

A SERVICE OF CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE

Sarah Ann Morehouse

and

Carl Randolph Teichert

August 28th, 2010

Rev. Molly Blythe Teichert
Officiant

PRELUDE

GREETING

Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good.
God's love endures forever.

Spirit of God – has called us here –
God has called us here to celebrate –
celebrate God
celebrate love
celebrate a marriage

Let begin our celebration with the Word of God:

READING Genesis 2:18-24

read by Bill and Susan Morehouse

STATEMENT ON THE GIFT OF MARRIAGE

We are gathered here to praise God
for the covenant of grace and reconciliation
made with us through Jesus Christ,
to hear it proclaimed anew,
and to respond to it
as we witness the covenant of marriage
Sarah and Carl
make with each other in Christ's name.

Christian marriage is a joyful covenanting
in which they proclaim,
before God and human witnesses,
their commitment to live together in spiritual,
physical, and material unity.

In this covenant they acknowledge
that the great love God has shown for each of them
enables them to love each other.

They affirm that God's gracious presence and abiding power
are needed for them to keep their vows,
to continue to live in love,
and to be faithful servants of Christ in this world.

For human commitment is fragile
and human love imperfect,
but the promise of God is eternal
and the love of God can bring our love to perfection.

PRAYER

Let us pray.

Gracious God,
always faithful in your love for us,
we rejoice in your presence.
You create love.
You unite us in one human family.
You offer your word and lead us in light.
You open your loving arms and embrace us with strength.
May the presence of Christ
fill our hearts with new joy
and make new the lives of your servants
whose marriage we celebrate.
Bless all creation through this sign of your love
shown in the love of Sarah and Carl for each other.
May the power of your Holy Spirit sustain them
and all of us in love that knows no end.

Amen.

DECLARATIONS OF INTENT

Carl Randolph Teichert, do you take
Sarah Ann Morehouse
to be your wife in the covenant of marriage?
Do you promise to love and honor her
in true devotion;
to rejoice with her in times of happiness
and grieve with her in times of sorrow;
and be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

Do you?

Sarah Ann Morehouse, do you take
Carl Randolph Teichert
to be your husband in the covenant of marriage?
Do you promise to love and honor him
in true devotion;
to rejoice with him in times of happiness
and grieve with him in times of sorrow;
and be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?

Do you?

LEAVE TAKING:

Who presents this woman to be married?
Her mother and I do.

Fifth Commandment – honor your father and mother
honor – *kaw bade'*
– respect
– give weight to
– hold as important

Carl and Sarah – honor their parents
with words of gratitude for the ways in
which Roy and Velma, Susan and Bill have shaped their lives:

Gratitude – Roy's expansive grace – welcome
steady and thoughtful presence

Carl and Sarah – both grateful for parents
who encouraged them to grow
discover their gifts – music
Velma – Carl – use is voice, play cello
Sarah – piano Eastman School of Music

nurtured an artist's soul in each

Love a nature – being outdoors
camping, canoe trips

Deep faith – rooted in the love of God
generous hearts
steadfast in difficult times

Carl and Sarah – so grateful
because the values Roy, Velma Susan and Bill
taught them – have brought them together
They delight in each other's
courage, adventure, love of travel,
of nature, music, God.

Carl and Sarah seek to honor their parents in their life together
grounded in faith
delighting in nature
filled with music
and strong in love.

AFFIRMATION OF THE CONGREGATION

Will the congregation please stand?
Do you give your blessing to Carl and Sarah
and promise to do everything in your power
to uphold them in their marriage?

If so, please say “We do”.

We do.

READING – *Elise Teichert*

How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.
I love thee to the depth and breadth and height
my soul can reach, when feeling out of sight.
For the ends of Being and ideal Grace
I love thee to the level of everyday's
most quiet need, by sun and candlelight.
I love thee freely, as men strive for right.
I love thee purely, as they turn from praise.
I love thee with the passion put to use
in my old grief's, and with my childhood's faith.
I love thee with a love I seemed to lose
with my lost saints – I love thee with the breath,
smiles, tears, of all my life! – and, if God choose,
I shall but love thee better after death.

–*Elizabeth Barrett Browning*

READING – *Nate Morehouse*

In that book which is
My memory . . .
On the first page
That is the chapter when
I first met you
Appear the words . . .
Here begins a new life.

–*Dante Alighieri, La Vita Nuova*

MEDITATION

Here begins a new life.
such beautiful words.

