The following document contains the words which you can choose from to personalise your ceremony. All of the words are optional.

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## 1. Escort Words

*These words are optional.*

**1** -Thank you, . . (first name/s) . . for escorting . . (name/names) . . here for their celebration, please take your seat/s.

## 2. Declarations

*This declaration is optional.*

I, . . . . . (full name) . . . . ., declare that I know, of no legal reason, why I may not register as . . . . . (full name’s). . . . . civil partner. I understand that on signing the document I will be forming a civil partnership with . . . (first name) . . .

## 3. Optional I Do/I Will Declarations

*These words are optional. Choose from these options or submit your own. You do not have to choose the same. Please provide us with a copy of these words if you have written your own.*

**A** - . . . (name) . . . ., do you promise to love, respect, comfort and protect . . . . (name) . . . ., and to share with them all that you are and all that is yet to be? Respond – I Do

**B** - . . (name) . . do you promise to love and respect . . (name). . from this day forward? Respond ‘I Do’

**C** - Do you . . . . (name) . . . . take . . . . (name) . . . . to be your partner? Do you promise to be loving, tolerant and loyal, always supporting . . . . (first name) . . . . throughout life? Respond ‘I Do’

**D** - . . . (name) . . . will you promise to love, respect, and cherish . . . . (name) . . . ., will you comfort and support them in times of need and share your laughter in times of joy. Will you remain loving, faithful, and true to them throughout your life together? Respond ‘I Will’

**E** - . . (name). . will you promise to love, honour and respect . . (name) . ., be their companion in life, embrace their . . . . OPPORTUNITY TO ADD SOMETHING PERSONAL – NO MORE THAN 20-30 WORDS – Please provide a copy of these words when you return this document . . , and cherish, support, and care for them through good times and bad? Respond ‘I Will’

## 4. Personal Promises

*These words are optional. You do not have to choose the same.*

**A** - . . (first name) . ., I choose you, above all others, to share my life. I promise to honour this pledge as long as I live.

**B** - I call upon you here today to witness that I . . . (full name) . . ., do take you, . . . (full name) . ., to be my legal civil partner.

**C** - In the presence of our witnesses and guests, I . . (full name) . ., choose you, . . (full name) . . , above all others, to be my partner, in law.

## 5. Additional Optional Personal Promises

*These words are optional. Choose from these options or submit your own. You do not have to choose the same. Please provide us with a copy of these words if you have written your own.*

**A** - I promise to care for you, to remain true to you and above all to love and respect you always.

**B** - . . (first name) . . , I pledge to share my life openly with you. I promise to cherish and care for you, to honour and support you. I will respect you as an individual and I will be true to you, through good times and bad. To these promises I give my word.

**C** - . . (first name) . . , I promise to laugh with you and cry with you. I promise to love you in good times and bad, when life seems easy and when it seems hard, when our love is simple or when it needs a little bit of effort, this is my promise to you today and for the rest of my life.

**D** - I promise to love and care for you and to be faithful to you always. May we look to our future together with hope, happiness, and joy, and remember this day and the feelings we share for each other.

**E** - I promise to be loving, faithful and loyal to you for the rest of our lives together.

**F** - . . (first name) . . I will love you faithfully. I will help you when you need help and will turn to you when I need help. As we face the future together, I promise to stand by your side. I choose you as the person with whom I will spend the rest of my life.

## 6. Optional Ring exchange

*These words are optional. Choose from these options or submit your own. You do not have to choose the same. Please provide us with a copy of these words if you have written your own.*

**A** - . . (first name). ., I give you this ring as a symbol of all that we have promised and all that we share.

**B** - I give you this ring as a token of my love and a sign of the promise I make to you today.

**C** - With this ring, I promise to be true to you, to support you and be there when you need me most. I give you my hand, my heart, and my love always.

**D** - . . (first name) . ., I give you this ring, in recognition of all that you mean to me. I promise to cherish and care for you, for the rest of our lives.

## 7. Readings

*Please find below a selection of readings. The reading is optional. You can choose one of the following readings or select your own. This will be read by a family member or friend.*

**Readings about Love and Life**

**L1.**

**I’ll still be loving you**

When your hair has turned to winter

And your teeth are in a plate

When your getter up & go

Has gone to stop and wait

I’ll still be loving you.

When your attributes have shifted

Beyond the bounds of grace

I’ll count your many blessings

Not the wrinkles in your face

I’ll still be loving you.

