

[Guests take their seats, music is already starting to play]
[Walk up to the front, AARON and his mom will be behind me]

Unplugged Statement

Officiant to guests

Hello everyone! On behalf of AARON and ALI, we ask that you put your cameras and phones away during the ceremony. AARON and ALI want you be truly present as they share their best day ever with you. *Plus, there may be a pop quiz after the ceremony, so you should really pay attention during the whole thing!*

Procession / processional

[Best Man and Maid of Honor (or Best Persons) take their places at the arbor/ alter. ALI walks down the aisle (or outdoor path) with Dad to join the officiant and AARON at the arbor.]

Presentation (Giving Away the Bride)

Officiant to ALI's Dad

"Who gives ALI to be married to AARON today?"

Dad

"Her mother and I."

[Dad places ALI's hand in AARON's and DAD stays but steps aside]

Officiant To All

Before we begin, let's say a word of prayer over the couple.

[PRAYER]

Invocation

Officiant To guests

Welcome, loved ones. We gather on this joyful occasion to celebrate love, laughter, and life on AARON and ALI's wedding day.

Each of you here represents a piece of AARON's and ALI's lives. Whether you came into their lives years ago, more recently, you are friends, or family, your presence here is a gift to them – and I know it means a lot to them. So, thank you for being here!

Before we begin today's celebration, I have just one question for our family & friends, that I'd like for you to answer loudly and proudly: If you're ready for these two to get married, lemme hear you say "OH YEAH!"!

[Guests respond "OH YEAH" and cheer]

[Fake a phone call...]

Uh oh, I've just received word that a car's been hit in the parking lot. And based on prior offenses, the authorities are looking for... *one Aaron*

Hormuth. Luckily, we've got plenty of witnesses here, and I think if we all chip in, we can cover his bail.

Now, if that one didn't land because you don't know Aaron's record—let me explain. When I asked about funny stories from their relationship, one of the first notes I read was that Aaron hit a parked car on their very first date. And somehow, instead of Ali ending things there, it was actually the beginning of something long lasting. So while some people rub Buddha bellies, and others toss coins into fountains... Aaron just commits vehicular misdemeanors for good luck.

Officiant to the Couple

AARON and ALI, today, your lives blend seamlessly together and you're about to embark on the greatest of adventures. A new path is ahead of you, and to navigate it well, there are skills to be learned and practiced daily. The following is a poem from Kelly Jayne titled Marriage is not just a piece of paper:

Reading

*Marriage is not a piece of paper, Neatly folded in a file,
It's two people on a journey, They hope will make them smile,
Two people courageously placing, Their hearts out on the line,
Two people bravely facing Their fears gained over time,
Two whole and happy people Who want to share their lives
To hold hands through life's lessons And celebrate good times,*

*To have someone who knows us, But loves us all the same,
Someone who makes us light up, By whispering our name,
If marriage was a piece of paper It would be a piece of art.
Hanging in a gallery Stirring peoples hearts
And as they gazed into it, That marriage in a frame,
Their thoughts on what made marriage Would never be the same,
It takes a little kindness A whole heartfelt of love,
Loyalty and Understanding Some prayers to up above,
It takes strength and true compassion And words that do not hurt,
Two people on a journey That want to make it work,
To be there for each other Even more when things get tough,
First you choose each other, And then keep choosing love!*

Declaration of Intent

Officiant to the couple

With this wisdom – and your love - in mind, I now ask you:

Officiant to AARON

"AARON, do you take this woman to be your lawfully wedded wife, to have and to hold, in sickness and in health, in good times and woe, for richer or poorer keeping yourself unto her for as long as you both shall live?

If so answer 'I do'."

[AARON responds in the affirmative.]

Officiant to ALI

"ALI, do you take this man to be your lawfully wedded husband, to have and to hold, in sickness and in health, in good times and woe, for richer or poorer keeping yourself unto him for as long as you both shall live? If so answer I do."

[ALI responds in the affirmative.]

Exchange of Vows

Officiant to the couple

Before you pledge your vows to one another, let's pause for a moment; Take a look at your guests to remember their love and support for you – as well as the love you have for each other.

Please look into each other's eyes as you share your promises to each other.

Officiant to AARON

[The officiant turns to AARON, who repeats each portion of vows after it's read]

I, AARON, take you, ALI, to be my 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, until we are parted by death.

[AARON repeats each portion]

Officiant to ALI

[The officiant turns to ALI, who repeats each portion of vows after it's read]

I, ALI, take you, AARON, to be my 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, until we are parted by death.

[ALI repeats each portion]

Ring Exchange

Officiant to the couple

You will now exchange rings as a symbol of these vows. As you look upon these tokens of your commitment, remember the promises you've made, and never despair, for life's challenges and joys are all part of God's great plan.

Officiant to AARON

Please place this ring on ALI's finger and repeat after me:

"I give you this ring as a symbol of my love; and with all that I am and all that I have, I honor you, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

[AARON repeats the lines.]

Officiant to ALI

Please place this ring on AARON's finger and repeat after me:

"I give you this ring as a symbol of my love; and with all that I am and all that I have, I honor you, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

[ALI repeats the lines.]

Scripture Reading Unity Ritual

Officiant to the couple

The couple has exchanged vows and rings as a symbol of their devotion to one another as whole people, supporting each other's individual dreams and goals. But marriage is also about the blending of two distinct lives, and two distinct personalities, into a new, collaborative and meaningful partnership. While both will stay whole, their paths will join and become one.

Pronouncement

Officiant to the couple

"AARON and ALI, by the love that has brought you here today, by the vows and rings you have exchanged in the presence of your loved ones, it is my delight and honor to pronounce you married!

You may seal your marriage with a kiss!"

[The couple kisses, guests applaud and cheer]

Presentation of the newlyweds

Officiant to guests

Family and friends, it is my pleasure to present to you for the first time as newlyweds

AARON AND ALI HORMUTH!

Recession

[The ceremony ends]

At this time, the couple would like to invite all guests to make your way to [XYZ space] to enjoy refreshments. The family will be staying behind briefly for pictures.

[Don't forget to sign the bottom portion and place in the correct boxes that you are a "Civil Celebrant" etc.]