

Wedding Diana & Geert Church Ceremony

8 April 2006

Programme

1. *Entry*
Music: Conquest of Paradise (Vangelis)
2. *Introduction (David)*
3. *Music: I can't help myself (Kelly Family)*
4. *A few words on Geert and Diana's relationship (David)*
5. *Music: Wer bisto (Twarres)*
Lighting of two candles
6. *Reading: Shakespeare's Sonnet 116 (Magdalena)*
7. *Music: No matter what (Meat Loaf)*
8. *Exhortation*
9. *A few brief thoughts (David)*
10. *Promises*
11. *Rings*
12. *Music: Oh Happy Day (Sister Act)*
Lighting of the centre candle
13. *Prayer of Blessing (David)*
14. *Walking out*
Music: You're the one that I want / We go together (Grease)

Entry: Conquest of Paradise

Introduction (David)

We have come here today to witness and celebrate the marriage of Geert Hoefman and Diana Siepmann. Our presence here is a great privilege.

We have been invited

to witness the exchange of solemn promises, to share in a new beginning for both them. Geert, Stijn and Nele stand today together as a family as testimony to the place that Diana has found with in their hearts. They stand in love, and with openness welcome Diana to their family.

In the same way Diana's family has come to celebrate this union. By their presence they too indicate not only their joy for Diana's happiness, but their willingness to embrace Geert as a member of their family.

Even as they come together today and make promises regarding their unity as a couple we with them realise that true unity of spirit is the result of a divine blending of individuality.

Into this new relationship each brings a unique past, unique experiences, a unique understanding of the world. They bring the strength of their individuality, their personal giftedness, their individual hopes and aspirations and blend them together to bring new found strength to the essence of who they are.

In the promises they make today which bind their lives together inseparably before God, both recognise and celebrate the truth that in this union their individuality is not lost but strengthened. We are here to celebrate uniqueness, and unity through diversity.

Song: I can't help myself

A few words on Geert and Diana's relationship (David)

Look at the words of this song

"I cannot turn my back

I've got to face the fact"

For Geert and Diana this song is more than poetry or words on a page.

It is history and truth, an honest look at their relationship. Neither one

would have suspected at their first meeting that life would eventually lead them to the promises they are making before God today.

In truth in the beginning, this day seemed impossible... but sometimes people are driven by forces bigger than themselves. This was the case for Geert and Diana. Drawn together by a force impossible to resist, they found through the course of their relationship that they could only be completely happy when they were together. One by one the many obstacles which made their relationship seem impossible fell away, until today they are finally free to stand here today and pledge their undying love.

As we come together in celebration of their unity, we acknowledge and celebrate their uniqueness as individuals. Geert and Diana will now light two candles symbolising their unique identities and personalities and the journey that has brought them together.

Song: Wer bisto / Lighting of two candles

*Reading: Magdalena
Shakespeare's Sonnet 116*

*Let me not to the marriage of true minds
Admit impediments, love is not love
Which alters when it alteration finds,
Or bends with the remover to remove.
O no, it is an even-fixed mark
That looks on tempests and is never shaken;
It is the star to every wandering bark,
Whose worth's unknown, although his height be taken.
Love's not Time's fool, though rosy lips and cheeks
Within his bending sickles compass come,
Love alters not with his brief hours and weeks,
But bears it out even to the edge of doom:
If this be error and upon me proved,
I never writ, nor no man ever loved.*

Song: No matter what

As witnesses, we have literally come from places around the globe to participate and witness this moment. The diversity of our nationalities not only speaks to the openness and value that Geert and Diana place upon our friendship, it stands as a testimony that they value uniqueness and individuality, and this will bring great strength to their marriage. Beyond this, it stands as a powerful symbol of the uniting influence of human love.

Exhortation

Geert and Diana I encourage you both to enter into this new relationship with reverent thought, honest intentions and in respect for God, having fully considered the significance of marriage and the holy promises you are about to make.

If either of you knows of any just reason why you should not be joined together in marriage, declare it now.

A few brief thoughts (David)

I would like to share a few thoughts with you at this very important moment. Geert, I have known you for some years and we have become close friends. Diana, I had the chance to get to know you during the past few months. There are 3 words that I would like to share with both of you that sum up what I have observed about your relationship together.

The first word is COMPLETENESS:

I have only known you as a couple for a few brief weeks but of this I am certain! You two complete each other.

Geert, being with Diana has changed you as a person. Today through your relationship you are a better man, a better father and a better friend. She has completed you. I have also observed the effect you have had on her.

In your presence, Diana glows! She laughs deeply and completely. You complete her, she completes you, you complete each other.

The second word is HONESTY: The reason you complete each other is because you are free to be yourselves without fear. Preserve this honesty between you at all cost. Refuse any temptation to hide back behind a façade. Honesty will be the foundation of your relationship and your happiness.

The third word is GOD: You have both shared that you sensed God's guidance in the past, that you felt him behind the scenes working out the details which have led you to being together today. As He has been a part of your past, keep him in your future.

Declarations

Geert:

I solemnly declare that I Geert know of no just reason why I should not be joined in marriage to Diana

Diana:

I solemnly declare that I Diana know of no just reason why I should not be joined in marriage to Geert

Promises

Geert:

*God can work in mysterious ways
And we think it came out of the blue
But it's him who gives new beginnings
And this one was the introduction to you*

I Geert, take you Diana to be my wife, my partner in life and my one true love. I will trust you and respect you, laugh with you and cry with you, loving you faithfully through good times and bad, regardless of the obstacles we may face together. I give you my hand, my heart, and my love, from this day forward and throughout the seasons of life and beyond.

Diana:

*You can't stop the river from rolling to the ocean
It's a destiny that the good Lord put into motion
Like a baby's cry and a mother's devotion
Some things are meant to be
And one of them is you and me*

I Diana, take you Geert to be my husband, my partner in life and my one true love. I will trust you and respect you, laugh with you and cry with you, loving you faithfully through good times and bad, regardless of the obstacles we may face together. I give you my hand, my heart, and my love, from this day forward and throughout the seasons of life and beyond.

Rings

Will the witnesses please come forward and present the rings

Geert:

I place this ring on your finger as a continual sign that we have been married under the solemn promises that we have made today in the presence of God and witnessed by our families and friends

Diana:

I place this ring on your finger as a continual sign that we have been married under the solemn promises that we have made today the presence of God and witnessed by our families and friends

David:

In the presence of God, and before these witnesses I declare you to be husband and wife. Let no man try to separate what God has joined with his blessing.

Kiss

Song: Oh Happy Day / Lighting of the centre candle

Prayer of Blessing (David)

Walking out: You're the one that I want / We go together