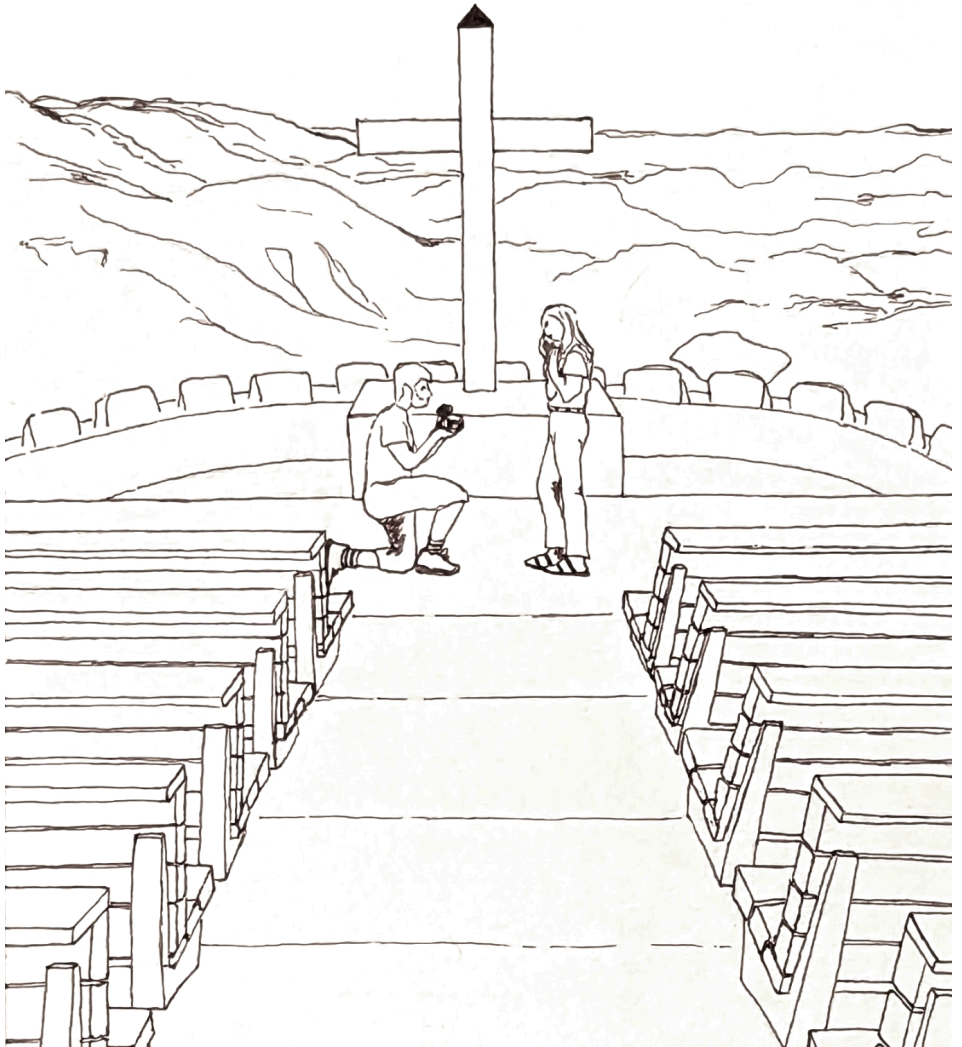


I WILL LIFT UP MY EYES TO THE HILLS... Psalm 121:1





Elinor & Elisée

Cortège — Procession

Anne's Theme (Hagood Hardy) played by Lilasoa and Simon

Introduction

A Word of Welcome delivered by Justin

Louange — Worship

1. Notre Dieu

2. Blessed Be Your Name

led by Mary, Jana, Lucas, Lilasoa, Simon, Mehmet

Présentation des mariés

Presentation of the Bride and Groom

Elinor Griffin and Elisée Maurer

as told by Laura, Kelley & Céline and Jacques & Sébastien

Lecture — Reading

Extrait de “Le Petit Prince” read by Christian, Elisée’s father

Prière — Prayer

Introduction to the Wedding led by David, Elinor’s father

Prédication — Homily

A Very Long Backstory
by Justin

Elisée and Elinor, your relationship has a very long backstory. One that goes back even before the day you connected in a profound way as you helped Baboushka, a Ukrainian grandmother, along with her daughter and granddaughter, move to their new hotel. And it goes back even before I presented you two in the café for the first time. Yes, I do take the honor of having played cupid in this love story, even though that is a debate for some. And it actually goes back even further to the beginning of the world. It's there where we see the beginning of this relationship because God's first creation was light. And it's there where we see God's first project, which was marriage. I find that curious and beautiful. God has set up light and marriage as his first creation and first project to undertake with humanity because by it he wants to illuminate us as to what it is that he so desires with us and seeks to do through us.

