

*The Marriage and Blessing*

*of*

*and*

*Saturday, May 23, 2009, 1:30 p.m.*

*Iowa*

*The Ceremony*

*Prelude*

*Processional*

*"Canon in D Minor"*

*"Trumpet Tune"*

*Hymn*

*"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee "*

*Welcome*

*Exchange of Marriage Vows*

*The Exchange of Rings*

*Declaration of the Marriage*

*Solo*

*"I Will Be Here"*

*Reading:*

*I Corinthians 13:4-13*

*Response:*

*Psalms 139: 13-18*

*Message*

*The Blessing*

*Duet*

*"The Prayer"*

*Benediction*

*Recessional*

*"Rondeau"*

*Mouret*

*The Participants*

*Officiates*

*Parents of*

*Father of*

*Attendants:*

*Ring Bearers*

*Soloists:*

*Organist:*

*Ushers:*

*Reception Hosts:*

and Wedding  
May 23, 2009

**Be seated:**

**WELCOME:** On behalf of , , their families, Magistrate and the parish of , I welcome you to this joyous day, to a day of commitment and blessing, to a day that invites you to witness a moment in history that could not have happened just a few weeks ago. and are marrying! There are two of us here today, not the usual scenario. The change in the law is inviting us to be a little creative as to how we can marry and bless! Here Steve can do this civil marriage that church law right now does not allow me to do, and I can do what he technically cannot do, I can bless these vows that they will make today. The State and the Church know that marriage good for all and it strengthens the fabric of our communities, it warrants the affirmation of the State and the blessing of the Church. Today you are here to witness this blessed event. Welcome

**At this time we ask and and their witnesses to come forward** to exchange their Marriage vows.

(. and come forward)

**Blessing:** and , before this community you have made vows that bind you to be faithful and loyal to one another each day for the rest of your lives. Today you have come here to this community of faith to ask God's blessing on the commitment you have made, to wrap this union in holy covenant. Today you ask God to accept and grace the promises that you have made. God receives your vows. God reminds you that you are God's first and that God will be present and faithful to this covenant always. That is certain.

Marriage takes support and that is why we gather with loved ones, with friends. With this in mind today I ask that this community gathered assure you of their support and presence as you grow together.

**I ask you:** are you willing to support and in the vows that they have made before us. **If so answer: We will.**

From this day I pray that you will always know the presence of God and the support of friends. From this day I pray that you will live in the awareness that what has happened here is holy and it is blessed. With joy I ask God who is Father, Mother, Creator, Jesus who is the Son, the risen Christ, and the Spirit who is the ongoing presence of God to bless you and sustain you always. Amen.

**Benediction.....invite all to Cedar Bend!**

May 23, Marriage

, you have selected a passage that is one of the more familiar and eloquent in the writings of Paul. Our first response is generally, that is beautiful. And then if you ponder a moment it may occur to you that the passage is probably one of the most difficult challenges to us as God's people to live, Paul tells us as only Paul can what love really looks like and it stretches us way beyond what Hallmark has done to our notions of what this is about. Nothing is left unsaid.

Often times those of us who are gays and lesbians hear Paul's words against our being who we are and in relationships. His words are used to validate who can and who cannot dwell together as one in the holiness of marriage. In reality Paul had much more to say about how we are to love one another and how we are to be faithful in following the risen Christ than he had to say about the who cans and who cant's. And while I am not one to suggest that we take Scripture out of context, I do believe that passages like the one you have selected for this day are the Words that we need to wrap around us to challenge us and to graciously guide us into profound loving that gives us a glimpse of the mystery that is love.

Marriage is not an easy way of life. The years you have been together have not all been easy. With the longevity that we have now as humans saying "I Do" can be for 50-60-70 years and making it each day still loving one another is truly mystery. Love is not always patient, kind, it can be jealous, sometimes it is rude and selfish and it does take offense.....we know this. But hearing these holy words today reminds us that the expectation of God is that each of us is to live and to love as God in Christ has shown us. We who are made in this image are gifted with the capacity to love in a way that is beyond what we imagine. God intends that what Paul writes will work in our lives because this loving is what will give hope and promise to a world seeking God's love. God intends that we know the joy of a loving relationship that is kind, patient, selfless, faithful, and when we fail God patiently draws us back to what can be. That is why it is so good that we do this before God, with our friends gathered who will cheer us when we are strong and will support us when we fail; we need one another when the realities of life fog our priorities. We need one another to remind us that indeed we do have it within us to live the fullness of all that is love.

Today we are witnessing a "different marriage" this would not have happened a month ago. We are here because we delight and we believe that this is right, good, holy and received by God. But today also asks us to remember that the first ones to trod any path have to clear the way, sort of like portaging in Canada! Support Susan and Janet and those of us who have married in the last few weeks and will marry in days ahead. Support Steve and those in our community who are participating in bringing new rights to life, criticism of their actions is easy to find. At times we rather arrogantly diminish the wonder and love of God toward each of us. Let us not diminish God, let us allow God to be God and dwell faithfully there. Let us not diminish the reality that God is love and this is what God intends for us.

Thank you for being here.....we have all put childish ways behind us and we stand before God and one another in faith, in love and in hope that as this moment is blessed we will leave and honor it in all that we do, among all that we meet. This is what makes us unique as people of God, it is what makes what we are doing such a strength within our communities.....communities built on the love that Paul puts before us cannot fail. We are called to be the promise of the hope and the love of God in our world, let us do this well. What we do here is public, today go forth and bless with your love. Amen.