

Procession and Entrance:

This is the day Brandon and Alley will marry. Let us celebrate their love together!

Statement on the Gift of Marriage:

We gather to give thanks for the gift of marriage, to witness the joining together of Brandon and Alley, and to offer our blessing upon them so that they may be strengthened for their life together.

We are created male and female. Marriage offers the way for husbands and wives to help and comfort each other, living faithfully together in plenty and in want, in joy and in

**sorrow, in sickness and in health,
throughout all their days.**

Marriage gives full expression to the love between a man and a woman. In marriage a woman and a man belong to each other, and with affection and tenderness they freely give themselves to each other.

Marriage strengthens human society, provides for the ordering of family life, and for the birth and nurture of children.

Marriage is a holy mystery in which a man and a woman are joined together, and become as one. In marriage, husband and wife are called to a new way of life; this way of life must not be

entered into carelessly, or from selfish motives, but responsibly, and carefully.

Therefore, let marriage be held in honor by all.

Prayer:

Gracious God, you are always faithful in your love for us. Look mercifully upon Brandon and Alley who have come seeking your blessing. Let your Spirit rest upon them so that with steadfast love they may honor the promises they make this day and be strengthened by your grace all their days. Amen.

Declarations of intent:

Brandon, will you have Alley to be your wife, and will you love her faithfully as long as you both shall live? “I will.”

Alley, will you have Brandon to be your husband, and will you love him faithfully as long as you both shall live? “I will”

Do you, their family and friends, give your blessing to Brandon and Alley? Do you promise to do everything in your power to uphold them in their marriage? (If so, answer):“We do”

Readings: From here and there, and mirrors of you.

From Robert Fulghum – the “All I ever needed to know I learned in kindergarten guy:

We’re all a little weird. And life is a little weird. And when we find someone whose weirdness is compatible with our own, we join up with them and fall into mutually satisfying weirdness – and call it love – true love.

From Shel Silverstein – the “Giving Tree” and “Missing Piece” guy:

How many slams in an old screen door? Depends how loud you shut it. How many slices in a bread? Depends how thin you

cut it. How much good inside a day? Depends how good you live 'em. How much love inside a friend? Depends how much you give 'em.

A love sonnet by Pablo Neruda:

I love you without knowing how, or where, or from where. I love you simply, without problems or pride: I love you in this way because I do not know any other way of loving but this ... that your hand upon my chest is my hand, so intimate that when I fall asleep your eyes close.

Scripture reading: Ruth 1:16-17

But Ruth said, "Do not urge me

to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the LORD do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you.”

Message to Brandon and Alley

Vows: Brandon and Alley, since it is your intention to marry, join your hands, and with your promises, bind yourselves to one another as husband and wife.

**I, Brandon, take you, Alley, to be my
wedded wife,**

**to have and to hold,
from this day forward,
for better, for worse,
for richer, for poorer,
in sickness and in health,
to love and to cherish,
till death us do part,
according to God's holy ordinance;
and to you I pledge my faith
with all my heart.**

**I, Alley, take you, Brandon, to be
my wedded husband,**

**to have and to hold,
from this day forward,
for better, for worse,
for richer, for poorer,
in sickness and in health,**

**to love and to cherish,
till death us do part,
according to God's holy ordinance;
and to you I pledge my faith
with all my heart.**

Giving the Ring:

**Brandon: What do you bring as a sign
of your covenant and promises to each
other?**

“A ring.”

**The perfect circle of a ring symbolizes
eternity. May this ring be a sign to
Brandon and Alley their of unending
love and faithfulness, reminding them
of the covenant they have made this
day.**

(Brandon Repeat):

**This ring symbolizes our union -
for today, tomorrow, and all the
years to come.**

**You are now my life partner, my
beloved, my friend.**

**With this ring, I give you my heart.
I have no greater gift to give.**

Wedding prayer:

**Eternal God, creator and preserver of
all life, giver of all grace: look with
favor upon your world and especially
upon Brandon and Alley. Grant, O
God, that their joys may be doubled
since the joy of one is the joy of the
other; that their burdens may be cut in
half, since when they share they divide
the load.**

Bless this husband and this wife with faithfulness and devotion. Grant that their lives be so knit together in your will, and their spirits in your Spirit, that they may grow in love and peace with you and each other. May they seek you first, O God. For it is in loving you that they may love each other all the more. It is in being faithful to you that they will be ever faithful to each other.

May they not expect perfection in the other, for that belongs only to you. May they be quick to minimize each other's weaknesses, swift to praise the points of strength in each other, and so always be able to see each other through a lover's kind and patient

eyes.

Give them courage, when they hurt each other, to recognize and confess their fault. Give them the grace to seek your forgiveness, and to forgive each other.

Give them enough tears to keep them tender, enough hurts to keep them humble; enough failure to keep their hands clenched tightly in your hand; enough success to make sure they walk with you.

Grant, O God, that at each day's end, they may be found as they are now, hand in hand, thanking you for each other.

Grant that all who have witnessed these vows today may find their lives strengthened, and all who are married may depart with their own promises renewed.

May it ever be so. Amen.

Pronouncement of marriage:

Before God and in the presence of these people, Brandon and Alley have made their solemn vows to each other. They have confirmed their promises by the joining of hands and by the giving and receiving of rings. Please welcome Brandon and Alley – Now married. Partners. Best friends!

Let us go in Peace.