

Nicole and Curtis – September 27, 2014

Welcome. My name is Melissa Taylor and I have the privilege of performing this ceremony today.

On behalf of Nicole & Curtis welcome and thank you for being here. They are delighted that you are here today to share in their joy during this wonderful moment in their lives.

By your presence, you celebrate with them the love they have discovered in each other and you support their decision to commit themselves to one another for the rest of their lives. I invite you to take pictures throughout the ceremony in order to preserve your memories of this special day.

As we begin today's celebration I would like to ask who presents this woman to be married to this man?

Address to the Assembly

Today is an opportunity for Nicole and Curtis to declare their dedication to one another in witness of the people who mean the most to them. We are here to celebrate a relationship that has been forged, tested and strengthened over the years; a relationship that will grow in love and devotion from this day forward in the same way it has been growing from the start.

Today Nicole and Curtis are thankful to stand here together to finally pledge their intent to commit themselves to each other as husband and wife.

Address to the Couple

We all know that marriage is more than two people standing up here repeating vows. There is an art to any creative activity and there is too in marriage.

Part of the art of marriage is finding room for the things of the spirit. May you both continue in your search for the good and beautiful things in this life.

Part of the art of marriage is being flexible. In your marriage cultivate flexibility, patience, understanding and a sense of humour.

Part of the art of marriage is to comfort each other and strive to be each other's best friend. Most important, develop the capacity to forgive and heal your differences day by day.

Always remember that love can prevail. It can be the miracle that invites you to learn, to blossom and to expand your horizons.

Your marriage can nurture you and provide the strength you need to face the world. Only from this moment on you will face the world in a new way. A new family is being born and our world will be better because of it. For this we all celebrate.

A Simple Prayer

On this special day we can thank God that Nicole and Curtis found love in one another. May we bow our heads and at this time say a simple prayer:

Lord, make Nicole & Curtis an instrument of your peace

Where there is hatred let them sow love

Where there is injury let them grant pardon

Where there is doubt let them find faith

Where there is despair let them find hope

Where there is darkness let them see light

And where there is sadness let them find joy

We ask you grant that Nicole & Curtis may never seek to be consoled but to console, to be understood as to understand, and to be loved as to love one another.

Amen

Expression of Intent and Consent

Curtis, you have chosen Nicole to be your wife. Will you love her, respect her, be honest with her and stand by her through whatever may come? If so, please say "I will."

Nicole, you have chosen Curtis to be your husband. Will you love him, respect him, be honest with him and stand by him through whatever may come? If so, please say "I will."

And do you both promise to make the necessary adjustments in your personal lives in order that you may continue to live in a harmonious relationship together? If so, please say "we will."

The Affirmation of Family/Friends

In the spirit of joy and affirmation, I want to ask your family and friends a question: Do you, the families and friends of Nicole and Curtis, give them your blessing and support, wishing them a wonderful life together? If so, please answer "we will."

The Exchange of Vows

The promises that you are about to make are the pillars of a wonderful partnership. Be sure to renew these vows each day to one another and silently within your own hearts.

(Nicole to hand bouquet to maid of honour)

Curtis, please repeat after me:

Nicole, I promise to give you/ the best of myself/ and to ask of you/ no more than you can give/ I promise to respect you/ as you are your own person/ and to realize your interests/ desires and needs/ are no less important than my own/ I promise to share with you/ my time and my attention/ and to bring joy/ strength and imagination/ to our relationship/ I promise to keep myself open to you/ to grow along with you/and to love you always/with all I have to give/and all I feel inside/in the only way I know how/completely and forever.

Nicole, please repeat after me:

Curtis, I promise to give you/ the best of myself/ and to ask of you/ no more than you can give/ I promise to respect you/ as you are your own person/ and to realize your interests/ desires and needs/ are no less important than my own/ I promise to share with you/ my time and my attention/ and to bring joy/ strength and imagination/ to our relationship/ I promise to keep myself open to you/ to grow along with you/and to love you always/with all I have to give/and all I feel inside/in the only way I know how/completely and forever.

Ring exchange

May I have the rings please?

Curtis, please repeat after me: Nicole, I give you this ring/as a symbol of our marriage/for today and tomorrow/and for all the days to come/Wear it as a sign/of what we have promised today/And know that my love is present/Even when I am not. **Nicole**, please repeat after me: Curtis I give you this ring/as a symbol

of our marriage/for today and tomorrow/and for all the days to come/Wear it as a sign/of what we have promised today/And know that my love is present/Even when I am not.

May the giving of these rings be blessed by the hearts of all those present today; may you wear them and live in love all the days of your life.

Declaration

Curtis and Nicole, we have heard your promise to share your lives in marriage. We recognize and respect the covenant of marriage you have made here this day before God and each one of us as witnesses. Therefore, in the honesty and sincerity of what you have said and done here today, it is my honour and delight to declare you husband and wife.

Signing of the Register

Benediction

On behalf of everyone here today, we wish you both a marriage full of blessings. Never forget the joy of this moment. You may seal your vows with a kiss.

Announcement

Following the ceremony cocktails will be available so please stay and celebrate with Curtis and Nicole. The hall will open for the reception at 5:30pm.

Introduction of the Couple

It is now my personal privilege and joy to be the first one to introduce to you Mr. and Mrs. Curtis and Nicole Williams. Please greet them warmly.

Recessional