Good afternoon! Welcome. We have come to this beautiful (city) day overlooking to witness the marriage of \*\*bride\*\* and \*\*groom\*\*.

*Optional: Who gives this woman....\*\*family member\*\*: I do/We do/Her family and I do*

One of the wonderful things about a wedding is that it also serves as a multi-family reunion. Thank you all for being here for this wonderful occasion—I know many of you have traveled some distance to get here and it means so much to \*\*groom\*\* and \*\*bride\*\* that you did. And so it is that \*\*groom\*\* and \*\*bride\*\* present themselves to be married today…surrounded by the people they love the most. By your presence, you celebrate with them the love they have discovered in each other. And you support their decision to commit themselves to a lifelong relationship. Marriage is a bond to be entered into only after considerable thought and reflection. Today, their lives, which began on separate paths, will be joined as one. Today represents not only the joining of \*\*bride\*\* and \*\*groom\*\*, but also the joining of their families and friends.

Love is the strongest bond, the greatest joy and the sweetest nourishment we can ever experience. OPTIONAL From the Songs of Solomon we read:

*Bind me as a seal upon your heart, A sign upon your arm,*

*For love is as fierce as death, Its jealousy bitter as the grave.*

*Even its sparks are a raging fire, A devouring flame.*

*Great seas cannot extinguish love, No river can sweep it away.*

OPTIONAL Similarly, a passage from 1 Corinthians emphasizes the deliberate sustaining efforts associated with enduring love:

*Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.*

Any of us who has been fortunate enough to find and express the kind of loving devotion that we are celebrating here today knows that it is an awesome and beautiful thing. \*\*bride\*\* & \*\*groom\*\*; be constantly grateful for the presence of this precious person who has chosen to make a life with you. Be sure to make each other the recipient of daily kindness. The world can be a tough place and any of us can be subject to rough handling. Be generous with compliments. Be attentive and helpful. Each of you can, by your tenderness toward each other, kind words and thoughtful actions, make your marriage and your home an uplifting refuge. Most importantly, make truth the unfailing bedrock of your lives together. A happy, loving marriage is built on trust and respect. That trust and respect can only be sustained if you are both deeply committed to always being open and truthful in every exchange no matter how small.

As family and friends, you form a community of support that surrounds \*\*bride\*\* and \*\*groom\*\*

Each of you, by your presence here today is being called upon to uphold them in loving each other, always stand beside them, never between them, offer them your love and your support. Encourage them when encouragement is needed, and listen to them when they ask for advice. In these ways, you can honor this marriage into which they have come to be joined today.

\*\*bride\*\* and \*\*groom\*\*, do you come here freely and without reservation to give yourself to one another in marriage? *"We do."*

Do you pledge to create a life of mutual respect, compassion, generosity, and patience towards each other as you grow together in years?

*-We do.*

Do you pledge to recognize each other’s individuality and celebrate each other’s uniqueness as a strength in marriage. At the same time, will you guard one another’s weaknesses with understanding, support, and inspiration?

*-We do.*

As you stand here today, facing each other holding hands on your wedding day, I ask you to really look at one another and remember this moment. Up until now, you have been many things to one another - friend, companion, lover, travel partner, teacher. Now you shall say a few words that take you across a threshold of life, and things will never quite be the same between you. In a few moments, you shall say to the world, “This - is my husband. This - is my wife.”

*Groom please repeat after Officiant:*

I, \*\*groom\*\*, choose you, \*\*bride\*\* . to be my wife, my confidante and best friend. I will support and believe in you, trust and respect you, laugh and cry with you, when we are successful and prosperous, and also when we are faced with uncertainty and discouragement. To comfort, encourage, listen, and hug. I will love you, honor you and cherish you until the end of our days. I promise to support your dreams and to be there for you at all times. May we have many adventures and grow old together.

I am proud to marry you. These are my vows to you.