Hence, why throughout the story of Scripture we see God described as a groom pursuing humanity as His bride who doesn't really want to be with Him. Yet, He goes at all costs to prove His love for her to the point where He sends His only son, Jesus Christ, who is described in the gospel of John as the light of the world. And John says of Jesus in the opening verses of his Gospel, « In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. " Christ, the light of the world was shining, but the world struggled to understand this love. This love that shined so brightly amidst such darkness to the point that it drove Jesus into the pain, the evil, the sickness, the suffering and the death of others, so much so that He ultimately didn't just care for people in the face of death, but he died in the place of those who refused his love at the cross. He proved the brilliance of His love in the death of Christ. The light was snuffed out on the cross as

He was carried to the tomb, and in that moment it seemed that love and life disappeared with the Light. However, three days later Jesus walked out of the tomb by rising again and brought light back to life, to prove that no matter how much darkness there is, it is impossible to shut out the light. For darkness is merely the absence of light, so there is no amount of darkness that can overcome light. And God has shown this to the world objectively and historically by bringing Christ back from the dead, but he has also shown us all here today that it is true personally, as well, in the stories of Elisée and Elinor.

Elisée, when I think about your story, it's a story of a season of life where you were walking through a dark spiritual desert into a land of life and light. How you walked through a season of meaninglessness and darkness with a nihilist view of life and the world, and then you encountered the light of Christ. And Elinor, when I consider your story, it is a journey of a small light instilled from a young age by your parents that has grown progressively brighter as you have come to know Christ personally in the sometimes literal darkness of your physical vision, and you have encountered the height, the depth, the width, the length of the love of Christ for you in a profound way that has only made your light shine brighter. It's beautiful how in the darkness of your collective suffering, the light of Christ became all the more purer and brighter to you and through you.

And so today, we come together to celebrate the intertwining of your two lights in the covenant of marriage. This relationship of love and light that you are choosing to cultivate together is no simple task. For like all flames, they need to be tended to to remain alive. And so you will need to continue to tend to each other's lights through regular rhythms of recognizing and forgiving hurts, caring for each others emotions, seeking to understand from the other person's perspective, making compromises, considering the

interests of the other, building holistic intimacy, and most of all ensuring that each other is staying close to the source of light, the very person of Christ.

I think that's why the British philosopher C.S. Lewis described marriage like a ray of sunshine : « The sun has millions of rays; marriage is only one of them, and the ray should never, in our hearts, replace the thing that it points us to. »

So as you care for each other, this is a reminder that marriage is momentary, but very missional. It has a very important mission or even vocation as C.S. Lewis stated, and also as Jesus points out in his most famous teaching in Matt.5.14-16: You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. So as we celebrate your marriage today, we are not simply celebrating this covenant, but we are celebrating your commitment to let the light of Christ shine through you to others together so that they might see your heavenly Father, the sun at the origin of your sunray.

Like sun rays you will be able to reflect the light of Christ through your lives as you continue to manifest heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, mutual forgiveness, sacrificial love, Christ-like peace, gratitude, and joy — all of which show others the path to the true source of light and inspire and encourage others to choose that path by making it believable because they see it in you.

And so as you celebrate this union today, you are responding to Christ's call to be a light in the world. You are publicly proclaiming that you're entering not into a contract but a covenant, a sacred

commitment not just to each other but to God, consecrating your love in a special way within the love of the God who created you, brought you together, and who today is making a sacred commitment in return, to walk with you for as long as you live.

You're overtly declaring that you desire not just to make the other happy, but to be God's instrument to help make the other holy. You're stating that the gift you ultimately want to give each other is not just a beautiful ring, or the exchange of a name, or even the gift of yourself, however beautiful that is; you're openly affirming that you are seeking to give God to each other, to help the other grow in God's image and likeness, to assist the other to build your life together on the indestructible foundation of faith in Jesus Christ. Our world today needs this kind of light. It needs to believe in love as God has made it, in the image of His son and in the form of the cross. This is the mission to which God is calling you.

However, God never gives us a mission without providing the help He knows we'll need to fulfill it. And the greatest help he gives is himself and the second is his church. And so remember that you are not alone in this mission, that Christ is with you and the church around you as you make this commitment today.

So this is the long back story to your relationship. Marriage is a light giving mission, it gives light to each other and to the world. Your relationship has done this from its inception and I pray it will only increasingly do so for decades to come!

Louange — Worship

3. Dieu de Gloire
 4. Be Thou My Vision
-

Promesses & Vœux — Promises & Vows

To Justin's question, we are all invited to reply:
We will. (Oui, nous nous y engageons.)

Échange des Alliances — Exchange of Rings

Que personne ne sépare ce que Dieu a uni.
Amen.

Bénédition des mariés Blessing of the newlyweds

Louange — Worship

5. Il me gardera
- (6. How Great Thou Art)

Annonces — Announcements

by Elinor & Elisée

Envoi — Benediction

Cortège de sortie — Exit Procession

*And we went dancing in the minefields
We went sailing in the storms
And it was harder than we dreamed
But I believe that's what the promise is for*

*Well "I do" are the two most famous last words
The beginning of the end
But to lose your life for another, I've heard
Is a good place to begin*

*'Cause the only way to find your life
Is to lay your own life down
And I believe it's an easy price
For the life that we have found*

*And we're dancing in the minefields
We're sailing in the storms
This is harder than we dreamed
But I believe that's what the promise is for
That's what the promise is for*