

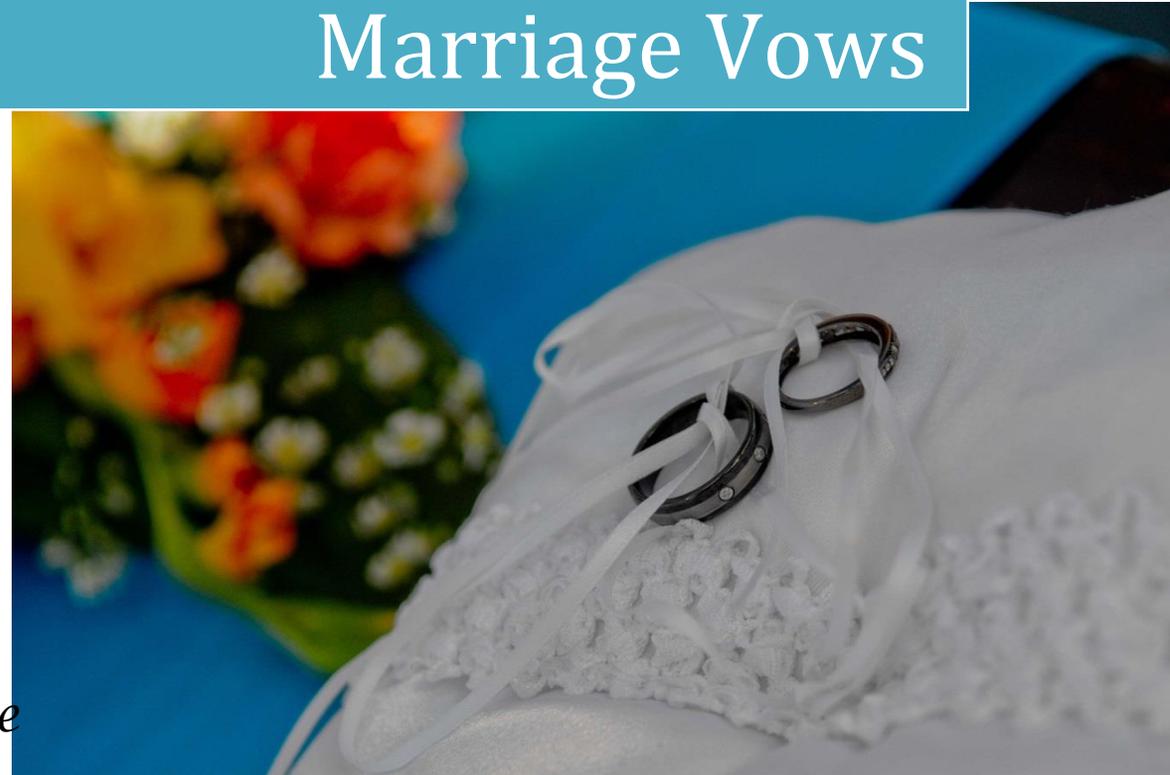
Marriage Vows



*Everlasting Marriages
begin with Everlasting vows...*

*Make sure your vows are
memorable and represent your
union. We have put together some
sample vows which can be
customized to fit your beliefs and
reflect the love you share.*

*Customized Vows additional charge



Texas
Wedding Ministers
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Option 1: Spiritual Standard Reading (Used for Sunday Mini Elopements)

Introduction:

(Bride) and **(Groom)** - Today you enter as individuals, but you will leave here as husband and wife blending your lives, expanding your family ties, and embarking upon the grandest adventure of human interaction. The story of your life together is still yours to write.

Reading:

The Bible has given us what may be the world's best definition of what it means to love. I'd like to share with you a well-known passage from 1 Corinthians 13, and offer it as a model to you for the new life you are creating here today:

Love is patient and kind, it is never jealous.

Love is never boastful or conceited. It is never rude or selfish.

It does not take offence and is not resentful.

Love takes no pleasure in other people's faults, but delights in the truth.

It is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope.

It is always ready to endure whatever comes.

True love does not come to an end.

Love is the reason why this day was chosen by you both to begin your lives together and love is the reason why you both will give with all hearts for the good of each other.

Love is the reason that together you will become one; one in hope; one in believing in life; one in sharing the coming years.

Marriage Vows:

Before you are joined in marriage, I am to remind you of the solemn and enduring nature of the relationship into which you are about to enter.

Do you **(Groom)** take **(Bride)** to be your lawfully wedded wife? From this day forward, to have and to hold, forsaking all others, for better or for worse, for richer and poorer, in sickness and health, to love and cherish for so long as you both shall live?

Groom: "I do."

And do you **(Bride)** take **(Groom)** to be your lawfully wedded husband?

From this day forward, to have and to hold, forsaking all others, for better and for worse, for richer and poorer, in sickness and health, to love and cherish for so long as you both shall live?

Bride: "I do."

Ring Vows:

Now I ask that God bless these rings that **(Groom and Bride)** will exchange as a symbol of their love and fidelity.

May these rings be blessed as the symbol of this affectionate union. These two lives are now joined in one unbroken circle. Wherever they go, may they always return to one another in their togetherness. May these two find in each other the love for which all men and women yearn. May they grow in understanding and in compassion. May the home which they establish together be such a place of sanctuary that many will find there a friend. May these rings, on their fingers, symbolize the touch of the spirit of love in their hearts. Illustrations

(Minister hands ring to Groom)

(Groom), in placing this ring on **(Bride's)** finger, repeat after me:

With this ring I thee wed **(Groom repeats)**

and with all I am and all I have, I honor you **(Groom repeats)**

(Minister hands other ring to Bride)

(Bride), in placing this ring on **(Groom's)** finger, repeat after me:

With this ring I thee wed **(Bride repeats)**

and with all I am and all I have, I honor you **(Bride repeats)**

Pronouncement:

(Bride) and **(Groom)** have consented together in marriage before this company; have pledged their faith and declared their unity by each giving and receiving a ring -- and are now joined in mutual esteem and devotion. What God hath here joined together, let no one set asunder. By the authority vested in me by the Universal Life Church and the State of Texas, I now pronounce you husband and wife.

You may kiss the **Bride**.

It is now my great honor to be the first to present Mr. and Mrs. **(Groom's** first and last name); or

(Bride first name) and **(Groom** full name), or;

(Bride first and last name) and **(Groom** first and last name), as man and wife (for situations in which the **Bride** retains her last name).

