

Brandon and Nisha Wedding Ceremony 2010-08-07

Processional

Alan escorts Ann before the ceremony starts

2 min: Bach -- Arioso

Dean Chris and Brandon+Susan enter down aisle

4 min: Jay Ungar & Molly Mason -- The Mountain House

Bridesmaids and groomsmen enter down aisle - all walk together to staging point. Couples wait to walk down aisle after couple in front splits

Kavitha & Ryan

Kristin & Polvi

Kathryn & Alan

Kacie & Andy

3 min: Jay Ungar & Molly Mason -- The Lover's Waltz Duet

Nisha and Thomas enter down aisle - walk down, Brandon will meet Thomas and take Nisha's hand

Nisha will hand bouquet to Kavitha

Dean Chris: On behalf of the bride and groom, it is my privilege to give a personal word of greeting and welcome to all of you. You are all loved by Brandon and Nisha and they are honored that you are here to share in this tremendous occasion.

We have all been invited here today to share with Nisha and Brandon a most important moment in their lives. In the time they have been together their love and understanding of each other has grown and matured. Now they have decided to live their lives together as husband and wife.

Dean Chris: Please be seated

An opening Bible reading

Kavitha will take folio from DC and read:

Colossians 3:12-17

"Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion,

kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience, forbearing one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teach and admonish one another in all wisdom, and sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

Personal Words & Pastor Prayer from Dean Chris

Written by Dean Chris

Vows

Bride and Groom face each other and share their personal vows with each other from notes.

Brandon:

Nisha,

My vow to you today is to not only to love you but it is also a promise to constantly try to make our life together better. I will not always succeed but I promise to make this my daily effort.

Together we have had challenges mixed with blessings and joy. And it is the way that we have adjusted our relationship to accommodate these changes: to try and make it all work and to maximize our happiness, that brings me here today to make this vow to you.

Now, if everyone will humour me for a moment I will enumerate some of the discrete challenges and joys that our relationship has thrived in:

- Challenge: Separation from one another over continents and timezones
 - We built our relationship with Skype, IM and email. It was awesome. Some will say digital isn't as romantic as perfume scented parchment but our love letters are now in an indexed database.

- Joy: You graduating from Harvey Mudd and me from OSU
 - We cheered each other on and gave one another the time and space to succeed. It was hard work and we made it.
- Challenge: You jumping out of moving vehicles
 - I am still in awe
- Joy: Our engagement
 - You saying yes to my proposal made me ecstatic. And remember those simpler days without wedding planning?

Now, based on this and other existing data I say, with high confidence, that given our love for each other and previous successes working through life's changes, that making this vow to spend our lives as husband and wife will increase the joy and richness in our lives.

That is my promise.

Nisha:

Brandon,

Our relationship has been full of adventures. We have ranged from 1000 miles to 8000 miles in distance apart. It was stressful but always wonderful to wake up to those short emails that said "Hi, I miss you, here's a song that made me think of you."

We are expert world travelers but despite our best navigation skills we have each ended up lost on the backside of a mountain or wandering through strange cities with no way to communicate besides gestures. The best trips were when we ended up lost but then stumbled across something hidden and beautiful. And the greatest trips were when we ended up lost together.

Neither of us are close to being perfect and as we grow older we will change. We have each changed a lot from the people we were when we met. But we push harder, think better, work faster and have grown stronger, as individuals and as a partnership. With each new stage of our lives there is a new adventure to share.

Our mission - for the REST of our lives - is to explore strange new adventures; to seek out new life and old civilizations; to boldly go where no man or woman has gone before.

My vow to you today is to not only to love you but it is also a promise to constantly try to make our life together better. I will not always succeed but I promise to make this my daily effort.

Dean Chris: Today you are making a promise to give an eternal gift of love to each other. But, I remind you that eternity is a concept outside of time. It is not the past, nor is it the future. Instead it the constant integration of now. Marriage is the volume of individual moments you will share together.

Furthermore, you are being brought together as one, yet are two separate people with unique thoughts, talents and ways of being. Therefore I urge you to develop a mature love: a union under the condition of maintaining your individual integrity. With everyday you must renew the love and respect you hold for yourselves so that you may share and accept love from each other.

Brandon: With this understanding I, Brandon, take you Nisha to be my beloved wife, to have and to hold from this day forward for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health. Secure in the knowledge that you will be my constant friend, my faithful partner in life, and my one true love till death do us part. This is my solemn vow.

Nisha: With this understanding I, Nisha, take you Brandon to be my beloved husband, to have and to hold from this day forward for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health. Secure in the knowledge that you will be my constant friend, my faithful partner in life, and my one true love till death do us part. This is my solemn vow.

Exchange of rings

Groom and Bride face the Pastor

Dean Chris: May I have the rings please.

Alex Polvi hands the rings to Dean Chris

Dean Chris: The exchanging and wearing of rings symbolize the commitment of marriage. These rings are an outward and visible sign

of the inward commitment Brandon and Nisha are making to each other. As we can see these rings are circular, unbroken and hold Brandon and Nisha's intertwined initials. May these rings serve to remind you of your commitment to one another. Wear them proudly and with pleasure.

Minnu

Dean Chris: Now we will go through the Minnu and Manthrakodi ceremony. The tradition will be introduced by Nisha's Uncle Prasad Abraham.

Prasad Uncle walks up to the mic

The Minnu & Manthrakodi are deep-rooted in ancient Indian traditions and have become an integral part of weddings in Kerala.

The Minnu is a small gold pendant, shaped like a grain of rice, which signifies life. The groom ties the Minnu around bride's neck with seven threads taken from the Manthrakodi, wedding saree, which are woven together for strength. The seven threads represent God, the bride, the groom, and their parents, who have nurtured, loved and supported them throughout their life. The Minnu is a token of the groom's faithfulness, unending love, respect and support to the bride. By wearing it, the bride pledges them in return.

The Manthrakodi (Manthra means a special blessing and kodi means brand new cloth) is a gift from the groom. It symbolizes the groom's promise to love, cherish and care for the bride as they begin their life together, united by the sacrament of marriage.

Prasad Uncle walks back to his seat while Susan walks up to Brandon with the minnu and manthrakodi

Nisha will stand in place. Brandon will take the Minnu and walk around Nisha to tie it. Susan will open the sari and hand it to Brandon and then Brandon will put it over Nisha's head.

As Brandon walks back, Kristin will take sari from Nisha.

Declaration of marriage

Dean Chris: Brandon and Nisha, having witnessed your vows for marriage with all who are assembled here, and by the authority vested in me, I announce, with great joy, that you are husband and wife.

Dean Chris: You may seal your vows with a kiss.

Introduction of newlyweds

Dean Chris: Ladies and gentlemen, it is my honor to present to you, for the first time as husband and wife: Brandon Philips and Nisha George

Nisha will take bouquet from Kavitha and sari from Kristin

Recessional

Play 1st: Purcell -- Trumpet Voluntary (from standards list)

Play 2nd: Handel -- Water Music - Hornpipe (from standards list)

Bride and Groom leave down the aisle

Kavitha & Ryan

Kristin & Polvi

Kathryn & Alan

Kacie & Andy

Dean Chris