

**Wedding Ceremony
Religious
Rev Joe Miles**

Optional - Conch shell blow, here and at end of your ceremony.

Oli Aloha

Optional - Goes nicely with conch blow.

Onaona I ka hala me ka lehua
Fragrant with the breath of hala and lehua

He hale lehua no'ia na ka noe
This is the sight I long to see

O ka'u no'ia e'ano'i nei
Of this, my present desire

E li'a nei ho'i o ka hiki mai
Your coming fills me with eagerness

A hiki mai no'oe oukou
Now that you have come

A hiki pū no me ke aloha
Love comes with you

Aloha e, Aloha e, Aloha e
Greetings, greetings, greetings

(Translation)

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

Today we meet by the sea as the two of you become one.

Here where the earth meets this constant and unlimited force. And as are these waters, may the love you share be limitless, flowing and ever changing.

LEI EXCHANGE

Optional (must purchase from coordinator or provide lei)

For those of us who call Hawaii home, the flower lei is a symbol of love. Here in the Islands a wedding often begins as it does today with the exchange of leis and a kiss. We do this for several reasons. One is that the lei is an unbroken circle, like the rings that soon will be blessed and exchanged, representing the eternal commitment of your hearts together.

Also, as each flower is brought into the circle, it loses none of its individual beauty, reminding us that in the unity of your love, you have lost none of your unique individuality. In fact, the loving care and nurturing security of your relationship helps you grow even more fully into that special person with whom your partner fell in love.

As you exchange these leis you now will begin to weave your own lei of life. And now, with loving Aloha please present your leis to one another. "*E honi aku*" (give her/him a kiss)

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 selves.

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.

Marriage is an act of faith and ever-deepening commitment, as well as a loving union between God's children.

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, 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 well, as they discover the endless possibilities of this life together.

We ask that the vision that 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 and to expand.

It is to Love that you must always return.

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 and 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 God and in one another.

A vast, unknown future stretches out before you.

That future, with its hopes and its challenges, its joys and its sorrows, is hidden from your eyes.

But it is a great tribute to your belief in each other and in God that you are willing to share that life together.

May the pure, simple love with which you join hearts and hands today only grow deeper and stronger and more certain with every year you spend together.

_____ and _____ we are here to remember and rejoice with you and to recount with one another that it is love that guides us on our path; and to celebrate as you begin this journey together.

It is in this spirit that you have come here today to exchange these vows.

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.

_____ will you please repeat this vow to _____, saying after me:

I, _____, take you, _____, 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, in sadness and in joy,
I promise to love and cherish you for as long as we both shall live.

_____, will you please repeat this vow to _____ saying after me:

I, _____, take you, _____, 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, in sadness and in joy,
I promise to love and cherish you for as long as we both shall live.

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.
1 Corinthians 13:4-8

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.

May God bless these rings as a symbol of this affectionate unity.

Rings are very large in their significance.

They are made of a precious metal and precious stone and that reminds us that love is neither cheap nor common; but indeed, love is very valuable 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 just 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.

_____, will you please take this ring and place it upon _____'s left ring finger, and holding her hand in yours, please repeat this promise to _____, saying after me:

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

_____, will you please take this ring and place it upon _____'s left ring finger, and holding his hand in yours please repeat this promise to _____, 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 two 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

May this shining hour be an open door through which _____ and _____ will go forth to build that dearest of all relationships, a happy marriage.

May the years deal gently with them; walking together may they find far more in life than either would have found alone.

PRONOUNCEMENT

_____ and _____, you have come here today before all of 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 rings.

Therefore, it is my privilege to pronounce that you are husband and wife together.

_____, you may kiss your wife!