Option 2: Non-denominational Standard Reading (NO mentions of God)

Introduction:

(Bride) and **(Groom)** are here today, with their family and friends, to declare publicly their love for one another, and to be joined in marriage. This is much more than a social and civil occasion, because it is the declaration of their hearts, built upon experience, and enriched by their love. With love it is possible to live a life together, each seeking and encouraging the joy, the comfort, the health, and the enrichment of the other, all of which will divide sorrow and multiply satisfactions.

Reading:

Real love in marriage is something beyond the warmth and the excitement and romance of being deeply in love. It is as much about the welfare and happiness of your marriage partner as about your own. But real love is not being absorbed in each other. Love makes burdens lighter because you divide them, it makes joys more intense because you share them. It makes you stronger so you can reach out and become involved with life in ways you dared not risk alone.

True marriage is more than joining the bonds of marriage of two persons; it is the union of two hearts. It lives on the love you give each other and never grows old, but thrives on the joy of each new day. Marriage is love. May you always be able to talk things over, to confide in each other, to laugh with each other, to enjoy life together, and to share moments of quiet and peace, when the day is over. May you be blessed with a lifetime of happiness and a home of warmth and understanding.

Harmonious wedded life is a precious gain to both man and woman because, even though marriage increases the scope of responsibility, it adds the dimension of love to life, giving it new meaning and purpose.

On this day, **(Groom and Bride)** the day of your marriage, you are standing somewhat apart from the rest of us as a symbol of the open expression of your love. This is as it should be, but love is not meant to be the possession of two people alone. Rather it should be the source of a common energy, which gives you the strength to live your lives with joy, happiness and with courage.

Vows:

Minister: **(Groom)** will you take **(Bride)** to be your lawful wife? Will you love her, honor and keep her in sickness and in health and forsaking all others keep only unto her so long as you both shall live? Response: I will.

Minister: **(Bride)** will you take **(Groom)** to be your lawful husband, will you love him, honor and keep him in sickness and in health and forsaking all others keep only unto him so long as you both shall live? Response: I will.

Ring Vows:

Wedding rings are made precious because you wear them. Your rings say that, even in your uniqueness, you have chosen to be bound together. Let these rings also be a sign that love has substance as well as soul, a present as well as a past, and that, despite its occasional sorrows, love is a circle of happiness, wonder, and delight. May these rings remind you always of the vows you have taken here today.

(Minister hands ring to Groom)

(Groom), in placing this ring on **(Bride's)** finger, repeat after me: **(Groom)**, with this ring I thee wed. Take it and wear it as a pledge of my love and as a symbol of all we shall share.

(Minister hands ring to Bride)

(Bride), in placing this ring on **(Groom's)** finger, repeat after me: **(Bride)**, with this ring I thee wed. Take it and wear it as a pledge of my love and as a symbol of all we shall share.

Pronouncement:

As you begin your married life together, hold close to you the words that you will speak to each other each other today. Life isn't always an easy road, as you both know. Rely on your faith and in the promises you will make today to help you through those times.

You have declared before all of us that you will live together in marriage. You have made special promises to each other, which have been symbolized by the joining of hands, the taking of vows and the giving and receiving of two rings.

By the authority vested in me by the State of Texas, I now pronounce you to be Husband and Wife.

You may kiss your **Bride**.

It is now my great honor to be the first to present Mr. and Mrs. **(Groom's** first and last name); or **(Bride** first name) and **(Groom** full name), or; **(Bride** first and last name) and **(Groom** first and last name), as man and wife (for situations in which the **Bride** retains her last name).

Option 3: Standard Reading "The Key to Love": Couple with Children

Introduction:

(**Bride** and **Groom**), this is the time you have chosen to become husband and wife and to form a family, complete with (**Children's Names**). We are here, not only to witness your commitment to each other, but also to wish you both every happiness in your future life together.

Within its framework of commitment and loyalty, marriage enables the establishment of a home, where through trust, patience and respect, the love and affection which you have for each other may develop into a deep and lasting relationship.

We who are witnessing your marriage, hope that despite the stresses inevitable in any life your love and respect for each other, your trust and understanding of each other will increase your contentment and heighten your joy in living.

Reading:

The key to love is understanding...

The ability to comprehend not only the spoken word, but those unspoken gestures, the little things that say so much by themselves.

The key to love is forgiveness...

to accept each others faults and pardon mistakes, without forgetting, but with remembering what you learn from them.

The key to love is sharing...

Facing your good fortunes as well as the bad, together; both conquering problems, forever searching for ways to intensify your happiness.

The key to love is giving...

without thought of return, but with the hope of just a simple smile, and by giving in but never giving up.

The key to love is respect...

realizing that you are two separate people, with different ideas; that you don't belong to each other,

that you belong with each other, and share a mutual bond.

The key to love is inside us all...

It takes time and patience to unlock all the ingredients that will take you to its threshold;

it is the continual learning process that demands a lot of work... but the rewards are more than worth the effort...

and that is the key to love.

Vows:

Marriage is an act of faith. It requires great trust to pledge oneself to a lifetime with another person. Today, (**Groom**) and (**Bride**) demonstrate their faith and trust by pledging their love to each other.

(**Groom**), will you have (**Bride**) to be your wife? Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her in sickness and in health, remaining faithful to her as long as you both shall live? The **Groom** replies: "I will."

(**Bride**), will you have (**Groom**) to be your husband? Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him in sickness and in health, remaining faithful to him as long as you both shall live? The **Bride** replies: "I will."

Ring Vows:

The wedding ring symbolizes unity, a circle unbroken, without beginning or end. And today, (**Bride**) and (**Groom**) exchange these rings as confirmation of their vows to join their lives, to work at all times to create a life that is complete and unbroken, and to love each other without end.

(Minister hands ring to Groom)

(**Groom**), in placing this ring on (**Bride's**) finger, repeat after me:

(**Groom**), with this ring I thee wed. Take it and wear it as a pledge of my love and as a symbol of all we shall share.

(Minister hands ring to Bride)

(**Bride**), in placing this ring on (**Groom's**) finger, repeat after me:

(**Bride**), with this ring I thee wed. Take it and wear it as a pledge of my love and as a symbol of all we shall share.

Pronouncement:

When two people are joined together it is more than just a marriage between two it is also a blending together of children. In (**Groom's** and **Brides**) marriage today this is also the case and I ask now (**Names of Children**) join us.

