

## INTRODUCTION

Rev. \_\_\_\_\_

Three years and one month ago, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ committed themselves together as a couple at a Covenant Service held at \_\_\_\_\_ Episcopal Church in Coralville. At that time, in the presence of God, their community of faith, family, and friends, they bound their lives together in every way but legal. Now that the State of Iowa has made it possible for them to marry, we come together to celebrate and witness their legal marriage.

For \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, their lives are always being lived in the context of faith, personally, as a couple, and as clergy in Christ's Church. While they have chosen to marry each other in the setting of their home, they wish to begin their legally married life together centered in the faith which the Church proclaims in Christ.

### BRIEF STATEMENT ON THE TEACHING OF THE CHURCH ON MARRIAGE

The bond and covenant of marriage was established by God in creation, and our Lord Jesus Christ adorned this manner of life by his presence and first miracle at a wedding in Cana of Galilee. It signifies to us the mystery of the union between Christ and his Church, and Holy Scripture commends it to be honored among all people.

The union of two people in heart, body, and mind in marriage is intended by God for their mutual joy; for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity, and is to be entered into reverently, deliberately.

If any of you can show just cause why they may not lawfully be married, speak now; or else for ever hold your peace.

(Celebrant turns to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_)

I charge you both, here in the presence of God, that if either of you know any reason why you may not be united in marriage lawfully, and in accordance with God's Word, you do now confess it.

### READINGS FROM HOLY SCRIPTURES

Rev. \_\_\_\_\_: Let us now turn to God's word and hear two of the readings that were read at \_\_\_\_\_'s and \_\_\_\_\_'s covenant service.

Readings: Colossians 3:12-17 ( \_\_\_\_\_ )

John 1:1-5, 10-14a, 16 ( \_\_\_\_\_ )

### THE DECLARATION OF INTENT

\_\_\_\_\_ :  
1. (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_, believing in the gift which God has given you in each other, and united in your faith to serve God and neighbor, will you have (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_ to be your lawfully wedded spouse to live together in the covenant of marriage? Will you love her, support her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health, and be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

\_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ : I will.

### EXCHANGE OF MARRIAGE VOWS

Rev. \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, you have declared your intention to share with each other your joys and sorrows and all that the years will bring. With your promises, now bind yourselves together in marriage.

Rev. \_\_\_\_\_ "lines out" the vows for each ( \_\_\_\_\_ will go first, \_\_\_\_\_ second)

N., I celebrate and receive you as my spouse,  
and I give myself to you as your spouse,  
to walk by your side through all that life brings.  
I will love, honor, support, and cherish you,  
as we live (or living together) in God's grace and forgiveness,  
as long as we both shall live.  
(This is my solemn vow.)

### EXCHANGE OF RINGS

and hold up left hands together while Rev. \_\_\_\_\_ says:

Bless, O God, these rings to be signs of the vows by which \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ have bound themselves to each other in married life.

Rev. \_\_\_\_\_ (to all gathered):

Will all of you, who witness these promises, do all in your power to uphold \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in their marriage? If so, please answer: "We will."

All: **We will.**

### PRONOUNCEMENT OF MARRIAGE

Rev. \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, by your promises before God, and in the presence

of this gathered community, by the power vested in me by the State of Iowa, I declare that you are now legally married. Those whom God has joined together, let no one put asunder.

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### PRAYERS

Rev. \_\_\_\_\_: All are invited to gather round and lay hands on the couple. After each petition, you are invited to respond, "Spirit of God bless this marriage."

Gracious God, we pray for \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and give thanks that you have brought them together in marriage.  
**Spirit of God bless this marriage.**

Help them to continue to grow together in faithfulness and honesty, in mutual support and patience.  
**Spirit of God bless this marriage.**

Make their life together a sign of your love in this broken world; may forgiveness heal injury and joy triumph over sorrow.  
**Spirit of God bless this marriage.**

Be with them in their work and renew them in their leisure.  
**Spirit of God bless this marriage.**

May they welcome into their home both friends and strangers and so reflect Christ's love for all people.  
**Spirit of God bless this marriage.**

In all their future together may they enjoy each other's lives and grow through the love they share. **Amen.**

### EXCHANGE OF PEACE

*After people have had a minute to step back from one another*

Rev. \_\_\_\_\_: The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
All: **And also with you.**

The peace of the Lord is exchanged among everyone present.

### HOLY COMMUNION