When the crackle in your voice

Matches that within your knee

And the times are getting frequent

That you don’t remember me

I’ll still be loving you.

Growing old is not a sin

It’s something we all do

I hope you’ll always understand

I’ll still be loving you.

**C. David Hay**

**L2.**

**Love is Giving**

Love is giving, not taking, mending, not breaking

Trusting, believing, never deceiving,

Patiently bearing and faithfully sharing

Each joy, every sorrow, today and tomorrow

Love is kind, understanding, but never demanding

Love is constant, prevailing, it’s strength never failing

A promise once spoken, for all time unbroken

Love’s time is forever

*Anon*

**L3.**

**Love is the most incredible of all experiences**

Love is the most incredible of all experiences to touch our lives.

It creates for us the world that we want to live in from the beginning of our lives,

We know that love is the power that comforts and protects us;

It is the one feeling that we can depend on to help us

Through life’s ups and downs, love is the understanding and security that never changes;

It allows us to be ourselves and feel self – confident.

Today, as the two of you join together and commit your love to each other,

Remember the lessons of love that you have always known.

Let your love comfort, support and encourage you.

Let your love be the best part of your lives;

Always know that it will make everything better;

And it will make your world a place of happiness.

*Anon*

**L4.**

**Love**

Love is worth a sacrifice and letting go of pride,

Worth a bit of toiling - if the toiling’s side by side.

Worth a little parting though the parting means much pain

Worth the weary waiting when the loved ones meet again.

Love is worth the losing of an independent start,

Worthwhile thrusting selfish wild ambitions from the heart.

Love is worth dividing all the dreams and plans in two,

Changing them, reshaping them to compass both of you.

Though certain pleasures fade away when single days are gone,

Other deeper worlds of joy are always added on.

*Anon*

**L5.**

**Doves Poem**

Two doves meeting in the sky

Two loves hand in hand, eye to eye

Two parts of a loving whole

Two hearts and a single soul

Two stars shining big and bright

Two fires bringing warmth and light

Two songs played in perfect tune

Two flowers growing into bloom

Two doves gliding in the air

Two loves free without a care

Two parts of a loving whole

Two hearts and a single soul

Two dreams found before too late

Two lives together bound by fate

Two people cling to one another

Two people in love with each other

Two doves, can you see them soar?

Two loves – who could ask for more?

*Anon*

**L6.**

**You can give without loving**

You can give without loving but you can never love without giving.

The great acts of love are done by those who are

habitually performing small acts of kindness. We

pardon to the extent that we love. Love is knowing

that even when you are alone, you will never be truly

alone again. And great happiness of life is the

conviction that we are loved. Loved for ourselves.

And even loved in spite of ourselves.

*Victor Hugo (1802 – 1885)*

**L7.**

**The One**

When the one whose hand you are holding

Is the one who holds your heart

When the one whose eyes you gaze into

Gives your hopes and dreams their start,

When the one you think of first and last

Is the one who holds you tight,

And the things you plan together

Make the whole world seem just right,

When the one whom you believe in

Puts their faith and trust in you,

You’ve found the one and only love

You’ll share your whole life through.

*Anon*

**L8.**

**Now we will feel no rain**

Now we will feel no rain,

For each of us will be shelter for the other.

Now we will feel no cold,

For each of us will be warmth for the other.

Now there will be no loneliness,

For each of us will be companion to the other.

We are two bodies,

But there are three lives before us:

My life, your life and our life together.

When evening falls,

I will look up and there you’ll be.

I’ll take your hand you’ll take mine

And we’ll turn together to look at the road we travelled to reach this the hour of our happiness.

It stretches behind us as the future lies ahead,

A long and winding road whose every turning means discovery.

Old hopes, new laughter and shared tears.

The adventure has just begun.

*From an American Indian ceremony – version two*

**L9.**

**From heart to heart**

Our love is like a lovely bridge

Between your heart and mine

A bridge we’ve built down through the years

Just to our own design.

It’s based on happy memories

Of the good times that we’ve known

The hopes and dreams we two have shared

The thoughtfulness you’ve shown.

It’s stronger now than ever

For it’s grown with every smile

And every act of kindness

That makes life seem more worthwhile.

And now I know that if you’re near

Or if we’re miles apart,

Our love still unites us

With a bridge from heart to heart.

*Anon*