(**Bride** and **Groom**) you have declared before all of us that you will live together in marriage. You have made special promises to each other which have been symbolized by the joining of hands, taking of vows and the giving and receiving of a two rings. As you have now become joined in marriage, you will now go forth into the world as a family. By the authority vested in me as a Minister of the State of Texas, I now pronounce you to be husband and wife. You may kiss your **Bride**

It is now my great honor to be the first to present Mr. and Mrs.(**Groom's** first and last name)

Option 4: Standard Reading – Short and Sweet (1 Corinthians 13)

Introduction:

Friends I call upon everyone here present to be a fellow witness with me in the marriage of (**Bride** and **Groom**). We are here to wish them well and every happiness for their future life together.

Marriage is founded upon sincerity and understanding which leads to tolerance, confidence and trust. It involves respect for each other's feelings and weaknesses and faults. You believe that those qualities, which have attracted you both to each other, can be best developed during a life spent together.

A happy marriage will enable you to establish a home with love and stability, where your family and friends will always be welcome and which will be a base from which the influence of your shared, and we hope strengthened life today, can extend.

Everyday you live, learn how to receive love with as much understanding as you give it.

Find things within yourself, then you can share them with each other. Do not fear this love. Have an open heart and a sincere mind. Be sincerely interested in each other's happiness. Be constant and consistent in your love. From this comes security and strength. All that we love deeply becomes a part of us on this day of your marriage. Try to commit yourselves fully and freely to each other.

Reading:

The Bible has given us what may be the world's best definition of what it means to love. I'd like to share with you a well-known passage from 1 Corinthians 13, and offer it as a model to you for the new life you are creating here today:

Love is patient and kind, it is never jealous.

Love is never boastful or conceited. It is never rude or selfish.

It does not take offence and is not resentful.

Love takes no pleasure in other people's faults, but delights in the truth.

It is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope.

It is always ready to endure whatever comes.

True love does not come to an end.

Love is the reason why this day was chosen by you both to begin your lives together and love is the reason why you both will give with all your hearts for the good of each other. Love is the reason that together you will become one; one in hope; one in believing in life; one in sharing the coming years.

Vows:

Do you (**Groom**) take (**Bride**) to be your lawfully wedded wife, to love, honor, comfort, and cherish from this day forth?

Answer: I do.

Do you (**Bride**) take (**Groom**) to be your lawfully husband, to love, honor, comfort, and cherish from this day forth?

Answer: I do.

Ring Vows:

Now I ask that God bless these rings that (**Bride** and **Groom**) will exchange as a symbol of their love and fidelity.

(Minister hands ring to groom)

(**Groom**), in placing this ring on (**Bride's**) finger, repeat after me:

(Groom), with this ring I thee wed. Take it and wear it as a pledge of my love and as a symbol of all we shall share.

(Minister hands ring to bride)

(**Bride**), in placing this ring on (**Groom's**) finger, repeat after me:

(Bride), with this ring I thee wed. Take it and wear it as a pledge of my love and as a symbol of all we shall share.

Pronouncement:

As you begin your married life together, hold close to you the words that you will speak to each other each other today. Life isn't always an easy road, as you both know. Rely on your faith and in the promises you will make today to help you through those times. Ask God to grant you the gifts of caring and understanding in your life together, allowing that each may be to the other a source of strength in need, a counselor in times of uncertainty, a comfort in times of sorrow, and a companion in your joys.

You have declared before all of us that you will live together in marriage. You have made special promises to each other, which have been symbolized by the joining of hands, the taking of vows and the giving and receiving of two rings.

By the authority vested in me by the State of Texas, I now pronounce you to be Husband and Wife.

You may kiss your bride.

It is now my great honor to be the first to present Mr. and Mrs. (**Groom's** first and last name); or (**Bride** first name) and (**Groom** full name), or; (**Bride** first and last name) and (**Groom** first and last name), as man and wife (for situations in which the **Bride** retains her last name).

Option 5: Apache Blessing

Introduction

Dear family and friends, I call upon all of you gathered here to be fellow witnesses with me in the marriage of (**Bride** and **Groom**). You were each invited to join us today so that you may share in the joy that (**Bride** and **Groom**) are feeling as they pledge their love and commitment to each other.

Reading:

Now you will feel no rain, for each of you will be the shelter for each other.
Now you will feel no cold, for each of you will be the warmth for the other.
Now there will be no loneliness, for each of you will be the companion to the other. Now you are two persons, but there is only one life before you. May beauty surround you both in the journey ahead and through all the years. May happiness be your companion and your days be good and long upon the earth.

Treat yourselves and each other with respect, and remind yourselves often of what brought you together. Give the highest priority to the tenderness, gentleness and kindness that your connection deserves. When frustration, difficulty and fear assail your relationship - as they threaten all relationships at one time or another - remember to focus on what is right between you, not only the part which seems wrong. In this way, you can ride out the storms when clouds hide the face of the sun in your lives - remembering that even if you lose sight of it for a moment, the sun is still there. And if each of you takes responsibility for the quality of your life together, it will be marked by abundance and delight.

Vows:

(**Bride**) and (**Groom**), you are about to make promises to one another. These vows are words representing your intentions.

You will find that as you live your lives by these vows, investing your time and love and your commitment to each other, the happy times of your life will be twice as joyous, because there will be someone to share those joys within marriage.

Minister: Groom, repeat after me.

I, (**Groom**), take you, (**Bride**), to be my wife, to have and to hold from this day forward. I give to you my unending love and devotion. I promise to be true to you, to cherish you, and to share my thoughts, hopes, and dreams with you. I look forward to spending the rest of my life with you my best friend. I will love you forever.

Minister: Bride, repeat after me.

I, (**Bride**), take you, (**Groom**), to be my husband, to have and to hold from this day forward. I give to you my unending love and devotion. I promise to be true to you, to cherish you, and to share my thoughts, hopes, and dreams with

you. I look forward to spending the rest of my life with you my best friend. I will love you forever.

Ring Vows:

From the earliest times, the circle has been a symbol of completeness, a symbol of committed love. An unbroken and never-ending circle symbolizes a commitment of love that is also never ending. As often as either of you look at your rings, I pray that you will be reminded of the commitment of love for each other that you are making today.

(Minister hands ring to Groom)

(**Groom**), in placing this ring on (**Bride's**) finger, repeat after me:

(**Groom**): As a ring has no end, neither shall my love for you. But when you need to know the depth of my love for you, look not to the ring, but into my heart. I choose you to be my wife this day and forevermore.

