

Devotion, Week of June 21, 2026

Rev. Jeanne Simpson

Well, we just had a wedding at the end of the service on Sunday! What a wonderful, glorious experience. Thomas and Nina exchanged simple vows as they promised to make a new life together with love and respect, and I would add, courage. It takes a lot these days to make a successful marriage—not just for young people starting out with big dreams and not so much money, but for those who come together later in life with children and grandchildren, with lives spent working and seeking to be successful.

We have become a culture of impatience—we want our romantic notions of marriage to make things easy for us. But older couples have been through the movement of romantic idealism to reality, and they can look at marriage more attuned to how to make life work together. Even so, that's not always easy. There are usually two households that must be meshed in some fashion, children and grandchildren from both sides that must be convinced that the marriage will be a good one for all, and the handling of two sets of engrained habits. Is someone messy while the other is a slob? Does someone hold on to every penny while the other likes to spend? Where will this new couple choose to live—her place, his place, or a new place? Will the children accept all these changes? It's tough.

So I would say that Thomas and Nina not only expressed love and concern for each other in their vows, they expressed the courage to move forward in a life together, regardless of the challenges. They will need to stand united and strong. But they have promised to do so, and God has blessed them in this new journey. May they have a long, happy life fulfilling their promises.

Jeanne