

*The Wedding of
Carolyn Rae Carter
and
Jeffrey Scott Baylor*



August 18, 2000

at the

Grand Avenue Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

Bozeman, Montana

*A Service of Marriage for
Carolyn Rae Carter
&
Jeffrey Scott Baylor*

August 18, 2000 at 4:00 p.m.

THE PEOPLE GATHER FOR THE CELEBRATION

PRELUDE

Carol Wagner

CANDLELIGHTING

Ushers

SEATING OF THE PARENTS

- Parents of Groom / John and Janice Baylor
- Mother of Bride / Frank and Marilyn Carter

LIGHTING OF THE FAMILY CANDLES

- Parents of couple

THE PROCESSION

“Trumpet Tune and Air”

- Groomsmen, Groom & Minister
 - Warren Lynn
 - Jeff Baylor
 - Jay Baylor and Matt Baylor

- Bridesmaids
 - Cathy Poor
 - Candy Peplin

- Ring Bearer
 - Josh Peplin

- Flower Girl
 - Rachel Baylor

- Bride & Father
 - Carolyn Carter & Frank Carter

“Hymn to Joy”

(Immediately after procession Frank takes a seat by Marilyn.)

OPENING

(To all who are present)

Dear friends, out of our care for this couple we have gathered together to witness and bless their mutual vows which will unite them in marriage. To this moment they bring the fullness of their hearts as a treasure to share with one another. They bring the dreams which bind them together. They bring that particular personality and spirit which is uniquely their own, and out of which will grow the reality of their life together. We gather today to rejoice with them as the outward symbol of an inward union of hearts, a union created by friendship, respect, and love.

(to all who are present)

I invite each of you who are present here today to bow your head with me as we look to God in Prayer.

INVOCATION

Gracious God,

We do not come today asking for your presence to be with us, but rather we come requesting that you might enable us to become more aware of your holy presence which already surrounds and pervades us, as a community and your individual children, therein. Help us then, to be conscious of your mystical activity as we worship through our afternoon celebration here in this holy sanctuary.

Sustaining God, we do gather in your presence to celebrate with Carolyn and Jeff as they affirm their covenant with you and declare publicly in the eyes of family and friends their covenant with each other. For the dreams they have dreamed, and the hopes they have for the future — we give thanks. So also do we pray that the words mentioned on this occasion and the spirit of our gathering will empower us in this time, but also be filled with meaning for the passing years. This we pray through your Spirit of creation, God. AMEN.

BLESSING OF THE COUPLE

(to all who are gathered...

...this blessing is offered by Jay Baylor, Jeff's brother)

Today we come together to celebrate the marriage of Jeff and Carolyn. Not only do we celebrate with them, but we also participate with them. While they as individuals are joined together before God and become one, we as their family and friends also become forever linked. Not only is this ceremony about the joining of these two individuals. It is also about the joining of these two sets of family and friends.

God did not design us to be alone. We are created to be in loving relationship with Him. And we are created to be in loving relationship with others. Family and friendship are God's creations. As Carolyn and Jeff enter into this new phase of their lives together, it is important for them to know that their future hope for joy and love rests in large part upon us, as their family and friends. They will rely on us to nurture them, encourage them, guide them and pray for them.

(To all who are gathered)

In deed, let us all, as part of the family of God, bow our heads once again and ask that God might honor these hopes; these blessings which have been offered to Jeff and Carolyn by Jeff's brother...

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Let us pray,

O God, who in your infinite wisdom has provided families to protect and nurture each of us in this world, we especially thank you for the families of Carolyn and Jeff. We thank you also for the strength, character, and joy which they have offered through the years.

Even now, as this marriage is blessed by family and friends, especially Jeff's brother, and while we celebrate this time when those close to us find joy in the commitment and promise of marriage, we do ask for all here — a sense of glad fulfillment.

We ask your presence and power not only in the lives of these two who stand before us in this formal celebration of marriage, but that you find your way into the midst of all relationships represented here, this day.

We do especially pray though, that your eternal gifts of joy, wonder, and love might grace this couple, and provide for them — the beginning of a lifetime of growth and discovery.

As a portion of your human family, gathered in this place, God — we pray. Amen.

