

and welcome you to be with them as they declare their marriage vows and thank you for your care for them in being present.

On May 3, 1997, and made their life long commitment to a covenant relationship as they declared before God, before their families, their friends and the world their intention that their two journeys become a journey together, in faithfulness and love.

In every sense but legal, that was the beginning of their marriage. Now the State of Iowa has made it possible for them to marry legally; so in a sense today we will complete the service that happened thirteen years ago. Today, they come before us, their witnesses, as they renew those vows and declare them to be their marriage vows, again before God, families, friends that in the eyes of the state they may be legally and officially be married.

And so we will now hear one of the Scripture lessons used at that original covenant.

reads Corinthians 1: 13:1-13

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a

child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

The Declaration of Intent

:
, will you have this woman to be your lawfully wedded spouse; to live together in the covenant of marriage? Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

: I will.

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The Marriage Vows

:
I take you _____ for my friend, lover and partner for life. I promise to care for you, love you, and fight with you from time to time. I give to you my love, my trust, my openness, my honesty, my strength. With you, I will confront and walk through my fears and pain.

You _____ are the love of my life. I always believed that there was someone out there whom I was meant to be with. One day you entered my life, and all of a sudden I saw colors. You brought the color into my life and are helping make all my dreams come true. I am honored to stand here with you in front of God, our family, and friends to declare the love, respect, and trust I have for you and our relationship.

Will all of you witnessing these promises do all in your power to uphold _____ and _____ in their life together?

People: We will.

The Pronouncement

_____ wraps her stole around _____ and _____'s joined hands, and says to all:

I invite you all to come close and place a hand on _____ and _____'s joined hands, or on their shoulder or arm, or the shoulder of one in front of you.

After a brief silence, _____ says:

Now that _____ and _____ have given themselves to each other by solemn vows and the joining of hands: In the presence of God and this company, by the power vested in me by the State of Iowa, I declare that they are married. Let no one come between those whom God has joined together.

The Closing Prayer and Blessing

May God give you light to guide you, and love to unite you so that you may continue to be faithful to the vows you have made, and live together in joy and peace until your lives end. In the name of God, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Amen.