**Romantic**

*Option to play music as your guests wait for your ceremony to begin (approx. 15 minutes). Music can be live (for example you could make arrangements for a small choir or soloist to sing, a string quartet to play or a harpist to perform) or recorded (in which case you may like to create a play list of contemporary love songs, classical traditional wedding music or the scores to your favourite films).*

Registrar announces start of ceremony.

*Would you like to enter the ceremony room together or have a more traditional entrance with one of you waiting for the other? Would you like anyone to accompany you, for example parent/s, sibling/s, bridesmaids, groomsmen? Would you like a particular piece of music to be played or would you prefer to enter the room more informally to a round of applause?*

Good morning/afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen. *Please let us know if you would prefer a gender-neutral greeting*. I’d like to extend a warm welcome to you here today at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, in the City of Westminster. My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I am the Deputy Superintendent Registrar. With me is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, who is making the legal record of today’s ceremony.

On behalf of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I would like to welcome you all here today to share with them in this wedding ceremony. Through their vows they are making a commitment to each other, and through your presence here you are expressing your support for them. However, I must ask that if any person here present knows of any lawful impediment to this marriage then he or she should declare it now.

Marriage is a desire by two people to share themselves and their experiences with each other, and a willingness to accept each other for who they are.

Marriage means making a commitment to developing co–operation, friendship, and mutual respect. It calls for honesty, patience, and of course, a sense of humour! Marriage is where each partner cares for the other and supports them in all that they do.

It demands courage – the courage to be open, the courage to grow and change, and the courage to sort out together the tasks of everyday living.

Marriage requires closeness and distance – closeness for a couple growing together, and enough distance to allow each partner to be an individual. A good partner in such a marriage will be loving, caring, and above all a best friend.

It is in this spirit that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are now before us. In each other’s company they have found happiness, fulfilment and love, and they now wish to affirm their relationship with this marriage.

*Suitable place for a reading (suggested length 3 minutes or less). This could be a favourite childhood poem, extract from a book, quote or song lyrics about love/marriage, or poem written especially for the day about the two of you. Readings (and music) must be non-religious.*

*The following wording in* **bold font** *cannot be altered.*

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**,** today you will exchange vows which will unite you as husband and wife/wife and wife/husband and husband. The words are a formal and public pledge of your love, and a promise of lifelong dedication to each other. Before you are joined in matrimony it is my duty to remind you of the solemn and binding character of the vows you are about to make. **Marriage in this country means the union of two people, voluntarily entered into for life, to the exclusion of all others.**

I am now going to ask each of you to declare that you know of no lawful reason why you may not be joined in matrimony to each other.

Groom/Bride, please repeat after me:

# I do solemnly declare – that I know not – of any lawful impediment – why I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – may not be joined in matrimony – to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Marriage is a personal, intimate decision, but a large part of its importance comes from its recognition by those who are close to the couple. So, I ask you now in the presence of this company:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, do you take \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to be your wife/husband? Do you promise to comfort her/him in life’s sorrow and pain, to rejoice with her/him through good times, and to remain true to her/him for the rest of your lives together?

*Answer:* I do

*Repeat for Bride/ Groom*

*Option to include personal vows (suggested length 3 minutes or less for each of you). These can be romantic and earnest or humorous but heartfelt. Please either:*

* *Have these written on a piece of card for you to read from if you would like to surprise one another on the day. For example, “I am so grateful you came into my life because…”*
* *Include them within this script if you would like your registrar to ask you to confirm your vows. For example, “Will you both continue to prioritise spending time as a family and save even faster for that trip to Disneyworld you have promised \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?”*

*“We will!”*

* *Email them separately to the register office if you would like to surprise each other by writing one another’s vows. For example, “Do you A promise to take B a cup of tea in bed every morning?” - written by B.*

*“Do you B promise to let A watch football undisturbed without hoovering in the background?” - written by A.*

*Suitable place for a second reading (suggested length 3 minutes or less).*

The moment has now come for this couple to make their marriage contract with each other. As these words are spoken \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will become husband and wife/wife and wife/husband and husband.

Groom/Bride, please repeat after me:

**I call upon – these persons here present – to witness that I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – do take thee \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – to be my lawful wedded wife/husband,** – to love and to cherish, – for the rest of our lives together.

We have now come to the exchange of rings. A wedding ring is traditionally given to seal the contract which you have just made. It is an outward sign of the lifelong promises you have given to each other. Each ring is an unbroken circle symbolising unending and everlasting love.

Please repeat after me:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I give you this ring – as a symbol of my love. – All of my heart, – I give to you. – All that is mine, – I share with you.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, you have both made the declarations required by law, and have made solemn promises to each other in the presence of your family and friends gathered here today.

This day is the start of a new life for you together. We all here hope that the feelings of love that you have for each other will deepen and grow ever stronger throughout the years to come.

On behalf of the City of Westminster, it gives me great pleasure to declare that you are now husband and wife/wife and wife/husband and husband. *Please let us know if you would prefer a gender-neutral declaration.* Congratulations, you may kiss (the bride).

*Signing of the marriage schedule (approx. 5 mins). Option to play music as you and your witnesses sign.*

Registrar’s final words of well wishes.

*Option to play a final song as you exit the ceremony room, followed by your guests.*