Now \*\*bride\*\* please repeat after Officiant:

I, \*\*bride\*\* , choose you, \*\*groom\*\*. I choose you to be my husband, my confidante and best friend. I will support and believe in you, trust and respect you, laugh and cry with you, when we are successful and prosperous, and also when we are faced with uncertainty and discouragement. To comfort, encourage, listen, and hug. I will love you, honor you and cherish you until the end of our days.I promise to support your dreams and to be there for you at all times. May we have many adventures and grow old together.

I am proud to marry you. These are my vows to you.

May I please have the rings? These rings are an unbroken circle of love. They are an outward and visible sign to all the world that you have chosen to be bonded. . Let these rings be a sign that love has a past, a present, and a future that are entwined. Whether you are together or apart for even just a moment, may these rings be a constant reminder of the promises you are making to one another this day.

*\*\*groom\*\*, please look at \*\*bride\*\* and Repeat after officiant:*

With this ring, I seal my promise, to be your faithful and loving husband. Wear it with love and joy. As this ring has no end, My love is also forever. Let it be a visible and constant reminder/symbol of my promise to be with you, for as long as I live. As it encircles your finger, may it remind you always that you are surrounded by my enduring love. *Place ring on brides left finger*

\*\*bride\*\*\*, please look at \*\*groom\*\* and Repeat after officiant:

With this ring, I seal my promise, to be your faithful and loving wife. Wear it with love and joy. As this ring has no end, My love is also forever. Let it be a visible and constant reminder/symbol of my promise to be with you, for as long as I live. As it encircles your finger, may it remind you always that you are surrounded by my enduring love. *Place ring on groom’s left finger.*

May your life together be blessed with prosperity and good health. May all the years to come be filled with moments to celebrate and renew your love. May your love be a life-long source of excitement, contentment, affection, respect, and devotion for one another

You’ve both made it clear that you can gift. BUT, can you share? Specifically, can you share chocolate?

For the ancient Mayans, the rare and desirable chocolate was revered as ambrosia that would heal you body and soul. Chocolate, in any of its forms, provides our bodies with nourishment. Chocolate not only feeds our bodies, it also can nourish our souls. For \*\*bride\*\* and \*\*groom\*\*, chocolate is a special treat that they indulge in once in a while - actually, pretty often - to bring them joy and nourish their souls.

Today, \*\*bride\*\* and \*\*groom\*\* recognize that their marriage is also a sweet treat that will bring joy to their lives and nourish their souls. For a chocolate lover, navigating the world of chocolate is as exciting as exploring discovering new and uncharted territory.  So too, should be your relationship with each other. There will be times that are sweet, filled with cream or caramel, and times that are dark and bittersweet. And probably some times that are really nutty! But every experience will nourish your body, heart and soul. By sharing these two delightful pieces of chocolate with each other, you promise to always be present for each other, in darkness and light, in sweet and bitter, in dismal and delicious.

\*\**Bride and groom each take a bite of the chocolate bar\*\*\**

\*\*bride\*\* and \*\*groom\*\*, you have traveled together and long for more travel. Today you being a new journey to your tomorrows and your forevers. Marriage is the very best part of that journey. From now on you will choose the route that you will take together; May your journey be full of delightful surprises, excitement, anticipation, eternal love, lots of good adrenaline and a happily ever after. May this journey together bring you much satisfaction, contentment, and happiness. May you be blessed with communication, intellectual growth and wisdom. Your marriage journey begins today.

OPTIONAL \*\*bride\*\* & \*\*groom\*\*, You have invited these guests to share in the celebration of your love, a love that now culminates in your union as husband and wife. I invite everyone to take a moment, close your eyes...take a slow deep breath .....and say a prayer or make a wish for the blessings of this couple today and for all their days forward.

It is my great hope that this union be forever cherished, and full of laughter. We the gathered wish you all the happiness possible..and we wish that you always have enough..and enough is always more than you ever dreamed. \*\*bride\*\* & \*\*groom\*\* having witnessed your vows for marriage and the exchanging of rings it gives me great pleasure to pronounce you husband and wife.

Please kiss each other and find happiness ever after.

Ladies and gentlemen, I present to you the loving couple \*\*bride\*\* & \*\*groom\*\* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_