

Dayna and Matthew's Best Covid Wedding Ever

August 1, 2020 Goerzen Farm, Didsbury, Alberta

Grand Entrance

Welcome and Prayer

Welcome to each one who have gathered here on this special day for the best Covid wedding ever. As friends and family, we gather to celebrate with Dayna and Matthew as they begin their married life and we pray for God's presence and blessing with them. This worship service is not only for them—it is also for each one of us. The vows they make today remind us of our own lifelong commitments. May God help each of us live the marriages God desires for us. Let us pray: Lord of all life, you give us creation and friendship to fill our days with beauty and joy. Look now with favour on Matthew and Dayna as they make their vows of loyalty and love. May this time of worship remind us all of the love you have shown us and the invitation you have given us to bear in love with those closest to us. In your name we pray. Amen.

Family Welcome

Scripture: 1st Corinthians 13 If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. 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. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Bridal Party Blessings

Hymn: Guide My Feet

Scripture: Colossians 3:12-17. As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with 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 with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. 17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Creator through him.

Reflection on Scripture and Marriage

What a joy it is to celebrate this ritual of marriage together today. Some couples understandably postponed weddings in hope of a better year next year. But Dayna and Matthew, you decided to go ahead

with your wedding in the midst of a pandemic as a symbol of hope in the midst of difficult times. And may this kind of hope in the midst of difficult times be a guiding light for you throughout your marriage.

Matthew and Dayna, you are entering into marriage with your eyes wide open. You are not the same personalities. One is a more artistic-social justice type and the other is more mathematical and technical. I won't say which is which but you've been together long enough now to know each other's foibles and differences and you have the maturity to figure things out. You have similar backgrounds and share a strong active faith. You share a love of music and each other's family farms and have the support of friends and the example of strong marriages in parents and grandparents to anchor you in difficult times. And I'm sure you will never fight!

But in case you do fight, I would remind you of the scriptures today from 1 Corinthians 13 and Colossians 3 that hold all the ingredients for a successful marriage. Love is patient, kind, never boastful or envious. It does not insist on its own way or is irritable or resentful. Love bears all things, believes all things, endures all things, Paul says in 1 Corinthians. And again in Colossians: forgive one another. That forgiveness sits in the middle of the Colossians passage as the core to everything else and sometimes the most difficult. Which is why we need the peace of Christ rule in your hearts and raise our conscience about how we treat our partners. These are markers of a healthy marriage that we aspire to and have to work at with the help of God because humility, patience and forgiveness do not come naturally to us. Marriage is a school of love - or it is where we get schooled in love. It is God's gift to us to learn how to be better partners and ultimately better Christians. Marriage is not just about us - marriage is a gift for our larger communities. Strong healthy marriages make strong healthy communities. This is an Anabaptist understanding of marriage: not as personal satisfaction but as the solid base from which we serve others with a little romance also.

Finally Apostle Paul says be thankful and sing. This commandment to sing should be easy for you as you come from singing families. Paul talks about the perfect singing harmony of forgiveness, patience and gratitude and a sense of humour. Before our last wedding talk at the Osler Cafe, I met an older couple from church, Cornie and Sarah Gunther and I asked them what they would say to a young couple getting married. They giggled and said, "Oh, do they know what they are getting into? Even if they don't, they will figure it out as they go along. After 57 years, we are still figuring it out. We tease each other. Humour is the key to staying happy."

Today we have the marriage wisdom of the Apostle Paul, Sarah and Cornie Guenther from Osler, and Brad Paisley who sings during the wedding dance, "We'll look back someday, at this moment that we're in and realize we've grown even more deeply in our love and commitment."

As your prayerful, supportive communities of family and friends and churches - we will pray for you in this life-long journey. Together you are already a rich blessing to us in your families and in our broader Saskatoon community- singing with Cora Nova, supporting Black Lives Matter and helping us with technology problems at Osler Mennonite. Your union will continue to bless us in the years ahead.

Let us pray: Our loving, faithful God, you have gifted us with the blessing of marriage; the joining of different people and personalities into a relationship that creates the strength and energy to bless others. We ask your strength and peace and wisdom and music upon Dayna and Matthew as they make their vows today in hope and trust. We pray for your Spirit to guide them gently into patience and forgiveness when it is needed and mostly of all into humour and joy from this day forward. Amen.

Vows

Dayna and Matthew, since it is your intention to marry, please join your hands, and with your vows bind yourselves to each other as husband and wife. First with your personal vows and then with the traditional vows. Dayna...

Dayna, please repeat after me:

I, Dayna, take you Matthew
to be my husband
and I promise before God and these witnesses
to be your loving and faithful wife
in plenty and in want;
in joy and in sorrow;
in sickness and in health;
as long as we both shall live.

Matthew, please say your personal vows. Now repeat after me:

I, Matthew, take you Dayna
to be my wife
and I promise before God and these witnesses
to be your loving and faithful husband
in plenty and in want;
in joy and in sorrow;
in sickness and in health;
as long as we both shall live.

Ring Exchange

And now for the symbol of the vows you have made. The ring is a symbol of eternity. It is an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual bond that unites two hearts. I now invite you to exchange rings. Matthew, repeat after me:

Dayna, I give you this ring as a symbol of my love and faithfulness and of the vows we have made today.

Dayna, repeat after me: Matthew, I give you this ring as a symbol of my love and faithfulness and of the vows we have made today.

Let us pray: God of all love and grace, give Dayna and Matthew the grace to fulfill with pure and steadfast hearts the vows made between them this day. Give them a clear vision of your purpose for their life together. Grant them to grow in deeper love for each other. Send upon their home tranquility and peace, and allow them to be with each other in health and joy, to use them for your glory and their neighbour's good. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen. Now you may seal the deal with a kiss!

Signing Marriage License

Presentation of the Couple

Matthew and Dayna, may the Lord bless you and keep you; may God's face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; may the Lord uphold you and give you peace. Amen. What God has joined together let no one put asunder. I present to you our newly wed couple: Dayna and Matthew. (clap, clap and dance, dance)