**Traditional**

*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. 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 conducting today’s ceremony. With me is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the Registrar who is making the legal record of today’s marriage.

We are here today to witness the marriage of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and on their behalf I would like to thank you for joining them to witness, celebrate and participate in this, their wedding ceremony. I know it means a great deal to them that you can be here to share in their happiness on this occasion.

As well as the strong love and respect that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ have for each other, they share similar principles and priorities. Their relationship enables them to face life positively and constructively, and they now wish to live with the commitment and understanding that marriage represents. So today, this ceremony confirms the deep love, respect, understanding and friendship that binds them together.

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.

*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 commitment 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 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, family and friends have come to be with you today. You invited them here to receive their encouragement and support, and to celebrate with you at this special time. 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. (Please stand, optional) 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

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**,** a wedding ring is the ancient and traditional way of sealing the contract you have just made. It is the unbroken circle that symbolises unending and everlasting love, and is the outward sign of the lifelong promise you have just made to each other.

Please repeat after me in turn:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I give you this ring, – as a symbol of my love and commitment – now and always.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 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 will form a milestone in your lives. You will look back upon it with love and happiness as the start of a new phase in your life together. We all here hope that the love you have for each other will deepen and grow ever stronger throughout the years to come.

Let everyone now recognise this marriage. May you treasure this trust and responsibility, may neither failure nor misfortune ever part you, and may you live full and rich lives together.

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/groom)

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