We are gathered here today in the sight of God, and the presence of friends and loved ones, to celebrate one of life's greatest moments. We are here to give recognition to the worth and beauty of love, and to add our best wishes and blessings to the words that will unite Bride and Groom in holy matrimony.

If there is anyone present who has any reason why this couple should not be united, be silent forever!  This couple has chosen each other on this day…

Who gives this **woman** to be married to this man? (Father or family member)

Today we have come together to witness the joining of these two lives. For them, out of the routine of ordinary life, the extraordinary has happened. They met each other, fell in love and are finalizing it with their wedding today.

Romance is fun, but true love is something far more and it is their desire to love each other for life and that is what we are celebrating here today.

A good marriage must be built by both partners
In marriage the "little" things are the memorable things.
It is never being too old to flirt.
It is remembering to say, “I love you" each day.
It is never going to sleep angry.
It is standing and facing the world together
It is speaking words of appreciation, and showing gratitude in thoughtful ways.
It is having the capacity to forgive and forget.
It is answering softly even when we have been hurt.
It is a common search for that that is right and honorable.
It is not only marrying the right person -- it is being the right partner

**VOWS (face each other and hold hands)(repeat after me)**

I GROOM/ take you BRIDE/ to be my wife/, my partner in life/ and my one true love/. I will cherish our friendship/ and love you today/, tomorrow/, and forever/.
I will trust you and honor you
I will laugh with you/ and cry with you.
Through the best and the worst,
Through the difficult and the easy.
Whatever may come/ I will always be there.
As I have given you my hand to hold/
So I give you my life to keep

I BRIDE/ take you GROOM/ to be my Husband/, my partner in life and my one true love/. I will cherish our friendship/ and love you today/, tomorrow/, and forever/.
I will trust you and honor you
I will laugh with you/ and cry with you.
Through the best and the worst,
Through the difficult and the easy.
Whatever may come/ I will always be there.
As I have given you my hand to hold/
So I give you my life to keep

GROOM AND BRIDE, I would ask that you always treat yourself and each other with respect, and remind yourselves often of what brought you together today.

Give the highest priority to the tenderness, gentleness and kindness that your marriage deserves. When frustration and difficulty assail your marriage - as they do to every relationship at one time or another - focus on what still seems right between you, not only the part that seems wrong.

If you do this, focus on what is right, then if clouds of trouble hide the joy in your marriage and you lose sight of it for a moment, you can remember that that deep joy is still there. And if each of you will take responsibility for the quality of your life together, it will be marked by abundance and happiness.

**I Do’s**
GROOM, do you take BRIDE to be your Wife? ("I do")
Do you promise to love, honor, cherish and protect her, forsaking all others and holding only unto her forevermore? ("I do")

BRIDE, do you take GROOM to be your Husband? ("I do")
Do you promise to love, honor, cherish and protect him, forsaking all others and holding only unto him forevermore? ("I do")

**Ring Ceremony**
The ring is a symbol of the unbroken circle of love. Love freely given has no beginning and no end, no giver and no receiver for each is the giver and each is the receiver. May these rings always remind you of the vows you have here taken.

***Ring Exchange (who has the rings) (repeat after me)***
I GROOM/, take you, BRIDE/ to be my Wife/. To have and to hold/, in sickness and in health/, for richer or for poorer/ in joy and sorrow/. I promise my love to you/. And with this ring/, I take you as my Wife/, for as long as we both shall live.

I BRIDE/, take you GROOM/, to be my Husband. / To have and to hold/, in sickness and in health/, for richer or for poorer/, in joy and sorrow/. I promise my love to you/. And with this ring/, I take you as my husband/, for as long as we both shall live.

Wine Box Ceremony

Minister: Groom and Bride have chosen as a couple to perform a Love Letter & Wine Box ceremony.

This box contains a bottle of wine, two glasses, and a love letter from each to the other. The letters describe the good qualities they find in one another, the reasons they fell in love, and their reasons for choosing to marry.

The letters are sealed in individual envelopes and they have not seen what the other has written. You have created your very own "romantic" time capsule to be opened on your 5th wedding anniversary.

I recommend that you keep the box in a place of honor prominently displayed in your home as a constant reminder of your commitment to each other.

Minister: Groom and Bride should you ever find your marriage enduring insurmountable hardships, you are to as a couple, open this box, sit and drink the wine together, then separate and read the letters you wrote to one another when you were united as a couple in marriage. By reading these love letters you will reflect upon the reasons you fell in love and chose to marry each other here today.

The hope is, however, that you will never have a reason to open this box. And if this is the case, you are to open this box to share and enjoy on your 5th year wedding anniversary!

Minister: you may now seal the box.

Tying the Knot

Groom and Bride have just sealed their relationship with the giving and receiving of rings. Today their relationship is further symbolized by the tying of a fisherman's knot; a true lovers knot, for it is the strongest there is; its bond will not break, becoming ever stronger under pressure.

These two cords represent each of you as individuals - as the unique and special gifts you bring to your marriage. As you fasten your pieces together, these actions represent the joining of your two lives into one common purpose. The completed knot represents your future, secure in the knowledge your relationship will continue to be strong, despite the inevitable changes life brings.

Although the fisherman's knot is one of the simplest to tie, it is also one of the sturdiest. As stress is applied, the knot becomes ever stronger. It is the goal of marriage to achieve a blending of hearts and lives, but like the spaces between these cords formed by the knot, let there also be spaces in your new life together, so each may encourage and nurture the individual growth of the other.

I ask that you now pull on this rope to see it strengthen under pressure while still allowing us to see the individual cords - just as your support of one another as beautiful and blessed individuals strengthens your union. As you hold one another in mutual concern and shared respect, may you continue holding each other tightly in your hearts and form a strong bond, now and forever. Let this knot indicate the strength of your love and be a symbol of your unity from this day forward.

There is a famous quote

“Love means many things. It means giving. It means sharing. It means forgiving. It means understanding. It means being patient. It means learning. And you must always consider the other side, the other person. You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving.”

To make your relationship work will take love. This is the core of your marriage and why you are here today.

It will take trust, to know, that in your hearts, you truly want what is best for each other.

It will take dedication, to stay open to one another - and to learn and grow together

It will take faith to go forward together not knowing exactly what the future brings

And it will take commitment, to hold true to the journey you both have pledged to today.

**Pronouncement of couple as Husband and Wife.**

Forasmuch as you both have consented together in matrimony, and have witnessed the same before we here gathered, and have pledged your love each to the other, and have declared the same by joining hands and by giving and receiving rings; I, by the power entrusted to me, pronounce that you are husband and wife.

**Groom, you may kiss your lovely Wife.**

**With great joy I introduce to you Mr. and Mrs. Groom and Bride Lastname**