(Minister hands ring to Bride)

(**Bride**), in placing this ring on (**Groom's**) finger, repeat after me:

(**Bride**): As a ring has no end, neither shall my love for you. But when you need to know the depth of my love for you, look not to the ring, but into my heart. I choose you to be my husband this day and forevermore.

Pronouncement:

We rejoice this day in the marriage of (**Bride**) and (**Groom**). We celebrate the love that brought them to this day. With love that deepens through many years, may they know its meaning and its mystery — how we become truly one in sharing ourselves and one another, and yet, remain truly two in our own uniqueness. To (**Bride**) and (**Groom**): May your house be a place of happiness for all who enter it, and a place where the old and the young are renewed in each others' company, a place for growing, a place for music, a place for laughter. And when shadows and darkness fall within its rooms, may it still be a place of hope and strength for all who enter it, especially for those who may be entrusted to your care. May no person be alien to your compassion. May your larger family be the family of all humankind. And may those who are nearest to you and dearest to you constantly be enriched by the beauty and the bounty of your love for each other.

By the authority vested in me by the State of Texas, I now pronounce you husband and wife.

You may kiss your **Bride**.

It is now my great honor to be the first to present Mr. and Mrs. (**Groom's** first and last name); or (**Bride** first name) and (**Groom** full name), or; (**Bride** first and last name) and (**Groom** first and last name), as man and wife (for situations in which the **Bride** retains her last name).

Option 6: “The Art of Marriage” and “Blessing for a Marriage”

Introduction:

Dear family and friends, we have gathered here today to witness and celebrate the wedding of **Groom** and **Bride**. Surrounded, as we are by those we most love, let us turn our hearts and minds to the two before us who wish to bind their lives together, in peace, and in love thus celebrating the beauty and joy of life.

Marriage is the supreme sharing of experience and an adventure in the most intimate of human relationships. Marriage has been described as living in love with your best friend. Love is one of the few constants in the universe. Only love is capable of joining living beings by their deepest essence, uniting, completing and fulfilling them. Marriage is a symbol of the commitment to create a lifelong partnership based on love. Marriage is not about marrying the right partner; it is about being the right partner. Marriage is the promise of hope between two people who love each other sincerely, honor each other as individuals, and who wish to unite their lives and share the future together.

In this ceremony, **Groom** and **Bride** dedicate themselves to the happiness and well-being of each other, in a union of mutual caring and responsibility.

Happiness in marriage is not something that just happens. A good marriage must be created. In the art of marriage, the little things are the big things:

It is remembering to say, “I love you”.

It is at no time taking the other for granted.

It is having a mutual sense of values and common objectives

It is doing things for each other, not in the attitude of duty or sacrifice, but in the spirit of joy.

It is not expecting perfection in each other.

It is cultivating flexibility, patience, understanding, and a sense of humor.

It is having a capacity to forgive and forget.

It is establishing a relationship in which the independence is equal, the dependence is mutual, and the obligation is reciprocal.

It is a common search for the good and the beautiful.

It is discovering that your love for one another at its best will never lose sight of or be blotted out by the commonplace experiences of life.

Charge to the Couple

This is a new beginning for both of you and I’d like to offer some gentle reminders to ease your life-long task of living and growing together. Be kind to each other. And, when you disagree, do it respectfully. Be gentle and forgiving with each other. When you forgive, your hearts make room for a little more love, a little more understanding and a little more compassion.

Communicate with each other. Share the joy that’s in your heart and the sorrow that burdens your soul. Open your hearts to each other and find love. Don’t forget the love that you share today, continue to show your appreciation and admiration on a daily basis throughout the rest of your lives.

Marriage Vows:

Two among us who have stood apart, come now in our presence to declare their love, and to be united in marriage, facing the world strong, with the courage of two. May they learn to share life’s trials, and grow in understanding and devotion to each other. May love and companionship abide in the home they establish. May they grow old together, in health and contentment, ever grateful for the union of their lives. May they always need one another, not to fill an emptiness, but to help each other know fullness. May they embrace one another, but not encircle one another. May they have happiness and may they find it in making one another happy. May they have love, and may they find it in loving one another.

Now we have **Groom** and **Bride** before us, who wish to take their place among those who have said yes to living, yes to the hard task of loving and yes to the best that humanity stands for. This celebration is the outward token of an inner union of hearts. It is a union created by their loving purpose and kept by their abiding will. It is in this spirit and for this purpose that they have come here to be joined together.

Do you **Groom** take **Bride** to be your lawfully wedded wife? From this day forward, to have and to hold, forsaking all others, for better or for worse, for richer and poorer, in sickness and health, to love and cherish for so long as you both shall live? **Groom: “I do.”**

And do you **Bride** take **Groom** to be your lawfully wedded husband? From this day forward, to have and to hold, forsaking all others, for better and for worse, for richer and poorer, in sickness and health, to love and cherish for so long as you both shall live? **Bride: “I do.”**

Ring Vows:

Traditionally, the marriage ceremony is marked by the exchange of rings. The wedding ring is a symbol of the unbroken circle of love; a reminder that love freely given has no beginning and no end, no giver and no receiver, for each is the giver and each is the receiver. Let the seamless circle of these rings symbolize your commitment to love that is never ending and may they remind you always of the vows you have taken here today.

(Minister hands ring to groom) **Groom**, in placing this ring on **Bride’s** finger, repeat after me...**Bride**, with this ring I thee wed...Take it and wear it as a pledge of my love...and as a symbol of all we shall share.

(Minister hands ring to bride) **Bride**, in placing this ring on **Groom's** finger, repeat after me: **Groom**, with this ring I thee wed....Take it and wear it as a pledge of my love.....and as a symbol of all we shall share.

Since you love each other in your hearts and have promised to help each other to live and grow, in wisdom and compassion, with these rings you bind your lives together for as long as you both shall live.

Pronouncement:

You have declared before all of us that you will live together in marriage. You have made special promises to each other, which have been symbolized by the joining of hands, the taking of vows and the giving and receiving of two rings. By the authority vested in me by the State of Texas, I now pronounce you to be Husband and Wife.

You may kiss your Bride.

It is now my great honor to be the first to present Mr. and Mrs.(**Groom's** first and last name); or
(**Bride** first name) and (**Groom** full name), or;
(**Bride** first and last name) and (**Groom** first and last name), as man and wife
(for situations in which the **Bride** retains her last name).

