



Schedule

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Introduction and Welcome

Hello! Welcome! It's really wonderful that you have chosen to spend your time here celebrating this occasion with Emmy and Chris.

With this ceremony, we set aside a few moments in time to stop and allow ourselves to think about, to meditate on, the power and impact of love. And in particular, the love that has brought Emily Vallandigham and Christopher Jedras together today.

So let's ruminate just a bit on the concept of love. What is love? I'd like to quote some people smarter than myself on what their definition for this strange and mystical thing is.

C. S. Lewis, in *The Four Loves*:

To love at all is to be vulnerable.

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, in *Airman's Odyssey*:

Love does not consist of gazing at each other, but in looking outward together in the same direction.

Shakespeare, in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*:

Love looks not with the eyes, but with the mind.

Anaïs Nin, in *A Literate Passion*:

What is love but acceptance of the other, whatever he is.

Agatha Christie, in her autobiography

It is a curious thought, but it is only when you see people looking ridiculous that you realize just how much you love them.

As we hear these people's thoughts, and as we ponder ourselves, about what love means to you, we start to see different facets of love. Love is a many-faceted thing. Each time we experience it, we see a slightly different glimpse of it. A different perspective on love. I think

an appreciation for the details of this subject takes many encounters with love - which is to say, it takes a long time.

So, like all of us, Chris and Emmy have a lot to learn about love. But they are now starting down a path towards learning more about this great and powerful component of their lives, by sharing it with one another.

In a relationship, one mind revises the other; one heart changes its partner. Who we are and who we become depends, in part, on whom we love.

This is scary. This is hard to understand, hard to believe, hard to accept. But this reality is also very exciting. It means you, Emmy, can be vulnerable. You can let go with Chris. You can be you with Chris. It means you, Chris, can open up. You can be contented with Emmy. You can be you with Emmy.

In fact you *will* be yourself with Chris. And you *will* be yourself with Emmy.

Real, honest, complete love requires letting go.

First Reading

Love Lives

John Clare (1793-1864)

Love lives beyond
The tomb, the earth, which fades like dew.
I love the fond,
The faithful, and the true
Love lives in sleep,
The happiness of healthy dreams
Eve's dew may weep,
But love delightful seems.
'Tis heard in spring
When light and sunbeams, warm and kind,
On angels' wing
Bring love and music to the mind.
And where is voice,
So young, so beautiful and sweet
As nature's choice,
Where Spring and lovers meet?
Love lives beyond
The tomb, the earth, the flowers, and dew.
I love the fond,
The faithful, young and true.

Second Reading

Truth and Beauty

John Hogben

Two souls there are in nature and in life –
The soul of Beauty and the soul of Truth;
Towards which we yearn and strain with restless strife,
Along paths fraught with malice or with ruth; -
In the red face of ridicule and scorn,
Men sought, and still must seek these – or within,
(In spite of all earth's sorrow and her sin),
The soul is to search and manner born.
And still, in looking Beauty in the face,
With strong Prophetic joy we recognise
Something of what we may be, as we trace
Our own dim shadow in her lustrous eyes;
Nor may we part such with a dull harsh rule –
Beauty is true and Truth is Beautiful!

Exchange of Vows

officiant

emily

chris

officiant

chris

emily

Third Reading

Marriage Advise

Jane Wells (1886)

Let your love be stronger than your hate or anger.

Learn the wisdom of compromise, for it is better to bend a little than to break.

Believe the best rather than the worst.

People have a way of living up or down to your opinion of them.

Remember that true friendship is the basis for any lasting relationship.

The person you choose to marry is deserving of the courtesies and kindness you bestow on your friends.

Please hand this down to your children and your children's children.

Rings & Pronouncement

Do you have the ring?

[exchange rings]

By the power invested in me by the state of Massachusetts, on this beautiful day, the first of June, 2013, I am exceptionally happy to pronounce you man and wife.

You may kiss my sister.

[kiss]

[turn to audience]

I would like to introduce to you, Mr and Mrs. Emily and Christopher Jedras.

[cheers]

[music starts]

[recessional begins]