

Service of Marriage
Robin Lehman and Judd Vande Voort
May 28, 2005

Service Outline

Prelude
Seating of Families
Processional
Greeting and Welcome (1 John 4:16; Psalm 106:1)
Prayer of Thanksgiving
Statements of Intent
Blessings of the Families
Solo "The Wedding Song"
Reading of Scripture: 1 John 4:7-12
Exchange of Vows
Exchange of Rings
Lighting of the Unity Candle
Wedding Prayer
Lord's Prayer (spoken by congregation)
Declaration of Marriage
Charge and Blessing
Presentation of the Couple
Recessional
Postlude

*Prelude/Seating/Arriving
Processional*

Greeting and Welcome:

God is love, and those who abide in love,
abide in God, and God abides in them.

O give thanks, for the Lord is good. God's love endures forever.

We have gathered in the presence of God
to give thanks for the gift of marriage,
to witness the joining together of Judd and Robin,
to surround them with our prayers,
and to ask God's blessing upon them,
so that they may be strengthened for their life together
and nurtured in their love for God.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us pray.

Gracious God, you are always faithful in your love for us. For the ways that your Spirit has moved in the past to nurture the love that we celebrate this day, we offer you our praise and thanks. Look mercifully upon Robin and Judd, who have come seeking your blessing. Let your Holy Spirit rest upon them so that they may honor the promises they make this day, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

Statements of Intent

Before God and this congregation,
I ask you to affirm your willingness
To enter this covenant of marriage
And to share all the joys and sorrows
Of this new relationship,
Whatever the future may hold.

Judd, will you have Robin to be your wife,
And will you love her faithfully
As long as you both shall live?
[I Will]

Robin, will you have Judd to be your husband,
And will you love him faithfully
As long as you both shall live?
[I Will]

Blessings of the Families

Will the families of Robin and Judd please stand...
Will you receive Judd and Robin into your family,
Bless them as they begin this new chapter in their lives,
And promise to support them in anyway you can, will you?

[We Will]

Solo "The Wedding Song"

Reading of Scripture

Let us turn now to God's Holy Word as remembered by the apostle John in his first letter.
Listen now for God's Word for you....

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God. Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us....

Exchange of Vows

Judd and Robin, since it is your intention to marry, please join hands and with your promises, bind yourselves to one another. /Repeat after me.

I, Judd, take you, Robin,
to be my wife;
and I promise,
before God and these witnesses,
to be your loving and faithful husband;
in plenty and in want;
in joy and in sorrow;
in sickness and in health;
as long as we both shall live.

I, Robin, take you, Judd,
to be my husband:
and I promise,

before God and these witnesses,
to be your loving and faithful wife;
in plenty and in want;
in joy and in sorrow;
in sickness and in health;
as long as we both shall live.

Exchange of Rings

What symbols do you bring as a reminder of these solemn vows?
[I get rings, then hold them up in the air before the congregation...]
The wedding rings are round in shape to remind us of the never-ending nature of true
faithfulness within a marriage covenant. And they are made of a precious metal to remind
us of the sanctity of marriage. /Repeat after me.

“Robin/ receive this ring/ as a token of my love and faithfulness.”

“Judd/ receive this ring/ as a token of my love and faithfulness.”

Lighting of the Unity Candle

Judd and Robin have chosen to symbolize their union this day
by lighting a marriage candle.

{bride and groom move toward candle positions}

The two outside candles represent their lives to this moment. They are two
distinct lights, each capable of going its separate way. To bring blessings, happiness, and
reverence to your home, there must be a merging of those two lights into one light, the
blending of two lives into one life together. This is what our Lord meant when he said,
“On this account a man shall be joined to his wife and the two shall become one.” *{they
light the center candle during the previous quote}*

From now on, your thoughts shall be for each other rather than merely for your
individual selves. Your plans shall be mutual, and your joys and sorrows shall be shared
alike. As this one light cannot be divided, neither shall your lives be divided. May the
radiance of this one light be a testimony of your unity.

{couple returns to starting positions}

Wedding Prayer

Let us seek God’s blessing, in prayer.

Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, bless Judd and Robin that they may live together in holy marriage according to the vows they have made before you this day.

Bless them with your love, that their love for each other may grow ever deeper, and their love for you may shine forth among those who know them.

Bless them with your mercy, that they may be patient and caring, willing to share each other's joys and sorrows, to forgive and to be forgiven, in their life together, and in the world.

Bless them with your peace, that they may be calm and secure, trusting in you with confident hearts, and living in harmony within their family and among all peoples.

Bless them with your Holy Spirit's Presence, that within their hearts, they may know what is your will, and have the courage to do it.

Bless them, O God, that they may be a blessing to everyone they meet.

This we ask in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray together saying, Our Father, Who Art in Heaven....

Lord's Prayer

Declaration of Marriage

[please join hands]

Before God and in the presence of their families and friends, Robin and Judd have made their solemn vows to one another. They have confirmed their promises by the joining of hands and by the giving and receiving of rings. Therefore, by the authority given to me as a pastor in the Church of Jesus Christ, I do now declare that Judd and Robin are husband and wife, according to the ordinance of God, and laws of the State: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Whom therefore God has joined together, let no one put asunder.

Charge and Blessing

As God's own, clothe yourselves with compassion,
Kindness and patience,
Forgiving each other as the Lord has forgiven you.
And crown all things with love,
Which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

The Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord make his face to shine upon you
And be gracious unto you,
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you,
And give you peace... now and forevermore.

And all the people said... AMEN.

And now I invite you to begin your married days with a kiss....

Presentation of the Couple

And now, it is my great pleasure to be the very first to introduce..., Judd and Robin Vande Voort.

[clapping...]

Recessional

{*Bride and groom head out first. Then the rest.*}

Postlude