Option 7: Standard Reading "The Art of Marriage"

Introduction:

Welcome to all friends and family on this beautiful and joyful day. **(Bride)** and **(Groom)** have asked me to extend a very warm welcome to you on this their wedding day. They have invited us here today to share in the celebration of their marriage. We come together not to mark the start of a relationship, but to recognize a bond that already exists. This marriage is one expression of many varieties of love. Love is one, though its expressions are infinite.

Happiness in marriage is not something that just happens. A good marriage must be created. In the art of marriage, the little things are the big things.

It is never being too old to hold hands. It is remembering to say, "I love you". It is at no time taking the other for granted. It is having a mutual sense of values and common objectives; it is standing together facing the world. It is doing things for each other, not in the attitude of duty or sacrifice, but in the spirit of joy. It is not expecting perfection in each other. It is cultivating flexibility, patience, understanding, and a sense of humor. It is having a capacity to forgive and forget. It is establishing a relationship in which the independence is equal, the dependence is mutual, and the obligation is reciprocal. It is a common search for the good and the beautiful. It is not marrying the right partner; it is being the right partner. It is discovering that your love for one another at its best will never lose sight of or be blotted out by the common place experiences of life. And it is remembering that remaining devoted, confident and hopeful in one another are the secret ingredients, which will help you to remain two very happy people, richer for your oneness.

Reading:

Before you are joined in marriage in my presence and the presence of these your family, friends and witnesses, I am to remind you of the serious and binding nature of the relationship you are now about to enter.

Marriage is a commitment to life to the best that two people can find and bring out in each other. It offers opportunities for sharing and growth that no other human relationship can equal, a joining that is promised for a lifetime.

Within the circle of its love, marriage encompasses all of life's most important relationships. A wife and a husband are each other's best friend, confidant, lover, teacher, listener, and critic. Marriage understands and forgives the mistakes life is unable to avoid. It encourages and nurtures new life, new experiences, and new ways of expressing love through the seasons of life.

When two people pledge to love and care for each other in marriage they create a spirit unique to themselves, which binds them closer than any spoken

or written words. Marriage is a promise, a potential, made in the hearts of two people who love, which takes a lifetime to fulfill.

We who are witnessing your marriage, hope that despite the stresses inevitable in any life, your love and respect for each other, your trust and understanding of each other will increase your contentment and heighten your joy in living

Vows:

(Groom), will you have **(Bride)** to be your wife? Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her in sickness and in health, remaining faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

The **Groom** replies: "I will."

(Bride), will you have **(Groom)** to be your husband? Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him in sickness and in health, remaining faithful to him as long as you both shall live?

The **Bride** replies: "I will."

Ring Vows:

Now I ask that God bless these rings that **(Groom and Bride)** will exchange as a symbol of their love and fidelity.

May these rings be blessed as the symbol of this affectionate union. These two lives are now joined in one unbroken circle. Wherever they go, may they always return to one another in their togetherness. May these two find in each other the love for which all men and women yearn. May they grow in understanding and in compassion. May the home which they establish together be such a place of sanctuary that many will find there a friend. May these rings, on their fingers, symbolize the touch of the spirit of love in their hearts.

(Minister hands ring to Groom)

(Groom), in placing this ring on **(Bride's)** finger, repeat after me:

With this ring I thee wed **(Groom repeats)**

and with all I am and all I have, I honor you **(Groom repeats)**

(Minister hands other ring to Bride)

(Bride), in placing this ring on **(Groom's)** finger, repeat after me:

With this ring I thee wed **(Bride repeats)**

and with all I am and all I have, I honor you **(Bride repeats)**

Pronouncement:

(**Groom** and **Bride**) today you chose each other before everyone, to begin your life together. For all the tomorrows that follow, you will choose each other over and again, in the privacy of your hearts. Let your love and friendship guide you, as you learn and grow together. Experience the wonders of the world, even as patience and wisdom calm the restless nature. Through your partnership, may you always triumph over the challenges in your path. Through the comfort of loving arms, may you always find a safe place to call home.

You have all been a witness today and you were all invited to this very special occasion when (**Groom** and **Bride**) shared before you all gathered here, their love and dedication to each other. They have sealed their love with vows and exchanged two rings as a sign and symbol to the world that they are now married.

You may kiss your **Bride**.

Ladies and Gentlemen I take great pride and privilege in announcing to you and the world the union in marriage of Mr. and Mrs.(**Groom**'s first and last name); or
(**Bride** first name) and (**Groom** full name), or;
(**Bride** first and last name) and (**Groom** first and last name), as man and wife
(for situations in which the **Bride** retains her last name).

Option 8: Standard Reading: "Marriage is love"

Introduction:

We are gathered here to join **(Bride)** and **(Groom)** in marriage. This is an act as ancient as the history of the human race and as new as each morning, for it speaks of the past and of the future, of life of the individual and the existence of the community.

Because marriage is concerned with the most fundamental of human relationships, it must not be regarded lightly. Those who enter into this relationship shall cherish for each other a mutual esteem and love, bear each other's' infirmities and weaknesses, comfort each other in sickness, trouble and sorrow, encourage each other in trials of the spirit, and live together as the heirs of life.

Because your relationship is the foundation of human fellowship, marriage is not to be entered into by any unadvisedly, but with devotion and discretion. Love and loyalty will avail as the foundation of a happy and enduring home, and if the solemn vows you are about to make are kept with honor and integrity, your life will be full of peace and joy, and the home you are establishing will be one of warmth and understanding.

Reading:

True marriage is more than joining the bonds of marriage of two persons; it is the union of two hearts. It lives on the love you give each other and never grows old, but thrives on the joy of each new day. Marriage is love. May you always be able to talk things over, to confide in each other, to laugh with each other, to enjoy life together, and to share moments of quiet and peace, when the day is over. May you be blessed with a lifetime of happiness and a home of warmth and understanding.

Marriage is a commitment to life to the best that two people can find and bring out in each other. It offers opportunities for sharing and growth that no other human relationship can equal, a joining that is promised for a lifetime.

Within the circle of its love, marriage encompasses all of life's most important relationships. A wife and a husband are each other's best friend, confidant, lover, teacher, listener, and critic. Marriage understands and forgives the mistakes life is unable to avoid. It encourages and nurtures new life, new experiences, and new ways of expressing love through the seasons of life.

