

PROCESSION

Music.

INVOCATION

In the words of Prince:
We are gathered here today
To get through this thing called "life"
Electric word, life
It means forever, and that's a mighty long time
But I'm here to tell you there's something else:
The afterworld
A world of never-ending happiness
You can always see the sun, day or night

Now let us take a moment of silence to recognize our natural surroundings,
in which we are all joined together.

30 seconds.

Welcome friends. Today we witness and celebrate the marriage of Aimee & JJ.

READING

As someone who found himself and his “Church” through theater, I’d like to begin with some words on marriage from one of the greatest American plays, *Our Town* by Thornton Wilder:

“There are a lot of things to be said about a wedding; there are a lot of thoughts that go on during a wedding.

We can't get them all into one wedding, naturally, and especially not into a wedding at Grover's Corner (*or Bernheim Forest*), where they're awfully plain and short.

In this wedding, I play the minister. That gives me the right to say a few more things about it.

Y'see, some churches say that marriage is a sacrament. I don't quite know what that means, but I can guess. Like Mrs. Gibbs said a few minutes ago: People were made to live two-by-two.

It's like what one of those European fellas said: Every child born into the world is nature's attempt to make a perfect human being. Well, we've seen nature pushing and contriving for some time now. We all know that nature's interested in quantity; but I think she's interested in quality, too,—that's why I'm in the ministry.

And don't forget all the other witnesses at this wedding,—the ancestors. Millions of them. Most of them set out to live two-by-two, also. Millions of them.

Well, that's my sermon. "Twan't very long anyway."

As we stand here today, surrounded by nature, let us celebrate the love that brings us here, binding two people, striving toward what is natural, a moment of perfection.

DECLARATION OF INTENT

Do you Aimee take JJ to be your lawfully wedded husband, to have and to hold, in sickness and in health, in good times and woe, for richer or poorer, keeping yourself unto him for as long as you both shall live?

"I do."

Do you JJ take Aimee to be your lawfully wedded wife, to have and to hold, in sickness and in health, in good times and woe, for richer or poorer, keeping yourself unto her for as long as you both shall live?

“I do.”

VOWS AND RING EXCHANGE

Aimee and JJ will now exchange rings as a symbol of their love and commitment.

Exchange rings.

They have also prepared vows.

Aimee’s vows.

JJ’s vows.

BLESSING

I leave you with the following words:

May all that you are, always be in love. May all that is love, always be in you. May your love be as beautiful on each day you share as it is on this day of celebration; and may each day you share be as precious to you as the day you first fell in love.

May you always see and encourage the best in each other. May the challenges life brings your way make your marriage even stronger, and may you always be each other’s best friend and greatest love.

BLESSING

By the authority vested in me by American Marriage Ministries and the state of Kentucky, I now pronounce you married. You may kiss.

RECESSION

Music.