

The Wedding Ceremony of Julie & Rick
August 4, 2012

Welcome

Good Afternoon! On behalf of Rick and Julie, I'd like to thank you all for coming out to share in their special day. The ceremony is about to begin so please take a moment now to turn off any cell phones and give your attention to the prelude.

Prelude

Processional

Opening Words

With joy in our hearts, we gather today to celebrate love and bear witness as Julie and Rick pledge themselves to one another in marriage. A warm welcome to all of you who have been special in Rick and Julie's lives. We are so privileged to share in this celebration and affirmation of their union. We are all connected, and none of us exists in isolation. So it is that marriage cannot exist in isolation from family, friends and community. Our presence is a sign of our pledge to bless and support their marriage in the coming days, months and years. Today, as Julie and Rick proclaim their love for one another, we rejoice with them and for the new life they now undertake together.

Do you, Rick and Julie come to your marriage with integrity, sincerity, and whole-heartedness?

Rick and Julie: *We do.*

Reading:

When two individuals meet, so do two private worlds. None of our private worlds is big enough for us to live a wholesome life in. We need the wider world of joy and wonder, of purpose and venture, of toil and tears. What are we, any of us, but strangers and sojourners forlornly wandering through the nighttime until we draw together and find the meaning of our lives in one another, dissolving our fears in each other's courage, making music together and lighting torches to guide us through the dark? We belong together. Love is what we need. To love and to be loved. Let our hearts be open; and what we would receive from others, let us give. For what is given still remains to bless the giver – when the gift is love.

Sand Ceremony (*adapted from the Sand Ceremonies found here:*
www.justmarrymetoday.com/upload/Wedding%20Ceremonies.docx)

At this time I invite Rick and Julie's parents to come forward with their containers of sand and stand beside their children. [*parents come up*]

They bring forth sand from New Orleans and Chicago, where Rick was raised and Framingham, where Julie was raised, representing the families who nurtured this couple. Julie and Rick also bring sand from their homes in Malden and Somerville, representing the lives that they're joining together.

I ask the parents, do you give your blessings to Rick and Julie as they enter into this new relationship, and do you aspire in the days and years ahead to give them your deepest love, understanding, and support during both good times and bad?

Parents: *We do.*

Jean & Victor, will you now pour your sand into Julie's sand. Linda & Richard, will you now pour your sand into Rick's sand.

[parents pour sand and sit down]

Rick and Julie, I invite you to hold close to your heart the container of sand representing all that you bring to this union. As you do so, remember that like these grains of sand your differences are a wonderful gift that you give to one another, as important to your relationship as your commonality and the strength of your togetherness. Once this sand is poured it can never be separated, for it has created something new and beautiful, that shall be forever shared, much in that same way that your marriage will forever join your lives.

Will you now join the sand that represents both your individuality and your togetherness within your union.

[Rick and Julie start pouring]

As you pour remember marriage is a sacred commitment that empowers each of you and allows your relationship to evolve to its highest purpose. Bring your union to the foreground of your thoughts always and through all of your moments together, so that in the triumphs and trials that lie ahead, you will feel as you do now - happy to be in love and married to one another. Be at peace and live more and more in the present, which is beautiful and stretches away beyond the limits of the past and towards the horizons of the future.

Reading: 1 Corinthians 13

If I speak only in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to move mountain, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Affirmation of Marriage

Marriage is an affirmation of the kind of love that binds two people together in an inexplicable way. While there are still two bodies, two minds, and two hearts, the two are now journeying together down the same path. Where there was once only you and me, there is now you and me and *we*. In this “we” there is the knowledge that your lives and your futures and your fates are all bound up together. You are partners now in facing your future, and whatever joys and sorrows that future might bring.

Julie and Rick, you have come before us today because you have the courage and the trust to take up this journey together. Your love and deep caring for one another is clear, and the joy you bring to each other shines out on all who surround you. You know the risks inherent in joining your lives together, and yet you know also the beauty that can emerge from saying yes to love. In the words of Elbert Hubbard, “The sky is never so blue, the birds never sing so blithely, our acquaintances are never so gracious as when we are filled with love for some one.”

Exchange of Vows

[move into position]

Rick and Julie, I invite you now to say to each other the vows you wrote together.

[Allison reads, Julie and Rick repeat. Julie, then Rick]

I, Julie
give to you, Rick
this vow of sacred matrimony.

I cannot imagine
spending the rest of my life
with anyone but you.

I love you with all of my heart and soul.

I will do everything in my power
to ensure your happiness and well being.

I promise to support you in your endeavors.

I will share my thoughts, dreams, hopes and fears.

I will hold you close when you laugh and when you cry.

I vow to be a strong individual
within a solid union

so that we may both grow
in love and wisdom all the days of our lives.

I, Rick
give to you, Julie
this vow of sacred matrimony.

I cannot imagine
spending the rest of my life
with anyone but you.

I love you with all of my heart and soul.

I will do everything in my power
to ensure your happiness and well being.

I promise to support you in your endeavors.

I will share my thoughts, dreams, hopes and fears.

I will hold you close when you laugh and when you cry.

I vow to be a strong individual
within a solid union

so that we may both grow
in love and wisdom all the days of our lives.

Exchange of Rings

Marriage is a state in which two people come together and create a union greater than the sum of its parts. The ring has long been a symbol of the sincerity and permanence of a couple's love for one another and regard for their marriage. These rings are a symbol of unity, in which your two lives are now joined in one unbroken circle. And now the exchange of rings...

[Rick and Julie each say (Rick then Julie)]: Wear this ring as a symbol of our love and commitment.

Declaration of Marriage

Julie and Rick, you have pledged yourselves to one another in love today, and symbolized that pledge with the exchange of vows and rings in the presence of your family and friends. It is my honor and joy to pronounce you husband and wife, partners in your lifelong journey together. And now your first kiss as a married couple...

[move back]

Closing Words *(inspired by the words of Dana McLean Greely)*

As you embark on your life together, we leave you with these words of blessing:

May you find concord and creativity as well as laughter and love.

May you find joy and may you share it with all who surround you.

As you share the richer experiences of life, may your hearts and minds and souls be knit ever more closely together.

And may those bonds serve also to strengthen your separate personalities.

May you have courage when the road is rough, and humility when fortune favors you.

May peace, hope and love be with you on your journey together in this world.

Recessional