

Jan and Jacques'
August 14th, 2020
4:00 pm
Eaton, NH

Welcome:

Welcome everyone and thank you for joining us on this very special occasion. What you are witnessing today, is the joining together of Jan and Jacques, in the commitment of marriage.

As a part of this union, Jan and Jacques are also creating a new family with their children Mike and Olivia. Your presence and participation here today shows the couple and their children how much you care and it means a great deal to them all.

We will begin with a reading by Susan Walukiewicz

Gathering Words:

For those of us fortunate enough to find unconditional love,
we feel safe in the presence of our loved one.
There is no need to hide any part of ourselves
for fear of being judged or rejected.
We can just be together from moment to moment,
believing that those moments
will thread together into eternity.

There is a gentleness in the presence of love
that softens life's rough edges.
It makes us somehow braver
to go forth into the world
knowing that the shelter of someone's love
awaits us at day's end.

We are most vulnerable when we love.
We place our trust in another
to understand us and to care for us,

to treasure us and to receive our love.

In love, we trust that the other will provide a safe haven
in which we can experience and share
the fullness of our being with one another.
And in doing so,
we trust that our lives will be far richer
than had we chosen separate journeys through this world.

We trust that our love will fill us full
and make us wiser and more beautiful beings.
We find that our union graces our lives with balance,
a sweetness beyond any we have ever tasted,
and a treasure beyond any measure of value
we have ever known.

Charge for the couple:

Jan and Jacques,
by entering into the covenant of marriage today
you are declaring your faith in each other
and your dedication to your children, Mike and Olivia.
You have indeed earned this faith and trust
by creating a sound foundation for this marriage and this family.

Your task now is to build on this solid base.
Imbue your loving partnership with the caring, trust, vulnerability
and kindness that are essential to a healthy marriage and a
healthy family.

In dedicating yourselves to these values
you will create a marriage and a family that is a source of joy, in
which the four of you may grow in love and find fulfillment.

Enter your marriage confident in the love and trust
you have already created between the two of you

and between you and your children.

As you go forward in your journey together as husband and wife, and as parents, devote yourself to living according to the vows you share today.

Let this marriage create a family that enhances each person's individuality and allows each of you to know the greatest gift of all –the ability to love and to be loved.

Is it in this spirit and for this purpose that you have come here to be joined together?

Jan and Jacques: Yes, it is.

Marriage address:

Jan and Jacques, your marriage will, no doubt, be filled with surprises. Some will be welcome, while others will test the strength and flexibility of your bond.

Your life together, as husband and wife, father and mother, will present many opportunities to refine and deepen your love for each other and for Mike and Olivia.

May you be compassionate with each other and your children, and nurture yourselves, your children and this union with love and care.

May your love create a safe haven for you both, and for Mike and Olivia, on the journey that lays ahead of you as a couple and a family.

Lead with your hearts and take the time to do the simple things that will nurture your love.

Deeply listen to each other and to Mike and Olivia,
To your dreams and frustrations, and to theirs,
So that as individuals and as a family, you feel loved, safe and
cared for.

Be playful in finding ways to give your love anew each and every
day. Let your love be an inspiration to others to reach for what is
good within us all.

It is your love that brought us together here today.
May it grow deeper with each passing year.

Wedding Vows:

Jan, please repeat after me:

Jacques, I choose you
To be my lifelong partner.
I can't imagine my life without you.
I want to spend all of my days, weeks, months and years with you,
Facing life's worst and celebrating life's best together.

I am so grateful to you
For all the ways that you enrich my life
Your gentle honesty,
your loving support and strength
and your playful energy.
I am grateful for all the ways you enrich my son's life,
Caring for and loving Michael
as if he were your own.
I am honored to be a part of Olivia's life,

That you would trust me to nurture her and love her
as if she were my own daughter.

Jacques, I promise to love you,
Today, tomorrow and forever.

Jacques, please repeat after me

Jan, I could never have imagined anyone as perfect for me, as you.
You are my perfect compliment at one moment,
and a mirror into my soul the next.

I'm so fortunate to have you and Mike in my and Olivia's life
I'm proud that you want me to be in yours and Mike's
I promise to never forget the wonder of having found you
And to never to lose sight of or take for granted the gift of your
love.

I promise to be open with my heart,
to be honest, sincere, respectful and kind.

I promise to love you throughout my life.

Ring Exchange

These rings are circles, and circles are symbolic
Of the sun, the earth and the universe.

As arms that embrace, these wedding rings you give and receive
this day reflect the circle of shared love into which you enter, as
partners in life.

May you always be blessed, and may you abide in peace and love.

Jan, please repeat after me

I give you this ring
as a symbol of my love and devotion.
I promise to be faithful to you,
to care for you
And to share my love and my life with you, always.

Jacques, please repeat after me

I give you this ring
as a symbol of my love and devotion.
I promise to be faithful to you,
to care for you
And to share my love and my life with you, always.

Necklace Exchange

This ceremony marks not only the union
of Jan and Jacques as husband and wife,
it also celebrates the formalizing of the family bond
between Jan, Jacques, Mike and Olivia.

For you, Mike and Olivia, something very special is happening
today. In this ceremony, you are sharing in the celebration of the
happiness that is present in this family, and you are affirming
your role in that most fundamental of all human relationships.

May the joy and excitement of today and the warmth and loving
of your home also serve as a model for you of what you will seek

and find when it is your time to enter into marriage and to create your own family.

As new family relationships are formed, so will Jacques and Mike, Jan and Olivia exchange necklaces as a symbol of their love and devotion to each other.

Jan to Olivia

I, Jan, promise you, Olivia, that I will love you, support you and care for you always. Necklace exchange

Jacques to Mike

I, Jacques, promise you, Mike, that I will love you, support you and care for you always. Necklace exchange

Final Blessing:

Jan and Jacques, our best wishes go forward with you from this day on. We wish you a fulfilling life, rich in caring and in happiness.

We wish for you a gentle and peaceful life, that nurtures and comforts you. We wish for you a noble life, which reflects your honesty, kindness and integrity.

We wish for you an adventurous life, exploring the fullness of your own and each other's true selves.

Mike and Olivia, may you also find the strength, Comfort, and support you need as you grow and develop as members of this family.

Jan and Jacques, Mike and Olivia,
There is a wonderful life ahead of you.

Live it fully. Love its changes and choices
Let life amaze you and bring you great joy.

Jan and Jacques,
By the power vested in me by the State of New Hampshire, I
witness and affirm your union of love
And now pronounce you husband and wife.

You may now kiss as husband and wife for the first time.
Congratulations!