**Megan & Heather’s Wedding Ceremony 10/17/09**

*Greeting*

Love comes from God. Everyone who truly loves is a child of God.

*Introduction*

Dear friends, we have come together in the presence of God and family, to witness the marriage of Megan and Heather, to surround them with our prayers, and to share in their joy.

The scriptures teach us that the bond and covenant of marriage is a gift of God.

As these women give themselves to each other today, let us enter into this celebration confident that through the Holy Spirit, Christ is present with us now.

*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 Megan and Heather for each other.

May the power of your Holy Spirit sustain them and all of us in love that knows no end.

Amen.

*Sermon*

Ms. Barbara to address family and friends, regarding our choice to commit to each other.

*Declaration of Intention*

Before God, family and friends, I ask you to affirm your willingness to enter this covenant of marriage and to share all the joys and sorrows of this new relationship, whatever the future may hold.

Megan, will you have Heather to be your wife, and will you love her faithfully as long as you both shall live?

(Megan: “I will”)

Heather, will you have Megan to be your wife, and will you love her faithfully as long as you both shall live?

(Heather: “I will”)

*Pledge of Support*

Do you, family and friends pledge your support and encouragement to the covenant commitment that Heather and Megan are making together?

If so, please say, “We do.”

*Vows*

Megan and Heather have chosen to pledge their own vows to one another.

(Megan: ….)

(Heather: ….)

*Exchange of Symbols*

Megan and Heather, what will you share to symbolize you love?

(Megan & Heather: “These rings”.

By these rings of covenant promise, Gracious God, remind Heather and Megan of your encircling love and unending faithfulness that in all their life together they may know joy and peace in one another.

Amen.

(Megan: “Heather, I give you this ring as a sign of my love and faithfulness.”)

(Heather: “I receive this ring as a sign of our love and faithfulness.”)

(Heather: “Megan, I give you this ring as a sign of my love and faithfulness.”)

(Megan: “I receive this ring as a sign of our love and faithfulness.”)

*Sand Ceremony*

Please note this empty glass. Glass, itself, is made from sand and the sands of time have come together, melting into one piece to make this vessel. The sands of time should remind us all of our eternal love and our mortality. Today Megan and Heather have chosen to represent their love to each other in a special sand ceremony. Please Heather and Megan, take your separate glass of sand and alternate the pouring of sand into this joining vessel and united, repeat after me:

You are my love for eternity, I blend with you. My heart is like these grains of sands, merging with yours. As these grains of sand are joined together, so are our hearts, our bodies and our souls.

*Announcement of Marriage*

Megan and Heather, you have committed yourselves to each other in this joyous and sacred covenant. Be merciful in all your ways, kind in heart, and humble in mind. Accept life, and be most patient and tolerant with one another. Forgive as freely as God has forgiven you. And, above everything else, be truly loving.

*Blessing*

May you through God’s gift find delight in each other always, and remain faithful until your life’s end.

You may kiss the bride!