

Formal Beach Wedding

Jenna and Eric

Processional

Welcome

On behalf of Jenna, Eric and their families I would like to welcome you to this most important occasion . We invite you to leave behind the worries and concerns of everyday life and join us in the celebration of their marriage.

This is an opportunity for us to share not only in the joy of Eric and Jenna's love but also to reaffirm and appreciate the love and the friendship we experience in our own lives. May we all celebrate by being fully present during our time together this evening.

Jenna and Eric have chosen this setting in which to be married because it provides an appropriate backdrop for the public affirmation of their love.

Marriage consists of entrusting our deepest selves into the loving care of another. It is a public and legal act to be sure. It is also an emotional and spiritual act. The spiritual aspect of marriage must be embraced openly, seriously, and completely for the marriage to endure.

Jenna and Eric commit themselves today, to each other, in sacred trust. They promise to embrace conflict as well as peace; to work as well as play; to struggle as well as coast; to give as well as receive; and to be with, stay with, and move toward one another.

Prayer

Father we bear witness to your greatness as we look out across the vastness of the ocean. We feel your presence among us, here on this beautiful beach, as we gather to celebrate the marriage of Jenna and Eric. We praise and worship you as the giver of life and creator of all good things. As we enter into this service, we most particularly give you thanks for the holy union of marriage, the most sacred of all human relationships. We ask for your blessings upon Jenna and Eric as they prepare to enter into the holy union of married life. Amen

Please be seated.

Giving Away of the Bride

Who is giving this woman to be married to this man?

Bride's father answers: "I do"

Declaration of Consent

Please face each other and hold hands.

Eric, will you have this woman to be your wife, to live together in the holy covenant of marriage? Will you love her, comfort her, honor her, and keep her in sickness and in health and, forsaking all others, be faithful to her so long as you both shall live? If so, answer, "I will."

Jenna, will you have this man to be your husband, to live together in the holy covenant of marriage? Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him in sickness and in health and, forsaking all others, be faithful to him so long as you both shall live? If so, answer, "I will."

The Marriage Vows

Eric, you will repeat after me: I, Eric, take you, Jenna, to be my 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 until death do us part.

Jenna, you will likewise repeat after me: I, Jenna, take you, Eric, to be my 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 until death do us part.

Scripture

The Word of God tells us what love is like and what love does:

"If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

"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.

"And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love" (1 Corinthians 13:1-7, 13).

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The Exchange of Rings

Having this kind of love in your hearts, you have chosen to exchange rings as the sign and seal of the vows you are making today.

Though small in size, these rings are very large in significance. Made of precious metal, they remind us that love is not cheap, nor common; indeed, love may cost us dearly. Made in a circle, their design tells us that love must never come to an end; we must keep it continuous. As you wear these rings, whether together or apart for a moment, may they be constant reminders of these glad promises that you are making today.

Eric, you will take your ring and place it upon Jenna's left hand, and repeat after me this promise: I give you this ring as a symbol of my vow, and with all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you.

Jenna, you will take your ring and place it upon Eric's left hand, and repeat after me this promise: I give you this ring as a symbol of my vow, and with all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you.

Sand Ceremony

As I stand in this beautiful place and look out over the landscape, I am in awe of the forces of nature that have sculpted it over the eons. The force of the wind and the waves, the gravitational pull of the moon, thunderstorms and hurricanes each in their turn have exerted a measurable force of transformation. And today we are here to recognize and celebrate a force which is even greater than any of those.

Love is a force more formidable than any other. It cannot be seen or measured, yet it is powerful enough to transform you in a moment, and offer you more joy than any material possession ever could. But although this love joins you together as one, remember the gift of your individuality. Cherish and affirm your differences as you love each other. Be supportive of your strengths, and tender towards your weaknesses. Laugh together, cry together, be comforted by each other's presence, and secure in each other's absence.

To symbolize the importance of each of you within the marriage and the joining of your two lives into one, 3 colors of sand will now be combined in a sand ceremony.

First, we will pour sand from this beautiful beach, where Jenna and Eric stand committing their lives to each other, representing the strong foundation of their relationship. Then Eric and Jenna will each separately pour their sand into the vase, symbolizing who they are as individuals. Then, they will pour together, blending their two colors as a symbol of their joining together forever in love. Lastly, I will add another layer of beach sand, representing you, their community, supporting them in their marriage and holding them in love. Though the vase may be moved around, and the colors may shift and blend in new ways, the grains of sand cannot be separated.

They will remain joined in a harmonious whole. May your love be as eternal and as inseparable as this sand.

Prayer for the Bride and Groom

Father, we come today as family, friends, those who are physically present and those whom we love who are now with you, asking your blessing upon these two lives and this home being established. You have made us so that we are incomplete without the other so that we yearn for someone whom we can love and whose love we can receive. We are thankful for the love we see here, and even more, for the love we feel from you. Let us never take your love for granted.

We pray that your love will be a safe harbor for Jenna and Eric. When joy comes, may they share it together. When sorrow threatens, may they bear it together. In gladness or in tears, in sunshine or shadow, may they ever draw closer to each other and nearer to you.

May they navigate the storms of life with patience, gentleness, and forbearance, anchored in a deep embrace of unfailing love. Shelter their home from those forces that would break it apart.

We ask for health, for long life, for the fulfillment of every good dream. May their love continue through life and, finally, blend into the life eternal.

We pray these things in confidence.

Amen.

Pronouncement of Marriage

Jenna and Eric, You have come before us and before God and have expressed your desire to be husband and wife. You have shown your love and affection by joining hands, have made promises of faith and devotion, each to the other, and have sealed these promises by the giving and receiving of rings.

I, therefore, pronounce that you are husband and wife. May God bless you and keep you and give you his peace. Amen.

What God has joined together, let no man separate.

Eric, you may kiss your bride!

Presentation

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my privilege to present to you Mr. and Mrs. Eric xxxxxx!