When two people pledge to love and care for each other in marriage they create a spirit unique to themselves, which binds them closer than any spoken or written words. Marriage is a promise, a potential, made in the hearts of two people who love, which takes a lifetime to fulfill.

If two are caring as they are sharing life's hopes and fears.

If the music of laughter outweighs sadness and tears.

Marriage is togetherness.

If both derive pleasure from the mere presence of each other, yet when parted no jealousies restrict, worry or smother.

Marriage is freedom.

If achievements mean more when they benefit two and consideration is shown with each point of view.

Marriage is respect.

And if togetherness, freedom and respect are combined with a joy that words can never fully define, then

Marriage is love.

Vows:

(Groom), will you take **(Bride)** to be your wife, will you continue to be loving and caring, to comfort her, to protect your love for her, cherishing her, honoring and respecting her and your promises to her throughout all the events of your lives together? Response: I will.

(Bride), will you take **(Groom)** to be your husband, will you continue to be loving and caring, to comfort him, to protect your love for him, cherishing him, honoring and respecting him and your promises to him throughout all the events of your lives together? Response: I will.

Ring Vows:

Minister: The wedding ring symbolizes unity, a circle unbroken, without beginning or end. And today, **(Bride)** and **(Groom)** exchange these rings as confirmation of their vows to join their lives, to work at all times to create a life that is complete and unbroken, and to love each other without end.

(Minister hands ring to Groom)

(Groom), in placing this ring on **(Bride's)** finger, repeat after me:

(Groom repeats): With this ring... I give you the promise... that from this day forward... you shall never walk alone. My heart will be your shelter;... my arms will be your home... We will walk together through life as partners...and best friends... I give you my heart.

(Minister hands other ring to Bride)

(Bride), in placing this ring on **(Groom's)** finger, repeat after me:

(Bride repeats): With this ring... I give you the promise... that from this day forward... you shall never walk alone. My heart will be your shelter;... my arms will be your home... We will walk together through life as partners...and best friends... I give you my heart.

Pronouncement:

(**Bride** and **Groom**), never forget the beginning of your love for one another, take care of it, nurture it, and allow it to grow strong and firm in the years that are to come. Always concentrate on making each other feel happy and secure in your commitment to one another. Always rely on your ability to keep the promises you have made to one another today and always love one another.

You have declared before all of us that you will live together in marriage. You have made special promises to each other, which have been symbolized by the joining of hands, the taking of vows and the giving and receiving of two rings. By the authority vested in me by the State of Texas, I now pronounce you husband and wife.

(**Bride** and **Groom**), you may seal your promises with a kiss.

Ladies and Gentlemen, may I present to you Mr. and Mrs.(**Groom's** first and last name); or (**Bride** first name) and (**Groom** full name), or; (**Bride** first and last name) and (**Groom** first and last name), as man and wife (for situations in which the **Bride** retains her last name).

Option 9: Standard Reading: Spiritual. "One Love" Religious

Introduction:

We are gathered here in the presence of God and of this company to join in holy marriage (**Bride** and **Groom**) and to bear witness to the transforming power of love that lies within them both.

Love is a quality of spirit and an attitude of the emotions, but a marriage is a life's work, a spiritual art form and a love so strong, it is so wonderful and powerful. Therefore, this is an occasion of both profound joy and great responsibility, and we who partake in it bind ourselves as witnesses to the labor of love that (**Bride** and **Groom**) are undertaking here.

Prayer:

In acknowledgment of this holy purpose and of the power of this occasion, *Dear Father in Heaven, As we come before your throne, with our offering of love, we ask you to bless this union of marriage. We pray that you will be the third strand that binds them together and cannot be broken. May You be the guiding light shining on this chosen path of lifelong commitment to each other and You. Amen*

Reading:

True relationships among people point to God. They are like prayers in the world. Sometimes the hands that pray are fully touching; sometimes there is distance between them. They always move to and from each other, but they never lose touch. They keep praying to the One who brought them together.

As you begin your married life together, hold close to you the words that you will speak to each other each other today. Life isn't always an easy road, as you both know. Rely on your faith and in the promises you will make today to help you through those times. Ask God to grant you the gifts of caring and understanding in your life together, allowing that each may be to the other a source of strength in need, a counselor in times of uncertainty, a comfort in times of sorrow, and a companion in your joys.

Love is a mighty power,
a great and complete good.

Love alone lightens every burden, and makes rough places smooth.

It bears every hardship as though it were nothing, and renders all bitterness sweet and acceptable.

Nothing is sweeter than love,

Nothing stronger,

Nothing higher,

Nothing wider,

Nothing more pleasant,

Nothing fuller or better in heaven or earth; for love is born of God.

Vows:

Minister: (**Groom**), will you have (**Bride**), to be your wedded wife, to live together in the covenant of faith, hope, and love according to the intention of God for your lives? Will you listen to her deepest thoughts, be tender hearted and kind/wise in your daily care of her, and stand faithfully at her side in sickness and in health? Choosing her above all others, will you undertake to care for her well-being of mind and body and spirit, as long as you both shall live? Response: I will.

Minister: (**Bride**), will you have (**Groom**), to be your wedded husband, to live together in the covenant of faith, hope, and love according to the intention of God for your lives? Will you listen to his deepest thoughts, be tender hearted and kind/wise in your daily care of him, and stand faithfully at his side in sickness and in health? Choosing him above all others, will you undertake to care for him well-being of mind and body and spirit, as long as you both shall live? Response: I will.

Ring Vows:

May these rings be blessed as the symbol of this affectionate union. These two lives are now joined in one unbroken circle. Wherever they go, may they always return to one another in their togetherness. May these two find in each other the love for which all men and women yearn. May they grow in understanding and in compassion. May the home which they establish together be such a place of sanctuary that many will find there a friend. May these rings, on their fingers, symbolize the touch of the spirit of love in their hearts.

(Minister hands ring to Groom)

(**Groom**), in placing this ring on (**Bride's**) finger, repeat after me:

With this ring I thee wed (**Groom repeats**)

and with all I am and all I have, I honor you (**Groom repeats**)

(Minister hands other ring to Bride)

(**Bride**), in placing this ring on (**Groom's**) finger, repeat after me:

With this ring I thee wed (**Bride repeats**)

and with all I am and all I have, I honor you (**Bride repeats**)

Pronouncement:

[Bride] and **[Groom]**, from this day forward your lives shall be woven of one design, and your perils and your joys shall not be known apart. As you increase in love and understanding, may your joys stand victoriously against the storm of circumstance that beats impartially on all our doors.