Carl and Sarah can look back and
see that that new life
was sparked 4 years ago –
as acquaintances became friends
and could not forget each other.
friendship deepened into love
and love into committment
and marriage.

And that brings us to today.
We celebrate your new life.
we celebrate you love.
we are filled with joy for you –
for the new life you share
the new adventure you begin.

Adventure – great word –
“an undertaking involving risk, unforeseeable
danger, or unexpected excitement.”

You are well prepared –
One of the gifts from your parents –
a sense of adventure –
a desire to experience life – to live – really live –
breath, smiles, tears – all you have –
courage and soul and faith.

Three gifts for your adventure –

1 – God made you for each other –

In the passage from Genesis read for us

by Bill and Susan –

it is the creation of humanbeings.

At the very creation of who we are –

God declares

It is not good for people to be alone.

God made us to be in relationship.

God made people for intimacy and
companionship

God made us to be partners with and for each other

it is basic to who God

made us to be as human beings.

God created the space inside of you Carl – to welcome

Sarah

and God created the space in you Sarah – to welcome

Carl.

God loves what God has made.

God loves you both as individuals in your own right –

separately.

And God loves you as you join together as one.

God loves your love.

God made you for each other.

2 – The adventure is marriage –
the way is love.

Nurture your love for each other.
Tend it with gentle moments.
Celebrate its passion.
And always remember that love
is more than a feeling –
it is a choice.

To love is a conscious decision.
It is a commitment to be loving to each other –
to strive for each other's well-being
whether or not feelings of love are present.

3 – This the Advent star –
the star that shone at Jesus' birth.
our word adventure –
comes from the same word as advent –
which means to arrive.

When we celebrate advent – we celebrate God's arrival
with us – people
to live with us and love us.

This star is to remind you that you are not alone.
God is with you.
God is with you.
God will help you love each other
forgive each other,
delight in each other.
God will give you strength.
God will repair and renew
and rekindle your love.

God created you for each other,
God blesses the commitment you make today
and God is with you –
now and always –
on this marvelous adventure.

Amen.

VOWS

Sarah and Carl,
since it is your intention to marry,
join your right hands,
and with your promises
bind yourselves to each other as husband and wife.

I, Sarah, offer myself to you Carl,
to be your partner, your friend, your wife.
All that I am and all that I have, I share with you.
Before God, nature, and these witnesses
I promise to walk this life with you
as your faithful partner,
to honor and respect you,
to support your interests,
in times of plenty and want,
in sickness and health,
when life is easy and when it's hard,
for the rest of our days.
I do this freely, humbly, and happily,
for you are my home.

I, Carl, offer myself to you Sarah,
to be your partner, your friend, your husband.
All that I am and all that I have, I share with you.
Before God, nature, and these witnesses
I promise to walk this life with you
as your faithful partner,
to honor and respect you,
to support your interests,
in times of plenty and want,
in sickness and health,
when life is easy and when it's hard,
for the rest of our days.
I do this freely, humbly, and happily,
for you are my home.

EXCHANGE OF RINGS

What do you bring as a sign of your promise?

By your blessing, O God,
may these rings be to Carl and Sarah
symbols of unending love and faithfulness,
reminding them of the covenant they have made this day,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

This ring I give you;
in token and pledge
of our constant faith;
and abiding love.

This ring I give you;
in token and pledge
of our constant faith;
and abiding love.

PRAYER For the Marriage and the Lord's Prayer

Let us ask for the blessing of the Lord.

Eternal God,
without your grace no promise is sure.
Strengthen Carl and Sarah
with patience, kindness, gentleness,
and all other gifts of your Spirit,
so that they may fulfill the vows they have made.
Keep them faithful to each other and to you.
Fill them with such love and joy
that they may build a home of peace and welcome.
Guide them by your Word
to serve you all their days.
Help us all, O God,
to do your will in each of our homes and lives.
Enrich us with your grace
so that, supporting one another,
we may serve those in need
and hasten the coming of peace, love, and justice on earth,
through Jesus Christ our Lord who has taught us to pray
together saying....

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF MARRIAGE

By the authority committed unto me
as a minister of the church,
I declare that Carl Randolph Teichert
and Sarah Ann Morehouse
are husband and wife; in the name of
the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Those whom God has joined together
let no one separate.

CHARGE AND BLESSING

The grace of Christ attend you,
the love of God surround you,
the Holy Spirit keep you,
that you may live in faith,
abound in hope,
and grow in love,
both now and forevermore.

Amen.

You may kiss each other.

RECESSIONAL