HOLY SCRIPTURE

“Colossians 3: 12 - 17”

Jacque Hubbard

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. 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.

THE MARRIAGE VOWS

(To all who are gathered)

Because they have come together in this place at this time, out of their love for each other — a love demonstrating the qualities of faith celebrated in the holy scripture of the book of Colossians we just heard, Jeff and Carolyn will now declare to each other — vows symbolic of their mutual commitment in such love.

(To Carolyn and Jeff)

Carolyn; Jeff; As you come now to the sacred moment when you make your vows of love and faithfulness to each other, I want you to remember something:

Vows and oaths are never to be taken lightly, especially when they are made before God, and within the holy community of family and friends.

The vows you are about to offer do not hold any power in and of themselves. There is nothing magic about them.

But, if you are sincere in the words you say to each other, and if you will remember them as long as you both shall live,

...they can act like a firm foundation to

hold you solid in the storms of life.

Remembered eternally, these words will also empower your living in times of celebration .

Moreover, the God who hears your vows will always be present to aid you in keeping them whenever you repeat them in awareness of God's Spirit.

(to groom)

In this time then, Jeff, I ask you to turn and face Carolyn, taking her hands in yours.

(groom will raise the veil of the bride)

I now ask you to vow your love to her from this moment on:

(pause)

Jeffrey Scott Baylor, will you take this woman to be your wedded wife, to live together according to God's ordinance, in the holy relationship of marriage? Will you love her, comfort her, honour and keep her, and, forsaking all others, remain faithful to her so long as you both shall live?

...if so, will you declare your vow of love and commitment to Carolyn by saying, "I will."

Jeff says, "**I Will.**"

(to bride)

Carolyn, as you continue holding hands with Jeff, I now ask you to vow your love to him from this moment on:

(pause)

Carolyn Rae Carter, will you take this man to be your wedded husband, to live together according to God's ordinance, in the holy relationship of marriage? Will you love him, comfort him, honour and keep him, and, forsaking all others, remain faithful to him so long as you both shall live?

...if so, will you declare your vow of love and commitment to Jeff by saying, "I will."

Carolyn says, "**I Will.**"

THE EXCHANGE OF WEDDING RINGS

(To Matt Baylor...)

May I have the rings Carolyn and Jeff intend to offer each other as a symbol of their mutual commitment in this new relationship of marriage.

(To all who are present)

A traditional symbol of marriage and token of love is the ring. The gold symbolizes the purity and value of the relationship. The ring as an unbroken circle symbolizes the endlessness of the love and commitment that are involved in marriage.

May God now bless your love which is symbolized by these rings.

(To groom)

Jeff, place Carolyn's ring on her finger and then repeat to her, the words I am about to say:

Carolyn, I offer you this ring, a symbol of my enduring love and faithfulness. I ask that you accept it and wear it as a symbol of my commitment to you and our relationship in marriage.

(To bride)

Carolyn, place Jeff's ring on his finger and then repeat to him, the words I am about to say.

Jeff, I offer you this ring, a symbol of my enduring love and faithfulness. I ask that you accept it and wear it as a symbol of my commitment to you and our relationship in marriage.

(To couple)

On each morning when you awake and notice these

rings which you have given to each other as a sign of your love and commitment — may the Spirit of God remind you of your promise to support one another in your life together as husband and wife.

So also may the Lord be present in your lives and in your love, binding you each to the other and prompting you to grow together in the wisdom that is God's gift to us all; In the grace and love of God who is our creator, redeemer, and sustainer.

THE LIGHTING OF THE WEDDING CANDLE

The lighting of a candle is often used as a symbol of something new coming into the world, so you two have chosen to light a candle to symbolize your new life together as husband and wife.

Like the two outside candles, which your mothers lit, that you each will use to light the one center candle, both of you have a unique and individual life which God has given you. You each come out of a wealth of unique traditions and values.

So may it be, even as you will **not** put out these two

individual candles after the center candle is lit, that you will also continue to celebrate in your marriage together — the special gifts that are your own individual personalities, unique strengths, personal talents, and valued traditions.

But in this time together a new light, indeed, comes among us. It is the light of your two lives being woven together and uniting as one flame in intensity and purpose.

Even now, then, may the light of your two lives unite into a new life together, as the flames of your individual candles are united in one new fire upon the central candle.

