**Romantic**

*Option to play music as your guests wait for your ceremony to begin. 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). Please note you cannot have hymns or religious music.*

*Consider how you would like your ceremony to begin. 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. 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 non-religious reading. 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.*

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 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 according to the law of this country is 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*

*Suitable place for a second reading*

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 that I am, I give to you; – all that I have, 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. Congratulations, you may kiss (the bride).

*(Signing of the marriage schedule followed by ceremony close)*