Let the passing of the days and the years deepen the love of your union and make it full of tenderness and grace.

May you strive all the rest of your lives to meet this commitment to each other with the same love and devotion that you now possess.

Now since you have publicly promised your commitment to each other for all time, I call upon all gathered here to witness that according to the laws of the state of Texas, you are now husband and wife.

You may kiss your **Bride**.

Ladies and Gentlemen I take great pride and privilege in announcing to you and the world the union in marriage of Mr. and Mrs. (**Groom**'s first and last name); or (**Bride** first name) and (**Groom** full name), or; (**Bride** first and last name) and (**Groom** first and last name), as man and wife (for situations in which the **Bride** retains her last name).

Option 10: Secular Ceremony

Introduction

Dear family and friends, we have gathered here today to witness and celebrate the wedding of **Groom** and **Bride**. Surrounded as we are by those we most love, let us turn our hearts and minds to the two before us who wish to bind their lives together, in peace, and in love, thus celebrating the beauty and joy of life.

Readings

Marriage is the supreme sharing of experience and an adventure in the most intimate of human relationships. It is the joyous uniting of a couple whose comradeship and mutual understanding have flowered into romance. Today, **Groom** and **Bride** proclaim their love to the world and we who are gathered here rejoice with them and for them in the new life they now undertake together.

Marriage is the promise of hope between two people who love each other sincerely, who honor each other as individuals, and who wish to unite their lives and share the future together. In this ceremony, they dedicate themselves to the happiness and well-being of each other, in a union of mutual caring and responsibility. We rejoice with them that out of the entire world they have found each other; and that they will henceforth find the deeper meaning and richness of human life in sharing it with each other.

Your marriage requires "love." When we love, we see things other people do not see. To see with loving eyes is to know inner beauty and to be loved is to be seen and known as we are known to no other. We are loved when another human being wants us, wishes to share their life with us, accepts us, without qualification or reservation, not as perfect, but as human, with strengths and weaknesses.

Love endures only when the lovers love many things and not merely each other, when they share the same values, hold the same interests. You will need to be able to trust one another and learn, as well, to depend on one another. Do not forget the love that you share today, continue to show your appreciation and admiration on a daily basis throughout the rest of your lives.

A successful marriage is based on love, equality, respect, and commitment on the part of both, in which each must adjust to the other's temperaments and moods. In marriage two persons turn to each other in search of greater fulfillment than either can achieve alone. Marriage should be a growing and dynamic relationship, a dream of tomorrow in which we grow and fulfill our possibilities. It is wondrous when someone believes in the dream of

ourselves and wants to live with us and help make these dreams and aspirations come true.

Marriage is a dedication. You give yourself, your life and love, into the hands of the one you love. You do so trustingly and generously. Yet, each of you also receives a gift – the life and love of the other. You receive this gift not only from the one you love, but also from their family and friends. We are here to share your joy and to witness your first steps along the path that you are now to tread together. May it be a path of deepening and widening love that you shall travel together until the end of your days.

Two among us who have stood apart, come now in our presence to declare their love, and to be united in marriage, facing the world strong, with the courage of two. May they learn to share life's trials, and grow in understanding and devotion to each other. May love and companionship abide in the home they establish. May they grow old together, in health and contentment, ever grateful for the union of their lives so that they will say "Grow old along with me, the best is yet to be." May they wake up each morning glorying in the joy that they awake once again next to their chosen one, their beloved. May they always need one another, not to fill an emptiness, but to help each other know fullness. May they embrace one another, but not encircle one another. May they have happiness, and may they find it in making one another happy. May they have love, and may they find it in loving one another.

Now we have **Bride** and **Groom** before us, who wish to take their place among those who have said yes to living, yes to the hard task of loving, and yes to the best that humanity stands for. This celebration is the outward token of an inner union of hearts. It is a union created by their loving purpose and kept by their abiding will. It is in this spirit and for this purpose that they have come here to be joined together.

Marriage Vows

At this time **Bride & Groom** would like to read the vows they have written for each other

Ring Vows

Traditionally, the marriage ceremony is marked by the exchange of rings. The wedding ring is a symbol of the unbroken circle of love; a reminder that 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 remind you always of the vows you have taken here today.

Groom, please take **Bride's** ring, and as you place it on the ring finger of her left hand, repeat after me . . . With this ring I thee wed . . . promising to love and respect you, . . . sharing good times and bad, . . . in sickness and in health . . . til death do us part.

Bride, please take **Groom's** ring, and as you place it on the ring finger of his left hand, repeat after me . . . With this ring I thee wed . . . promising to love and respect you, . . . sharing good times and bad, . . . in sickness and in health . . . til death do us part.

Closing Remarks and Pronouncement

Since you love each other in your hearts, and have promised to help each other to live and grow, in wisdom and compassion, with these rings you bind your lives together for as long as you both shall live.

The miracle of love is like the miracle of a flower. It thrives upon the sunshine of a smile. It entwines itself around the heart. Its roots are secured in the memories of yesterday, and its petals breathe the promise of joy filled tomorrows. To be loved is to know happiness and contentment. To give love

is to know the joy of sharing oneself. It is through the miracle of love that we discover the fullness of life.

Bride and **Groom**, as you embark on this wonderful journey ahead of you, hand in hand, experiencing life together, may all that is true and beautiful be with you always . . . May there be peace in your home, quietness and confidence in your thoughts, and joy and celebration in your hearts.

Dear friends and family, since **Groom** and **Bride** have thus pledged themselves in the presence of this company and they have spoken the words and performed the rites which unite their lives, I do now, by the powers vested in me by the laws of the State of Texas, I pronounce that you are husband and wife.

Groom, you may now kiss the **Bride**.

I present to you Mr. & Mrs.

Option 11: Catholic Wedding Vows:

The most important part of a Catholic wedding is what is commonly known as the exchange of vows. These words are the heart—the essential element—of the sacrament of marriage; they form the covenant that establish the couple's marriage. The Church calls the exchange of vows *consent*—that is, the act of will by which a man and a woman give themselves to each other, and accept the gift of the other. The marriage can't happen without the declaration of consent (*Catechism #1625 - 1631*).

(The Following is Optional:)

Catholic wedding vows are usually preceded by three questions from the priest:

- "(Name) and (name), have you come here freely and without reservation to give yourselves to each other in marriage?"
- "Will you honor each other as man and wife for the rest of your lives?"
- "Will you accept children lovingly from God, and bring them up according to the law of Christ and his Church?"

