

SERVICE OF MARRIAGE

FOR

Kevin Jones

&

Carrie Schmidt

October 25th, 2009

Rev. Max Ward

CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE

CALL TO WORSHIP

This is the time that you have chosen to become husband and wife. We are here in God's presence today to celebrate one of life's greatest moments, to give recognition to the worth and beauty of love, and to add our best wishes to the words which shall unite *Kevin Douglas Jones* and *Carrie Louise Schmidt* in marriage.

PRAYER OF APPROACH

O God of many names, as the Creator of us all you see us when we are first formed in our mother's womb. You walk with us throughout our life. You give us the need to love and the need to be loved. You give us times of celebration and grant us strength in times of suffering.

Today we come before you to celebrate, whatever our ages, the great gift of love between a man and a woman. We pray that you will bless the love that *Kevin* and *Carrie* proclaim today and that their love and care for each other may ever deepen. We pray that they may face life's joys and trials with hope and understanding; and that the life they live may be one of enduring love.

You have made us in your own image, with a mind to understand your works, a heart to love you and a will to serve you: increase in us that knowledge, that love and that obedience, that we may grow daily in your likeness. In Jesus name we ask now for your blessing. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

I Corinthians 13: 4-8a

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.

Love bears all things,

Believes all things,

Hopes all things,

Endures all things.

Love never ends.

ADDRESS TO THE WITNESSES

Today is a day of celebration.

By our presence here we accept responsibility for helping *Kevin* and *Carrie* and encouraging them in the new relationship into which they are about to enter.

We are called to rejoice in their happiness, to help them when they have trouble, and to remember them in our prayers.

ADDRESS TO THE COUPLE

Kevin and *Carrie*. May the love and relationship, which today has been expressed, continue to grow in the years to come. Whatever changes time may bring, let this wedding ceremony remain as a treasured memory and a guide to life. May you always experience that breathless wonder that exclaims: “Out of all this world, We found each other.” When each day ends and the sun is setting, may you always be found then as now, still hand in hand, still thanking God for each other. May God bless you both.

PUBLIC INQUIRY

Kevin and *Carrie*,

You have made it known that you want to be joined in Christian marriage, and no one has shown any valid reason why you may not. If either of you know any lawful impediment why you should not be married you are now to declare it.

STATEMENT OF INTENTION

Kevin, will you have *Carrie* to be your wife. If so, answer “I will.”

(I will)

Carrie, will you have *Kevin* to be your husband. If so, answer “I will.”

(I will).

PRAAYER

Almighty God, as *Carrie* and *Kevin* pledge themselves to each other, help them and bless them; that their love may be pure, and their vows may be true; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

EXCHANGE OF VOWS

Kevin as you hold *Carrie's* hand, pledge these vows to her saying,
Carrie, I take you to be my wife;
to laugh with you in joy,
to grieve with you in sorrow,
to grow with you in love,
to be faithful to you alone,
so long as we both shall live.

Carrie pledge these same vows to *Kevin* saying,
Kevin, I take you to be my husband;
to laugh with you in joy,
to grieve with you in sorrow,
to grow with you in love,
to be faithful to you alone,
so long as we both shall live.

EXCHANGE OF RINGS

Now you will seal your vows by the giving and receiving of rings. The perfect circle of a ring symbolizes eternity. Gold is the symbol of all that is pure and holy. Our prayer is that your love and happiness together will be as unending and eternal as these rings.

Groom

Carrie, I give you this ring, that you may wear it, as a symbol of our marriage.

Bride

Kevin, I give you this ring, that you may wear it, as a symbol of our marriage.

DECLARATION

For as much as **Carrie** and **Kevin**
have made this solemn covenant of marriage before God and all of us here,
I declare them to be husband and wife,
in the name of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

BLESSING

May the grace of God surround you,
the love of Christ fill you
and the blessings of the Spirit
fill your home and your life
with everything good. Amen.

THE MARRIAGE KISS

CLOSING PRAYER

O God, Creator, Father and Mother of us all, we thank you for the gift of life, and in life, for the gift of marriage.

We praise you and thank you for all the joys that come to men and women through marriage, and for the blessings of home and family.

Today, especially, we pray for *Kevin* and *Carrie* as they begin their life together as husband and wife. With them we thank you for the joy they find in each other. Help them support each other with patience, understanding and honesty.

Look with favour, God, on all our homes. Defend them from every evil that may threaten them, from outside or within. Let your Spirit so direct all of us that we may each look to the good of others in word and deed, and grow in grace as we advance in years. We pray these things in the name of Jesus. Amen.

BENEDICTION

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

SIGNING OF THE DOCUMENTS

I now have the pleasure of presenting to you, Mr. & Mrs. Kevin & Carrie Jones.