

Jordan Jones & Benjamin Johnson Wedding

☐ The Procession

☐ The Invocation

We gather here remembering our Baptism, and do so in the name of The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit. Amen.

Please be seated.

Doubly blessed is the couple that comes to the marriage altar with the approval and blessings of their families and friends. Who has the honor of presenting this woman to be married to this man?

(Jon answers on behalf of him & Sue, kisses Jordan and returns to his seat.)

☐ The Introduction *(Jordan & Ben Face Me)*

Dear friends and family, with great affection for Jordan and Ben, we are gathered together to witness and bless their union in marriage. To this sacred moment they bring the fullness of their hearts as a treasure and a gift from God, to share with one another.

They bring their dreams, which bind them together in an eternal commitment. They bring their gifts and talents, their unique personalities and spirits, which God will unite together into one being, as they build their life together.

We rejoice with them in thankfulness to the Lord, for creating this union of hearts, built on friendship, respect and love.

With great joy, all of us present here, along with our family Saints in heaven, rejoice with God at this wedding of Ben & Jordan.

Among the many blessings this couple has received is the fine example of Christian Marriage shown them by their parents. Jordan's parents Jon & Sue Jones will celebrate their 31st anniversary this year, while Kathy & I celebrated 32 years of marriage this past June.

Thanks be to God for all his Blessings.

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- ▣ We have 2 Readings today from Scriptures. The first is from
 - Briana Okuno
- ▣ Our second reading will be from Air Force Captain
 - John Gallo

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The Message

So far so good! Jordan you look beautiful.

Ben & Jordan, this is the part of the ceremony where I'm supposed to impart some sage advice about how to love & live your life as a married couple.

Ben, if you asked your mother about the value of this advice - she'd probably say "Don't get your hopes up too high!". But let's give it a go anyway.

Through our friendship with our neighbor Mrs. Lee, she made us aware of a story I'll talk about today. It's about one of God's many wonders he created in this world. It's about a stand of Redwood trees found in Northern California. I'm sure you've heard of them. These trees are majestic. They are centuries of years old. They stand 100's of feet tall.

And yet these mammoth trees have a root system no deeper than 13 feet. Unlike other trees, whose depths of roots can go deeper than the tree is tall, these Towering redwoods have roots a fraction of their size. Yet over centuries, they withstand Windstorms, Rain deluges, Droughts, Mudslides, Earthquakes, as they stand tall, grow and flourish. How is it possible?

It's because their roots grow horizontally. Their roots intertwine and interlock with other Redwoods. They depend on each other for strength. They could not survive individually - they can only survive together, because they are literally rooted together. Together they stand against all dangers. Together is the only way they can flourish. Without the other they would die.

And so in your Marriage, you need to be rooted with not only each other, but you also need to be rooted with the Redwoods that represent Family, Friends, Fun and most importantly, Faith. The Four F's. Family, Friends, Fun & Faith. You need nothing else.

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I know you're rooted in Family. Just look at all of them here today. We all look forward to meeting the new family members we join today. They love you, support you and rejoice with you.

You are rooted in Friends, many of whom are also here today. These are the people who **Choose** to be with you. Because they love you, and enjoy being with you. Friends from your childhood days to new friends you have made at the schools where you teach.

One of the things I like most about you both is you're also Rooted in Fun. With Ben I know his Mantra is "Why be serious, if you can be Fun!" I love that Jordan has a love of board games, puzzles, & trivia contests.

Ben proposed to Jordan, by writing the words "Will You Marry Me" on a Scrabble board. The Johnson side of the family will be proud to know that Ben & Jordan have their own personalized Pollyanna Board. And not only do they know how to play it - they also the stakes - 2 cents a takeoff, 5 cents a game. Yea, you guys are rooted in Fun. Keep it that way.

So let's talk a bit about being rooted in Faith....

Earlier, we heard 2 wonderful Bible readings today about Love. But I also like 3 other short ones from Proverbs that also are appropriate this day - especially to you Ben.