Let the wedding candle be lit.
(The couple move to light candle)

SOLO ***“The Wedding Song”*** **Ken Purchase & Carol Wagner**
*(...to be sung while couple faces each other in front of Candle.
After the song the couple returns to kneel at the kneeling bench.)*

HOLY COMMUNION ***“Ave Maria”***
*(the bride and groom will come back around to the front of
Communion Table, just off to the east side.)*

•Meditation

•Communion Prayer

O Holy One, we, the created, praise you, our Creator.
Before anything else came to be you gave shape to love.
From the oneness of your will came all that we have
become. We breathe with your breath, and in our living
come to know all that is good about who you intend us to
be:

Male and Female. Mother. Father.
Sister. Brother. Husband. Wife.

As you so know we belong together. Even when we seek
for your personal presence in our lives, somehow we find it
in community with each other.

So it is appropriate, as we celebrate this new relationship
of marriage held sacred in the lives of Carolyn and Jeff,
that we also celebrate your relationship of grace we know
through Jesus, the Christ.

Here around this table then, renew our relationship with
you through the bread and the cup; remind us of our eternal
hope in the love and sacrifice of Jesus Christ; empower us
to be your true community of love in this world that all may
know the joy of relationship with you.

And, God, be clearly present in these beginning moments
of Jeff and Carolyn's relationship as husband and wife, that
they might find holy purpose for a mindful and sustaining
relationship with you -- in their life ahead with each other.
Amen.

•Words of Institution

•Carolyn and Jeff serve each other communion

•Jeff and Carolyn serve congregation communion

THE GREAT PRAYER OF BLESSING

*(the bride and groom will move back in front of communion
table, face each other and join hands; minister removes his
stole and wraps the couples hands with stole)*

Almighty God, our creator,
we give thanks for this moment that brings Carolyn
and Jeff together in marriage. We recognize with
thanksgiving the journeys which have brought them to
this time, and we celebrate with them the hopes they
hold for their life together.

We ask your blessing upon these two before us now,
to sustain them through the difficult and uncertain
times that come to every relationship; but also to
fulfill with great number the joyful celebrations that
are also a part of each relationship.

We pray Jeff and Carolyn continue to find in each
other resources which will nurture their marriage,
their life-purpose and reason for being.

May this new family continue to develop together
in their love for one another. And, may all their
relationships continue to find enrichment in your
presence, God, through the years, blossoming with
grace and wisdom.

...Again, we give thanks for the nurture and support
of family and friends. Let us, who are witness to
this sacred celebration today, be renewed in our own
commitments to one another, that we all may be
participants in a healed and healing world. All this we
ask in your great holiness, God. Amen.

THE PRONOUNCEMENT OF MARRIAGE
(pronouncement to couple)

In as much as you both, Carolyn and Jeff, have been joined together in the holy relationship of marriage and have witnessed the same before God and all present who are family and friends; and have therefore given and pledged your faith — each to the other, and have so declared the same by the giving and receiving of rings, and by the lighting of a candle, and the sharing of Holy Communion together as an expression of the Christian faith which undergirds your relationship.

...I do therefore, upon the authority of the Word of God pronounce you, Jeff and Carolyn, spiritually and lawfully husband and wife together, by the power of almighty God, expressed to us through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and shared with us eternally by the gift of life in the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

THE KISS

Carolyn and Jeff, I invite you to celebrate this new relationship God has created in your life with a kiss.

THE INTRODUCTION

(the couple turns to face the people)

It is now my privilege to introduce for the very first time, as can only just now be done,

Jeff and Carolyn Baylor.

THE BENEDICTION

(Benediction...to couple and those gathered to celebrate)

At this new point in your lives together,
facing your family and friends as husband and wife,

and to all God's people gathered for this celebration--

...May you live forever in peace,
sharing your love with each other,
and also God's love with the rest of the world.

Amen.

THE RECESSIONAL

“Appalachian Spring”

- Jeff and Carolyn**
- Groomsmen and Brides Maids**

(Ushers come forward up side aisles to front of center aisle)

- Parents of Bride**
- Parents of Groom**

THE PEOPLE ARE DISMISSED TO CELEBRATE LIFE

- Ushers**