The bride and groom respond "I will" or "yes" (*Rite of Marriage #34*).

The *Rite of Marriage* (#25) offers several options for Catholic wedding vows. The standard version goes like this:

Priest (or deacon): Since it is your intention to enter into marriage, join your right hands, and declare your consent before God and his Church.

Groom: I, (name), take you, (name), to be my wife. I promise to be true to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will love you and honor you all the days of my life.

It's ideal if you memorize the words of consent; doing so emphasizes that your consent to be married is truly heartfelt. Memorizing the words of consent in the weeks and months leading up to the wedding is also a good spiritual practice that will help you to focus on the deeper meaning of your marriage.

If you're worried about forgetting the words, or being too emotional to say them clearly, many priests and deacons will have you repeat the words of consent after them, phrase by phrase.

The Rite of Marriage doesn't actually suggest this, though; instead, it offers this simple alternative:

Priest: (Name), do you take (name) to be your wife? Do you promise to be true to her in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, to love her and honor her all the days of your life? **Groom:** I do.

Priest: (Name), do you take (name) to be your husband? Do you promise to be true to him in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, to love him and honor him all the days of your life? **Bride:** I do.

In the United States, Catholic wedding vows may also take the following form:

Groom: I, (name), take you, (name), for my lawful wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, until death do us part.

Bride: I, (name), take you, (name), for my lawful husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, until death do us part.

Again, you can also simply respond to the priest's question:

Priest: (Name), do you take (name) for your lawful wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, until death do you part? **Groom:** I do.

Priest: (Name), do you take (name) for your lawful husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, until death do you part? **Bride:** I do.

The priest acknowledges that the couple have declared their consent to be married, prays for God's blessing on the couple, and declares, "What God has joined, men must not divide" (*Rite of Marriage #26*). This is the point at which, sacramentally, the bride and groom become wife and husband.

The Blessing of Rings:

The Blessing of Rings follows the declaration of consent. (Again, it is ideal for the bride and groom to memorize these lines.) The priest says a blessing over the wedding rings (*Rite of Marriage #27*) and then the couple exchange wedding rings (#28):

Groom (placing the wedding ring on his wife's ring finger): (Name), take this ring as a sign of my love and fidelity. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Bride (placing the wedding ring on her husband's ring finger): (Name), take this ring as a sign of my love and fidelity. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

The General Intercessions (sometimes called Prayers of the Faithful or Bidding Prayers) follow, and then, if the sacrament of marriage is being celebrated within Mass, the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Option 12: Vow Renewal

Introduction:

Dear Family and friends, welcome! We are gathered here on this beautiful and joyful day to witness how **(Bride)** and **(Groom)** renew their vows. **(Bride)** and **(Groom)**, when you first joined hands and hearts in marriage (# of years) ago, you did not know where life would take you. You promised to love, honor and cherish one another through all things. Life has surely brought you both wonderful blessings and difficult challenges over the years. But here you are today, having fulfilled the vows to “love, honor, and cherish” you made each other on your wedding day. As you celebrate here today, and as you reflect back over all the years as husband and wife, do you wish to reaffirm the vows you took (# of years) ago?

Response: WE DO!

Reading:

Marriage is a commitment to learning to care for one another in mutually fulfilling ways. It is not an act but a life-long relationship always in the making.
Marriage deepens and enriches every facet of life.
Happiness is fuller, memories are fresher, commitment is stronger.
Marriage understands and forgives the mistakes life is unable to avoid
It encourages and nurtures new life, new experiences, new ways of expressing a love that is deeper than life.
When two people pledge their love and care for each other in marriage, they create a spirit unique unto themselves which binds them closer than any spoken or written words.
Marriage is a promise made in the hearts of two people who love each other and the potential of marriage requires a lifetime to fulfill.

Vows:

Minister: *Please face each other and join hands*

(Groom), will you continue to have **(Bride)** as your wife and continue to live in this happy and loving marriage?

Answer: I DO.

Do you reaffirm your love for her, and will you love, honor and cherish her in sickness and in health, for richer or poorer, for better or for worse, and forsaking all others, be faithful to her for as long as you both shall live?

Answer: I WILL.

*Then, turning to the **Bride:***

(Bride), will you continue to have **(Groom)** as your husband and continue to live in this happy and loving marriage?

Answer: I DO.

Do you reaffirm your love for him, and will you love, honor and cherish him in sickness and in health, for richer or poorer, for better or for worse, and forsaking all others, be faithful to him for as long as you both shall live?

Answer: I WILL.

Ring Vows:

(Bride) and **(Groom)**, on your wedding day you exchanged rings as a symbol of the never-ending circle that symbolizes the eternal quality of God, unending strength, and unending love. May you always wear your rings as a reminder of your wedding vows to each other, and your commitment to continue to live in unity, love, and happiness. To remind you of that commitment made on your wedding day, you will now renew your pledge:

Minister: (Groom), as you place this ring on **(Bride's)** finger, please repeat after me:

You are the love of my life ...And you are my very best friend...With this ring...I renew my pledge of love and commitment

Minister: (Bride), as you place this ring on **(Groom's)** finger, please repeat after me:

You are the love of my life ...And you are my very best friend...With this ring...I renew my pledge of love and commitment

Pronouncement:

[Bride] and **[Groom]**, you have always been there as partners, companions, lovers, helpmates, and friends. Now that you have reconfirmed your love and vows, stay close and cling tenderly yet tightly as you continue your journey through this world. Keep trusting one another and being gentle with your feelings. Keep cherishing your dreams and share your joys and pains. Let the times you fall short be few... and be forgiven. And let the times you surpass your needs and hopes be many. Continue to believe in each other. Desire not to change or possess, but only to know each other honestly and completely. Respect your individuality and the things that make you each unique; but likewise honor your togetherness and the things that make you one. Care for each other truly and deeply, putting your commitment to one another before all else. Live for your love and your love will live forever. May all the beautiful gifts that come with the promises of a long loving marriage bring never-ending happiness to you both.

[Bride] and **[Groom]**, today you have renewed the promises and vows you made to each other on your wedding day. You have symbolized the renewal of the marriage union by the joining of hands, the taking of vows, and by exchanging of rings.

It is now my great pleasure to announce the continued commitment of Mr. and Mrs. _____!