**Non-Religious Wedding Ceremony Script**

Prelude:

(Play Some Music Here)

Processional:

We are gathered here today to celebrate one of life's greatest relationships – the union between man and woman and this union we call marriage.  As you, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**, are joined together in this marriage, I ask you both to search your hearts for the wisdom of this covenant, which has from ancient times been expressed with those ideas that come from the heart.

Presentation of the Bride:

Who gives this woman to wed this man

Opening Remarks:

Welcome everyone...(a little ad-libbing from the officiant is good here.  Talk about people that had to travel far.  Or talk about loved ones that couldn't make it.).

Since the laws of this community governing marriages have been met, the joining of these two people shall now take place.  Before the vows are taken, however, it is my responsibility to remind each of you of the significance and importance of the relationship you are on the threshold of entering.

Address:

The promises you are about to make to each other are ones of irrevocable love, fidelity, cooperation, and understanding through life and all of life’s difficult challenges.  I urge each of you to live up to the commitments you are now making to one another.

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 no other relationship can equal, a physical and emotional joining that is promised for a lifetime.

Readings:

Readings can really go anywhere you like in the ceremony.  Here are some readings I've put together to inspire you:

Continuation of Address:

Within the circle of 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 counselor.  Marriage deepens and enriches every facet of life.  Happiness is fuller, memories are fresher, and commitment is stronger.

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.

In reminding you to observe your marital duties and obligations I have done my part.  And now it is your turn…

Please join hands and look into each other’s eyes.

Declaration of Intent:

(You'll first ask the groom to declare his intent and then follow with his vows.  Then you'll ask the bride to declare her intent and then follow with her vows.)

Do you **Groom** have this woman to be your wedded wife and will you be faithful to her as long as you shall live?

Groom: “I do.”

Vows:

Then repeat after me:

I, **Groom**, take you, **Bride**, to be my wedded wife,/ to have and to hold from this day forward,/ for better, for worse,/ for richer, for poorer,/ in sickness and in health,/ to love and to cherish,/ till death do us part.

Do you **Bride** have this man to be your wedded husband and will you be faithful to him as long as you shall live?

Bride: “I do.”

Then repeat after me:

I, **Bride**, take you, **Groom**, to be my wedded husband,/ to have and to hold from this day forward,/ for better, for worse,/ for richer, for poorer,/ in sickness and in health,/ to love and to cherish,/ till death do us part.

Exchange of Rings:

May I have the rings?

These rings are symbols of eternity and the unbroken circle of love. Love freely given has no beginning and no end.  Today you have chosen to exchange rings, as a sign of your love for each other, and as a seal of the promises you make this day. We ask that God bless these rings and this union of souls.

**Groom**, place the ring on **Bride’s**finger and repeat after me:

With this ring/ I give you my heart/ I promise from this day forward/ You shall not walk alone/ May my heart be your shelter/ And my arms be your home.

Benediction:

Your two lives are now joined in one unbroken circle.  Wherever you go, may you always return to one another in your togetherness.  May you two find in each other the love for which all men and women long for.  May you grow in understanding and compassion.  And may these two rings symbolize the spirit of undying love in the hearts of both of you.

Before I pronounce you husband and wife, I want you to take a few seconds to look into each other’s eyes.  Think about the happiness you’re feeling…at this moment.  Let those feelings sink deep into your hearts.

I hope this moment and these feelings will stick with you all the days of your lives.

And with that, inasmuch as you, **Groom**, and you, **Bride**, have announced the truths that are already written in your hearts, by the power vested in me by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I now pronounce you husband and wife.

**Groom**, you may kiss your Bride!