The Wedding Service

A wedding has the same flow as a regular service of worship. Both the music and the space are designed to let people that they are stepping out of ordinary time and space into sacred time and space. The "choreography" of the service does the same. The service begins with the Pastor entering with one or both persons in the couple, along with attendants, etc. When everyone is in place, the Pastor offers words of welcome and invites people to breathe in God's gifts. After a few words, she or he then invites people into a prayer of invocation to ask God's blessing on what we are about to do in the service.

The invocation is followed by readings from scripture--and sometimes other readings--that speak of love and relationships--not only the love between two people, but also God's love for us. There are some readings suggested in the various services that we encourage you to look at. (If the truth be known, the Bible doesn't really say a whole lot about marriage in specific--but it does have a lot to say about love and what's really important in relationships).

The Pastor then offers a (brief) reflection (not a full sermon by any means) on what we're doing—and why we're doing it.

That leads into the making of the covenant. Before you make your vows to each other, the Pastor asks you to step forward and to declare your intention—individually—to enter into the covenant of marriage. The Pastor then asks your family and friends to offer their blessing as well. Then you turn to each other and offer your vows to each other. The rings are a sign of those vows--and a prayer is offered both over the rings and after the covenant is complete.

The Pastor then "presents" you as a married couple to the congregation and invites you to share an embrace, kiss, whatever :-). There is a final prayer and the benediction--and you process out.

In terms of the vows, declaration of intention, and family and friends blessing--there are a number of ways of saying those parts. Listed below are some examples.