From Proverbs 31:10 "An excellent wife, who can find? For her worth is far above jewels."

From Proverbs 18:22 "He who finds a wife, finds what is **good** and receives favor from the LORD."

And finally, from Proverbs 19:14 "Houses and wealth are inherited from parents, but a prudent **wife** is from the **LORD**."

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What these passages mean to you both, is today you receive a gift from The Lord. He gifts you with each other. His love and grace that he has held for you from before you were even born, is made manifest today. God created you for the express purpose of joining you together today.

In his plan to create the both of you he might have wondered - What do I need? So Jordan, he brought together your grandmother, a nursing student from Chicago with your grandfather - a young doctor from Japan. How improbable, but that's what God needed for today.

Ben, he brought forth your grandmother, who was adopted as a baby, with a biological history that 82 years later is still a mystery - and likely will ever remain so. Because that's what God needed for today. Benjamin Russell, he blessed you with the character, faith and joy of your namesake, a man who you never met - but who's essence is in your soul. Because that's what he needed for today.

Jordan & Ben, he blessed you with these 2 Mothers seated here. Women who loved you boundlessly, would sacrifice anything for you, and thankfully, especially in your case Ben, passed along their exceptional good looks to you both. Their example helped you grow and develop into the people you've become. Because that's what God needed for today.

He blessed you with Fathers, Jordan more blessed than Ben, that would give you anything they could, - that showed you an example of how to parent yourselves someday. Because that's what God needed for today.

So as you stand at the Wedding Altar today, know that the vows that you're about to take fulfill God's plan. A Plan that is the best gift each of you will receive during your entire life. Remember, it's not what you did, or what your families did - it's about what God did. Never forget that.....

So Ben & Jordan, deeply rooted in each other, your Family, Friends, Fun, & Faith, ----- it's now that time. Time to get married! Amen.

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☐ The Vows

Mr. Best Man, may we have the rings....

Jordan & Ben will you please face each other.

Ben, take Jordan's left hand & place this ring on her finger while you repeat after me:

I, Benjamin Russell Johnson, take you Jordan Kiku Jones, 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, 'til death do us part: according to God's holy ordinance, and thereto I pledge you, my love and faithfulness.

Jordan, take Ben's left hand & place this ring on his finger and repeat after me:

I, Jordan Kiku Jones, take you Benjamin Russell Johnson, 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, 'til death do us part: according to God's holy ordinance, and thereto I pledge you, my love and faithfulness.

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▣ The Wedding Prayer

Let us pray for Jordan & Ben in their life together, praying a Wedding Prayer written in 1965 by Ben's Grandfather, Pastor Carl Thrun.

Lord, our God, our helper and our comforter in time and in eternity, graciously look upon Ben and Jordan.

Bless them and so guide them by your Holy Spirit that in all things your good & gracious Will may be done in them.

May they let the word of Christ dwell in them richly!

Make their home and their hearts your dwelling-place!

Grant that their souls be united in Christ Jesus unto one mind by love.

May their mutual true affection never know doubt or change.

Bless them in each other, and enable them in wisdom and meekness to bear with patience each other's infirmities.

Prosper the work of their hands, and crown their lives with your loving-kindness and tender mercies.

Let even their crosses and afflictions yield them the peaceable fruit of righteousness as an abiding blessing.

Teach them, in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, to make their requests known to you.

And when in steadfast faith they have finished their Pilgrimage on earth, give them a dwelling-place with you in heavenly joy;

For the sake of Jesus Christ, your son, our lord. Amen.

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☐ The Pronouncement

Jordan and Ben if you would join hands and face your family & Friends...

By the authority vested me by the County of Cook, in the State of Illinois, in these United States of America, and most importantly through the divine will of our Lord Jesus Christ,

I proudly pronounce Ben & Jordan are now husband & wife. What Almighty God has joined together, let no one put asunder.

Ben, you may kiss your bride.

Ladies & Gentleman it is my distinct honour to introduce to you for the first time...

Benjamin & Jordan Johnson!

☐ The Recession