

## OPENING WELCOME

Good afternoon everyone, and welcome.

My name is Frank, and it is my privilege to lead today's ceremony as we gather to celebrate the marriage of [Bride] and [Groom].

Thank you all for being here. Whether you have travelled a long distance or only a few miles, your presence means a great deal. A wedding is one of those rare occasions that brings together family, friends, colleagues, and loved ones from different parts of a couple's life, all in one place and for one purpose.

Today is not simply about signing a document or following a tradition. It is about witnessing a commitment. It is about recognising a relationship that has grown over time and celebrating the decision these two people have made to continue building their lives together.

This ceremony is celebrant-led, which means it has been created to reflect the people at the heart of it. It gives us the opportunity to focus not on formality for its own sake, but on meaning — on the story of how [Bride] and [Groom] came together, what they value, and what they are choosing today.

Weddings are often filled with excitement, anticipation, and perhaps the occasional nervous moment, but at their heart they are wonderfully simple. They are about love, commitment, trust, and the people who support us along the way.

So, as we begin, I invite you to settle into this moment, to enjoy the occasion, and to share in the celebration of two people who have chosen one another, and who stand here today ready to take the next step in their journey together.

## CONTEXT & INTENTION

Every couple arrives at a wedding day by their own path, and every relationship has its own story.

Today is not about perfection. It is not about promising that life will always be easy, or that there will never be challenges ahead. Instead, it is about recognising a choice — the choice to stand together, to face whatever life brings as a team, and to continue building something that is greater than either person could create alone.

A wedding ceremony gives us a rare opportunity to pause. In the midst of busy lives, work, responsibilities, and future plans, it allows us to step back and acknowledge something important: the value of commitment, the strength of partnership, and the importance of choosing one another, not just today, but in the years that follow.

For [Bride] and [Groom], this moment is both a celebration of what has already been shared and a statement of intent for the future. It reflects the experiences that have brought them here, the lessons they have learned together, and the confidence they have found in one another.

Those gathered here today each know them in different ways. Some have known them since childhood, some have shared only a small part of their journey, but all of us have been invited to witness this moment because we matter to them, and because they matter to us.

Today is a celebration of love, certainly, but it is also a celebration of friendship, trust, resilience, and the decision to continue moving forward together.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF FAMILY & COMMUNITY

Before we continue, it is important to acknowledge the people gathered here today.

A marriage is made by two people, but no relationship exists entirely on its own. Around every couple are the people who have shaped them, encouraged them, challenged them, supported them, and loved them through the different seasons of life.

Today, [Bride] and [Groom] are surrounded by family and friends who have each played a part in bringing them to this moment. Some of you have known them all their lives. Some have become part of their story more recently. Some have seen them grow as individuals, and some have watched their relationship develop into the partnership we are here to celebrate today.

Your presence matters. It is a sign of love, encouragement, and shared joy. By being here, you are not simply watching a ceremony; you are standing with them as they make this commitment, offering your support for the life they are choosing to build together.

We also take a moment to remember those who are unable to be here today, whether through distance, circumstance, or because they are no longer with us. Their absence is felt, but their place in this story remains.

So as we continue, let this ceremony be not only a celebration of two people, but also of the family, friendship, and community that surround them.

## THEIR STORY

Every couple has a story, and like many good stories, the beginning is often much simpler than the ending.

For [Bride] and [Groom], it started with an introduction through mutual friends. Neither of them arrived expecting to meet the person they would one day stand beside on their wedding day. It began with conversation, shared company, and the discovery that spending time together felt easy.

What drew them together wasn't that they were exactly the same. In many ways they were quite different. But they quickly discovered a shared sense of humour, similar values, and an ability to be completely themselves around one another. There was no need to impress, no need to pretend, and no need to be anything other than who they already were.

As their relationship grew, so did their confidence in each other. There were ordinary moments that became important without either of them realising it at the time — long conversations that lasted far longer than planned, weekends that seemed to pass too quickly, and the gradual realisation that future plans increasingly involved the other person.

Like every relationship, there were challenges along the way. There were decisions to make, obstacles to overcome, and times when life demanded patience and understanding. Yet those moments did not weaken their relationship. They strengthened it. Each challenge taught them something about trust, communication, and the value of having someone beside you who is willing to face life's uncertainties together.

