

## **Sarah and Shaun – September 12, 2015**

### **Introduction:**

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

Before we begin Shaun and Sarah kindly request that no photos be taken during the ceremony however, you are all welcome to take as many photos as you would like once the celebration begins. Sarah and Shaun also ask that all family members stay close by for family photos following the ceremony.

### **Processional**

#### **Welcome:**

We are gathered here today to celebrate the union of Sarah and Shaun. Thank you all for joining us to witness the commitment they are making to each other and for sharing in their excitement. You have all touched their lives in some special way and they are so happy to be able to celebrate this occasion with you.

#### **Readings:**

I would like to invite Robin to share a reading that Sarah has chosen for this occasion

*Union* 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, 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 single word."

Shaun has also selected a reading which I will now ask Kevin to share

*Gifts 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

### **Vows:**

*(Sarah to pass bouquet to Robin)*

Shaun and Sarah will now exchange their vows, repeating some words individually and others in unison. Saying these vows today is one thing, but living them day by day is another. Though it may seem challenging at times remember that the vows you exchange must be renewed tomorrow and every other day of your lives together.

**Shaun** repeat after me: Today in the presence of our family and friends/With all of my love/ and with joy in my heart/I Shaun take you, Sarah,/ to be my wife/

**Sarah** repeat after me: Today in the presence of our family and friends/With all of my love/ and with joy in my heart/I Sarah take you, Shaun,/ to be my husband

### **Repeat together:**

You are my best friend/ and I promise to encourage and inspire you/ and to support your dreams/To love you when life seems easy and when it seems hard,/When our love is simple and when it is an effort./And to care for you and our family every day/ I promise I will be your equal and respectful partner/, forever being grateful that we found each other.

### **Ring Exchange:**

**Shaun** says: I give you this ring/ as a token of our vows/ which I will live by/ for the rest of our lives together.

**Sarah** says: I give you this ring/ as a token of our vows/ which I will live by/ for the rest of our lives together.

### **Declaration**

Sarah and Shaun, you have promised to share your lives together. I wish you love, life and happiness; may your troubles be few and your blessings plenty. I now pronounce you husband and wife, Shaun you may kiss your bride.

### **Signing**

Now it is my pleasure to present for the first time Mr. and Mrs. Shaun and Sarah Burke.

### **Recessional**