

The Marriage of _____ and _____

June 5, 2009

and _____ will begin by welcoming the guests and thanking them for coming.

: It is _____ and _____'s custom each year on the anniversary to re-affirm the vows they made at their wedding in 1999. Today on the 10th anniversary of that occasion, we will begin by witnessing their re-affirmation of those promises.

and _____ will repeat their original vows. They will have the service booklet in hand for reference if needed. (_____ will go first, _____ second.)

: Ten years ago, _____ and _____ had what they called a Covenant Service at _____. 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 be completing the service that happened 10 years ago. It was important to them then, and is important to them now, that these services take place in a context that integrates their faith and their relationship.

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

reads Psalm 139:1-13

O God, you have searched me out and known me;
you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.
You trace my journeys and my resting-places
and are acquainted with all my ways.
Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,
but you, O God, know it altogether.
You press upon me behind and before
and lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.
Where can I go then from your Spirit?
where can I flee from your presence?
If I climb up to heaven, you are there;
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
If I take the wings of the morning
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
Even there your hand will lead me
and your right hand hold me fast.
If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me,
and the light around me turn to night,"
Darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day;
darkness and light to you are both alike.
For you yourself created my inmost parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
I will thank you because I am marvelously made;
your works are wonderful, and I know it well.

reads Colossians 3:12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as God has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of our Savior Jesus, giving thanks to God through Christ.

The Declaration of Intent

(to):

, 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.

(to):

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.

The Marriage Vows

: and , you have declared your intention to share with each other your joys and your sorrows and all that the years will bring. I ask you now to join your right hands and with your promises bind yourselves to each other in marriage.

and join right hands.

"lines out" the vows for each (will go first, second):

N., I take you to be my spouse,
to be with you whatever happens to us,
in prosperity and in hardship,
in health and in sickness,
in sorry and in joy.
I will love, protect and serve you
as long as we live.
This is my solemn vow.

(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.

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. Those whom God has joined together, let no one put asunder.

The Signing of the License

_____ : The attorney will now serve the papers.

All return to their places as _____ brings the certificate, and a pen, forward.

_____, _____, _____, _____ and _____ sign in the appropriate places.

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.

_____ : And all God's children say:

All: AMEN!

Blessing of the Civil Marriage
of and

June 7, 2009

Following the sermon...

Hymn: O God, Creation's Loving Source (#VH157)

The image shows four lines of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each line consists of a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The lyrics are: 1. Our God, cre - a - tion's lov - ing; 2. As God is One in Trin - i - ty; 3. De - sire and ten - der - ness and; 4. With - in Christ's bo - dy may we; 5. Praise God, all liv - ing souls on source, in love, for love has placed us; ty, our be - ing - bo - dy, mind and; joy are ho - ly gifts, and ours to; find our best and tru - est selves re -; earth, with strings and trum - pets, dance and; here that God's own im - age, which we; soul— is meant for u - ni - ty and; share in love that's giv - ing, faith - ful,; vealed, called forth, sup - port - ed by its; song! God's all - sur - round - ing love will; bear, through hu - man lov - ing may shine clear.; peace, a sound and joy - ful liv - ing whole.; kind, and grows in mu - tual love and care.; love to live at peace, made whole and healed.; be both home and way our whole life long.

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love to live at peace, made whole and healed.
be both home and way our whole life long.

[moves to the space in front of the altar.]

—

Please insert the following in the Prayers of the People just before “For all the many and varied gifts...”

For _____ and _____, that their wills may be so knit together in your will, and their spirits in your Spirit, that they may grow in love and peace with you and one another all the days of their life.

God of love and faithfulness,
Sustain them in your grace.

Presider: and were legally married this past Friday, June 5. They come before this gathering of God's people today for the blessing of their marriage.

[asks and to come forward. They join .]

Presider: and , you have come here today to seek the blessing of God and of the Church upon your marriage. I ask, therefore, that you promise with the help of God to fulfill the obligations of Christian marriage.

 , you have taken Jane to be your spouse. Do you promise to love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, to be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

 : I do.

Presider: , you have taken Linda to be your spouse. Do you promise to love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, to be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

 : I do.

Presider *(to congregation)* Will you who witness these promises do all in your power to uphold and in their marriage?

All: We will.

[and extend their left hands toward , who says:]

Presider: Bless, O God, these rings to be signs of the vows by which and have bound themselves to each other; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN

[joins and 's right hands and wraps her stole around them.]

Presider: Those whom God has joined together, let no one put asunder.

All: Amen.

[, and return to their places. The service continues with the Prayers of the People.]