Perhaps what defines [Bride] and [Groom] most is not a single grand romantic gesture, but the way they have built their relationship through countless small acts of care. The way they support one another during difficult times. The way they celebrate one another's successes. The way they make each other laugh. And the way they continue to choose each other, day after day, even when life is busy, complicated, or unpredictable.

That journey has brought them here today. Not to celebrate a perfect relationship, but a genuine one — built over time, strengthened through experience, and ready for whatever comes next.

## WHAT THEIR RELATIONSHIP IS BUILT ON?

Every lasting relationship is built on something deeper than attraction, circumstance, or even shared interests. Over time, the foundations that matter most reveal themselves in everyday actions, quiet choices, and the way two people navigate life together.

For [Bride] and [Groom], those foundations are built on trust, friendship, and a genuine enjoyment of one another's company. They have created a relationship where both feel seen, valued, and accepted for who they are. There is comfort in knowing they can be themselves, confidence in knowing they are supported, and reassurance in knowing they do not face life's challenges alone.

One of the strengths of their relationship is the balance they bring to each other. Where one may be cautious, the other brings confidence. Where one feels uncertain, the other offers encouragement. They do not seek to change one another; instead, they create space for each other to grow.

Together they have learned that relationships are not strengthened by never facing difficulties, but by facing them side by side. They have learned the importance of listening, of compromise, of patience, and of choosing understanding over being right. They have discovered that love is found as much in ordinary days as it is in special occasions.

Perhaps most importantly, they bring out the best in one another. They inspire each other to be braver, kinder, and more hopeful. They celebrate each other's successes without competition and offer support without judgement when things become difficult.

The commitment they make today is built on these foundations. Not on perfection, but on trust. Not on certainty, but on confidence in one another. And not simply on who they are today, but on the belief that whatever the future holds, they are stronger together than apart.

## FAMILY TRIBUTE/POEM/READING

Before we continue, [Bride] and [Groom] have chosen to include a reading that is special to them.

Whether through poetry, prose, or personal reflection, readings often express thoughts and feelings in a way that complements the promises being made today.

I would now like to invite [Name] forward to share this reading with us.

## COMMITMENT/VOWS

We now come to the heart of today's ceremony.

Throughout this service, we have reflected on the journey that has brought [Bride] and [Groom] to this moment, the people who have supported them, and the foundations upon which they have built their relationship.

In a moment, they will make their promises to one another. These vows are not simply words spoken for today. They are a declaration of intention for the future — a commitment to continue choosing one another through life's celebrations, challenges, successes, and uncertainties.

Every marriage is unique because every couple is unique. The promises made today reflect not only who [Bride] and [Groom] are, but also the life they hope to build together.

[Bride], please repeat after me.

I choose you,  
to be my partner in life.

To share with you  
the ordinary days  
and the extraordinary ones.

To support you in your ambitions,  
comfort you in difficult times,  
and celebrate your successes.

To listen with patience,  
to speak with honesty,  
and to act with kindness.

To respect who you are,  
to encourage who you are becoming,  
and to grow alongside you.

To laugh with you,  
learn with you,  
and face whatever life brings,  
side by side.

Today, and in all the days to come,  
I make these promises to you.

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[Groom], please repeat after me.

I choose you,  
to be my partner in life.

To share with you  
the ordinary days  
and the extraordinary ones.

To support you in your ambitions,  
comfort you in difficult times,  
and celebrate your successes.

To listen with patience,  
to speak with honesty,  
and to act with kindness.

To respect who you are,  
to encourage who you are becoming,  
and to grow alongside you.

To laugh with you,  
learn with you,  
and face whatever life brings,  
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Today, and in all the days to come,  
I make these promises to you.

## SYMBOLIC ELEMENTS

We now come to a symbolic part of today's ceremony.

[Bride] and [Groom] have chosen to take part in a handfasting ceremony. While the tradition has ancient roots, its meaning remains simple and relevant today.

In a moment, their hands will be joined and bound together with a cord. This binding is not intended to represent restriction, but connection — two individual lives choosing to move forward together, linked by love, trust, and commitment.

