

Wedding Ceremony – Christian Religious

Reverend Joe Miles

OPTIONAL: ~ Hawai'ian Chant

ONA ONA I KA HALA, ME KA LEHUA E HALALEHUA, OIA NA KE NOE
OKA Ô U NO KA HIKI MAI A HIKI MAI NO OKUOU, A HIKI NO ME KE ALOHA

The Oli Aloha is a chant, which offers a word of greeting. It says, in part, this is the sight for which I have longed. Now that you are here, love has come with you.

OPTIONAL: ~ Hawai'ian Blessing

A O KA MEA NONA KA MANA
E HANA MAI AI I NA MEA A PAU
A KAKOU E NOI AKU AI, ÔA E MANAO IHO AI
A NUI LOA AKU HOI

Dearly Beloved, we are gathered here today to celebrate the love of _____ and _____, as they make their pledges of marriage before God and before this company. Jesus Christ was once asked, "What is the greatest Law that mankind must follow?" And he answered them by saying that we must love God with all our hearts, and love our neighbors as our self.

I think that when he said these words, he touched upon something we all feel very deeply in our hearts, and that is that love is the greatest gift we can offer one another, and that is what makes marriage so very special, and such a cause of joy and celebration for all of us who have come here today to share in this event.

OPTIONAL:

It is my personal prayer and hope that those of you who have already taken the vows of marriage will witness the love of these two people, and as you hear them share their vows, perhaps it will strengthen for you the memory of your happy day, and remind you of the meaning of the vows you yourselves once took. Perhaps it will even strengthen just a little bit the bonds of love that have been growing between you. If any of this should happen, it would certainly be the greatest gift that _____ and _____ could offer all of us on their wedding day.

Marriage is an act of faith and ever-deepening commitment, as well as a loving union between a man and a woman. It has been described as the best and the most important relationship that two people can share, the creation of a single growing energy of spiritual life. Marriage can be a lifelong unfolding of loving kindness, backed by the will to make it last. There is no limit to the knowing of another's soul, and when you learn to love one person, then you grow in love for all of humanity.

We hope that the words and spirit of our gathering may be filled with a truth that will deepen with the passing years. We hope, too, that the meaning of the vows that _____ and _____ are about to share with one another will deepen as they discover the endless possibilities of this life together.

This is a love which need not be tarnished by common events, but which can flower both in deepest adversity and in greatest joy. As the years go by, you will find more and more in one another, a loveliness which neither comes nor goes, which neither flowers nor fades, no longer even taking the form of face or hand or words of knowing. Everything in your marriage can partake of this mysterious beauty beyond beauty, until wherever you turn, you see reflections of this loveliness. We ask that the vision you have of one another be always informed by that radiant Power which first brought you together. Love is stronger than your conflicts, bigger than life's changes, the miracle always inviting you to learn, to blossom, to expand. It is to Love that you must always return.

OPTIONAL:

Being assured that your love and your choice of each other as lifelong companions are in God's will, and that you have your families blessings, I now ask who gives this woman to be married to this man?

(Bride's father): Her mother and I do.

INTRODUCTION TO VOWS

The ceremony of marriage, in which you come to be united, is one of the first and oldest ceremonies in all the world, celebrated in the beginning in the presence of God himself. Marriage is a gift in that we give ourselves totally to one another. I believe that marriage is a gift given to comfort the sorrows of life and to magnify life's joys. Marriage is the clasping of hands, the blending of two hearts, the union of two lives into one. Your marriage must stand, not by the authority of the state, nor by the seal on your wedding certificate, but by the strength and power of the faith and love you have in one another.

VOWS

Now, will you please turn and face one another and join hands to express your vows of love and devotion each to the other.

(Groom), will you please repeat this vow to (Bride), saying after me:

I (Groom) take you (Bride) to be my wife; to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health, I promise to love and cherish you.

(Bride), will you please repeat this vow to (Groom), saying after me:

I (Bride) take you (Groom) to be my husband to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health, I promise to love and cherish you.

The word of God tells us what love is like and what love does:

Love is patient, love is kind, love is not jealous.

Love does not brag and is not arrogant, it does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, it is not provoked, and it does not take into account a wrong suffered; it does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; for love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things. But above all, love never fails.

That Life is eternal....

And that Love is its crown.

RING EXCHANGE

Having this kind of love in your hearts for one another, you have chosen to exchange rings as the sign and seal of the promises you are making to one another today.

(To Groom)

Do you have a ring for (Bride)? May I have the ring?

(To Bride)

Do you have a ring for (Groom)? May I have the ring?

Rings are very large in their significance. They are made of a precious metal and precious stone and that reminds us that love is not cheap nor common; but indeed love is very costly and dear to us. These rings are also made in a circle and their design tells us that we must keep love continuous throughout our whole lives even as the circle of the ring is continuous. As you wear these rings, whether you are together, or apart for even just a moment, may these rings be a constant reminder of the promises you are making to one another this day.

(To Groom)

(Groom), will you please take this ring and place it upon the third finger of (Bride) left hand, and holding her hand in yours, please repeat this promise to (Bride), saying after me:

With this ring, I seal my promise, to be your faithful and loving husband, as God is my witness.

(To Bride)

(Bride), will you please take this ring and place it upon the third finger of (Groom) left hand, and holding his hand in yours please repeat this promise to (Groom), saying after me:

With this ring, I seal my promise, to be your faithful and loving wife, as God is my witness.

PRAYER

Let us pray.

O thou Eternal God, who art our Father and our Friend, as You have heard these words of promise just spoken, may the Holy Spirit deepen in the mind of this man and this woman the sense of the sacred and binding power of their vows. And as in Thy Name these words were spoken to make these lives one, may your rich Blessing be added. Give them your grace and guidance, that they may loyally fulfill the vows that they have taken. When selfishness shows itself, grant generosity; when mistrust is a temptation, give moral strength; when there is misunderstanding, give patience and gentleness; if suffering becomes a part of their lives, give them a strong faith and an abiding Love. May your joy abide with them always, that thus they may be a blessing to each other, and to those about them.

Amen.

PRONOUNCEMENT

_____ and _____, you have come here today before us and before God and have expressed your desire to become husband and wife. You have shown your love and affection by joining hands, and have made promises of faith and devotion, each to the other, and have sealed these promises by the giving and the receiving of the rings. Therefore, it is my privilege to pronounce that you are husband and wife.

(Groom), you may kiss your bride!

OPTIONAL

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my privilege to introduce to you for the first time,
Mr. and Mrs. _____.