the marriage of Jeff and Kelli. You were each invited to join us today so that you may share in the joy that Jeff and Kelli are feeling as they pledge their love and commitment to each other.

The decision to marry is based on love and founded upon sincerity and understanding, which leads to a relationship that is rich in confidence and trust. A strong marriage is dependent upon many factors. Beyond love, respect, and trust that you share with one another, there must be strong sense of commitment and loyalty that bonds you. A shared faith and belief in God, and his Grace in your lives, it is important in building a strong marriage.

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 never lose sight of or be blotted out by the common place experiences of life.

At this time we would like to honor those who are no longer with us. The three flower arrangements that we have here represent Kelli's Grandpa Tony, and Jeff's parents Claud and Joann. At this time, let us please have a moment of silence to honor those who are with us in spirit.

Let us pray.

Dear Lord, two lives, two people so very different yet so similar.

Together they stand as one, sharing the future as it comes.

The past is that, the past.

Buds are yet to blossom with care and trust, the best is yet to be revealed. Honest and kindness are the fruits of love. Lord, bless this day, and always enrich them so their love will never end.

Amen.

Kelli, please face Jeff, and hold his hands palms up so you may see the gift that they are to you.

These are the hands of your best friend, young and strong and vibrant with love that are holding yours on your wedding day, as he promises to love you all the days of his life.

These are the hands that will work along side yours, as together you build your future, as you laugh and cry, as you share your innermost secrets and dreams.

These are the hands that will passionately love you and cherish you through the years for a lifetime of happiness.

These are the hands that will countless times wipe the tears from your eyes, tears of sorry and tears of joy.

These are the hands that will comfort you in illness and hold you when fear or grief wrack your mind.

These are the hands that will tenderly lift your chin and brush your cheeks as they raise your face to look into his eyes; eyes that are filled completely with his overwhelming love and desire for you.

Jeff, please hold Kelli's hands palms up where you may see the gift that they are to you.

These are the hands of your best friend, smooth, young, and carefree that are holding yours on your wedding day as she pledges her love and commitment to you all the days of her life.

These are the hands that will massage tension from your neck and back in the evenings after you've both had a long hard day.

These are the hands that will hold you tight as you struggle through difficult times.

These are the hands that will comfort you when you are sick or console you when you are grieving.

They are the hands that will passionately love you and cherish you through the years for a lifetime of happiness.

These are the hands that will give you support as she encourages you to chase down your dreams. Together as a team everything you wish for can be realized.

God bless these hands that you see before you this day. May they always be held by one another. Give them the strength to hold on during the storms of stress and the dark disillusionment. Keep them tender and gentle as they nurture each other in their wondrous love. Help these hands to continue building a relationship founded in your grace. Rich in caring, and devoted in reaching for your perfection. May Jeff and Kelli see their four hands as healer protector, shelter and guide. We ask this in your name. Amen.

Jesus was once asked, "what is the greatest law that mankind must follow?" And he answered them by saying that "we must love God with all our hearts and love our neighbors as we love ourselves." Jesus touched upon something we all feel very deeply in our hearts, that love is the greatest gift that we can offer to one another. That is what makes marriage so very special, and a cause for joy and celebration for all of us who have come here today to share in this event. It is my personal hope and prayer that those of you who have already taken the vows of marriage will witness the love of these two people. And as you listen to them share their vows, perhaps it will strengthen for you the memory of your happy day and remind you of the meaning of vows you yourselves once took.

Jeff, will you please take Kelli's hands, and repeat after me:

Today I give myself to you and ask for your tomorrow. I promise to love you more than anyone else can; to give you my strength and to ask for yours in return. I choose you for who you are and who you may become. I will respect you and cherish you always. I promise to share with you all that life has to offer. I will honor you and keep you in sickness and in health, in good times and in bad, I give myself to you in kindness, unselfishness, and trust all the rest of our days.

Kelli, will you please take Jeff's hands, and repeat after me:

Today I give myself to you and ask for your tomorrow. I promise to love you more than anyone else can; to give you my strength and to ask for yours in return. I choose you for who you are and who you may become. I will respect you and cherish you always. I promise to share with you all that life has to offer. I will honor you and keep you in sickness and in health, in good times and in bad, I give myself to you in kindness, unselfishness, and trust all the rest of our days.

The wedding ring is the outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual bond which unites two loyal hearts in endless love. It is a seal of the vows Jeff and Kelli have made to one another. May these rings be blessed of these, who give them, and who wear them, and may ever they abide in peace. Living together in unity, love and happiness for the rest of their lives

Jeff, please take your ring, place it on Kelli's hand and repeat after me:

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

Kelli, please take your ring, place it on Jeff's hand and repeat after me:

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

Therefore remember to do all the simple and beautiful things that will make this love a treasure. Fight well. Play. Communicate with one another. Focus on what you want and entice your intentions into being. Plan for things that are important to you. Make sure you do them. This love is to be nurtured to be lived out to the fullest in every aspect of its dreams in the simple ceremonies of shared daily life, in realized hopes and long deferred plans, in a quality of emotional exchange and spiritual communion toward which the whole of your life has been leaning.

And finally, be thankful to one another. Love is always a gift. A great compliment is being paid to you in being given another chance, another opportunity to love. You have been delivered to your ultimate partner, the person with whom you can share the fruits of all the lessons in your life. Not everyone has this opportunity not everyone is granted this cornucopia of happiness.

This love was completely unexpected, the joyful consequence of nothing you could control, While everything you have experienced prepared you for it, there was nothing you could do to actually bring into being and so it is indeed one of life's totally unexpected miracles.

In the presence of a miracle one of the great human impulses is to disbelieve it or think that somehow we are unworthy of it. Yet it is in the very nature of miracles that we are unworthy of them, that we ourselves did nothing to bring them about. The way to be worthy of the miracle of this love is, simply, to receive it. Open your heart, open your hands, open your eyes, and allow the radiance of this love, this love for which you have waited so long for which you have learned so much to utterly and endlessly illuminate you.

Jeff and Kelli you have agreed to live together in holy matrimony. You have symbolized this by the joining of hands, exchanging of vows, and the giving and receiving of a ring. It is with these in mind that by the authority vested in me by the State of Michigan I now pronounce you to be husband and wife. You may seal your promises with a kiss.

Ladies and gentlemen for the first time, Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Mohr!