The cord itself does not create a marriage. The promises already spoken have done that. Instead, it serves as a visible reminder of those promises, and of the decision being made today to face the future side by side.

As their hands are joined, let it symbolise not only the bond between them, but also the support, friendship, patience, and understanding that will strengthen that bond in the years ahead.

May I invite [Bride] and [Groom] to join hands.

[Handfasting takes place]

As [Bride] and [Groom]'s hands are released, the promises they have made remain. To further symbolise those promises, they will now exchange rings.

While simple in form, they carry a powerful meaning. A ring has no beginning and no end, representing continuity, commitment, and the ongoing nature of the promises being made today.

These rings are a visible reminder of the vows that have just been spoken — a symbol not only of love, but of trust, partnership, and the life that [Bride] and [Groom] will continue to build together.

May I ask for the rings, please.

[Bride] and [Groom] exchange rings.

Thank you.

## FINAL REFLECTION

As we come towards the conclusion of this ceremony, it is worth taking a moment to recognise what has happened here today.

[Bride] and [Groom] have spoken their promises, exchanged symbols of their commitment, and chosen, in the presence of those who matter most to them, to declare their intention to share their lives together.

The future that lies ahead will not be identical to the journey that has brought them here. There will be new experiences, unexpected opportunities, challenges they cannot yet anticipate, and moments of both celebration and difficulty. That is not something to fear; it is simply part of any life shared fully.

What matters is not knowing exactly what lies ahead, but knowing who stands beside you as you face it.

May [Bride] and [Groom] continue to meet one another with patience when patience is needed, with kindness when kindness is needed, and with understanding when life becomes complicated.

May they continue to make room for laughter, for growth, and for the small everyday moments that often become life's most treasured memories.

And may the commitment they have affirmed today remain a source of strength, comfort, and joy in all the years to come.

## DECLARATION/AFFIRMATION

Today, in the presence of your family, friends, and community, you have spoken your promises to one another.

You have declared your commitment, exchanged symbols of that commitment, and affirmed your intention to continue building your lives together.

Marriage is not created by a single moment, but by countless choices made over time. Yet there are moments that deserve to be recognised, and this is one of them.

[Bride] and [Groom], today you have chosen one another openly and willingly. You have expressed your commitment before those who know and love you, and you have invited them to witness this important step in your journey together.

It therefore gives me great pleasure to acknowledge and celebrate the commitment you have made today.

May your future be shaped by the same trust, respect, friendship, and love that have brought you to this moment.

Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in celebrating [Bride] and [Groom].

## CERTIFICATE SIGNING

We will now take a few moments for [Bride] and [Groom] to sign their commemorative certificate, witnessed by those they have chosen to stand alongside them today.

As this takes place, we invite you to enjoy the music and reflect on the promises that have been shared and the commitment that has been celebrated.

[Music begins]

MUSIC: Marry You (Instrumental)

## CLOSING WORDS

And so, before we invite everyone to celebrate, I'd like to offer a few closing words.

Today has been a celebration of commitment, of partnership, and of the journey that has brought [Bride] and [Groom] to this moment. We have reflected on their story, witnessed their promises, and shared in a day that will become part of their family history for years to come.

May you stay rooted in what matters most,  
grounded in trust, honesty, and care.

May you grow together,  
allowing space for change, learning, and new seasons.

When the way forward feels clear,  
may you walk it with confidence.

And when it does not,  
may you take your bearing from one another —  
choosing, again and again,  
the direction you share.

## INVITATION TO CELEBRATE

Ladies and gentlemen, the ceremony is now complete, but the celebration is only just beginning.

Today we have witnessed [Bride] and [Groom] make their promises to one another, affirm their commitment, and share this important moment with the people who mean the most to them.

Thank you all for being part of this occasion. Your presence, support, and good wishes have helped make this day what it is.

In a moment, we invite you to continue the celebrations, to spend time together, to share stories, laughter, food, and conversation, and to create new memories that will become part of this day for years to come.

For now, however, please join me one final time in congratulating [Bride] and [Groom] and wishing them every happiness for the future.

Ladies and gentlemen, [Bride] and [Groom].

Please enjoy the celebrations.

EXIT MUSIC: Signed, Sealed, Delivered I'm Yours – Stevie Wonder