We are gathered here today to celebrate and witness one of life's greatest moments, the Joining of 2 hearts, and the joining of BRIDE and GROOM in marriage.  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 marriage.

If there is anyone present who has just cause why this couple should not be united, let them speak now or forever hold their peace.

Who gives this woman to this man?

Today we have come together to witness the joining of these two lives.

BRIDE and GROOM, life is given to each of us as individuals, and yet you desire to learn to live together. Love is given to us by our family and friends - we learn to love by being loved. Learning to love and living together is one of the greatest challenges of life; and it is the shared goal of a married life.

BRIDE and GROOM, marriage should be entered into reverently, thoughtfully and with full understanding of its sacred nature.  Just as two threads spun in opposite directions will, in turn, form a stronger thread when twined together, so too your two lives when merged together will make a beautiful marriage.

A good marriage must be tended and nurtured.

In marriage there are no "little" things.

It is never being too old to hold hands.

It is speaking words of appreciation, and demonstrating gratitude in thoughtful ways.

It is having the capacity to forgive and forget.

It is giving each other an atmosphere in which to grow.

It is not only marrying the right person -- it is being the right partner

What marriage will be for you two is:  a Great Adventure.

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.

This way, when clouds of trouble hide the sun in your lives and you lose sight of it for a moment, you can remember that the sun 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, in sickness and in health, in good fortune or in adversity, 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 comfort him, in sickness and in health, in good fortune or in adversity, forsaking all others and holding only unto him forevermore? ("I do")

**GIVING of RINGS:**

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 taken.

GROOM: "Behold you are my betrothed, consecrated unto me with this ring, according to the laws of God and the Traditions of Moses & Israel. I give you this ring that you may wear it as a symbol of our marriage. With this ring, I take you as my Wife, for as long as we both shall live."

BRIDE:  "I give you this ring that you may wear it as a symbol of our marriage. And with this ring, I take you as my Husband, for as long as we both shall live."

**VOWS: (face each other and hold hands)[Officiant:  repeat after me]**

"I, GROOM/, take you, BRIDE/, before God and this company/, as my Wife/.  To have, and especially to hold/, from this day forward/, in sickness and in health/, for richer or poorer/, in joy and sorrow/, for all time/.  I will be your Husband/, as God has ordained it."

KETUBAH Promises:   I promise to provide the type of food that sustains you emotionally:  honesty, integrity, honor...

To shelter you within Love, Protection & to serve as refuge, to clothe you with Love & Adoration. To be attentive to your needs though not subordinated to them.  So help me God.  Our lives are our own, and they are now for each other as well.

(Officiant:  repeat after me)

"I, BRIDE/, accept you, GROOM/, as my Husband/.  To have, and especially to hold/, from this day forward/, in sickness and in health/, for richer or poorer/, in joy and sorrow/, for all time/.  I will be to you a wife in every sense/, to love and honor/, to listen to you and to speak with you/, to be attentive to your needs/, though not subordinated to them/. This do I promise by all that I hold sacred." "Our lives are our own/, and they are now for each other as well."

GROOM:  And I offer you my name/ as an entitlement/ to mark us as one.

BRIDE:  I accept the entitlement you offer/.  Though my name remains as I was born/, "Mrs. Groom Williams" becomes a title of honor/; I will bear it proudly.

***(end of vows)***

We have been privileged to witness a special event in the lives of GROOM & BRIDE.  They have made their covenant in our presence and given their promise to move through life together.  We are now invited to give our support and affirmation of their decision:

Will all of you, family & friends, gathered here to witnesses these promises, commit yourselves to honor BRIDE & GROOM's decision, and to provide all of the encouragement and support possible to help them sustain their marriage?  If so, answer "I will."

May there be peace in your home, quietness and confidence in your hearts.

May you continue to enjoy each other as you did when you first met. May you realize that nothing, nor no one, is perfect and to look for the good in all things and all people, including yourselves.

May you respect each other's likes and dislikes opinions and beliefs, hopes and dreams and fears even though you may not always understand them.

May you learn from each other and help each other to grow mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.

May you realize that, no matter what happens to you, if you will turn to each other and hold on to each other, things have a way of working out for the good.  Remember that, in times of adversity, turn TO one another, rather than turn ON one another.

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

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 confidence in one another, to go forward together, without knowing exactly what the future brings.

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

**Sharing the Cup of Wine:**

The years of our lives are like a cup of wine that is poured out for the sake of labor, honor, and love. Many days will you sit at the same table and eat and drink together. Many are the experiences and adventures you will share.

In token that you will now share each other's home & table -- and that you will now BE each other's home & sustenance -- drink from this cup. [real Kiddush cup]

As with a glass of wine, one of you may find it sweet, the other perhaps dry or somehow different.

Let the drink you share today serve as a reminder that although you may perceive things very differently, being right is never more important than being happy.

With this space that you give each other, always putting your commitment to love and honor one another first, your lives together will grow deeper, richer and greatly satisfying, like a rare and fine wine.

**Breaking the Glass:**

The final act of this ceremony is the traditional breaking of the glass,  marking the end of the ceremony and the beginning of the celebration.

This old custom has many traditions, with many interpretations.

For Bride & Groom it is a symbol:  what is theirs alone to partake of, none others may.  The bride and groom - and everyone – should also consider these marriage vows just as permanent and final as the breaking of this glass is unchangeable.

The glass is broken to protect this marriage with the implied prayer:

“*May your bond of love be as difficult to break, as it would be to put back together these pieces of glass.”*

Knowing that this marriage is permanent, GROOM and BRIDE should strive every day to show each other love and respect and happiness.

[both drink from glass-to-be-shattered]

After GROOM  breaks the glass, I invite everyone to shout the Hebrew words “Mazel Tov,” meaning “Good Luck” and “Congratulations.”

[GROOM breaks glass]

**Preparation for the Kiss**

You have kissed a thousand times, maybe more.  But today it is new:  becoming husband and wife is sealed with a kiss.  Today your kiss is a promise.

I now pronounce you Husband and Wife. You may kiss your Bride.

**CLOSING Blessing**

Now you will feel no rain,

For each of you will be shelter to the other.

Now you will feel no cold,

For each of you will be warmth to the other.

Now there is no more loneliness,

For each of you will be companion to the other.

Now you are two bodies,

But there is only one life before you.

Go now to your dwelling place,

To enter into the days of your togetherness.

And may your days be good and long upon the earth.

Ladies & Gentlemen, i**t is now my pleasure to present** Mr and Mrs Groom and Bride Lastname