

1 Processional

2 Welcome

Officiant:

Welcome, family and friends. We gather here today to celebrate the wedding of Laura and Jason. You have come here to share in this commitment they make to one another, to offer your love and support to this union, and to allow Laura and Jason to start their married life together surrounded by the those most important to them.

Jason and Laura would like to thank you for your presence here today, and now ask for your blessing, encouragement, and lifelong support, for their decision to be married.

3 Definition of Marriage

Officiant:

Marriage is perhaps the greatest and most challenging adventure of human relationships. No ceremony can create your marriage; only you can do that—through love and patience; through dedication and perseverance; by communicating with each other—by helping, supporting and believing in your spouse’s goals; with tenderness and laughter; while learning to forgive and to appreciate your differences. Marriage challenges you to make the important things count, and let go of the rest. What this ceremony can do is witness and affirm the choice you make to stand together as lifemates and partners.

4 Readings

Officiant:

Jason and Laura both believe that strong friendships are important to a marriage. With that in mind, they have asked two friends to read a selection about love that resonates with them.

“Oh the Places You’ll Go”

by Dr Seuss

Congratulations! Today is your day.
You’re off to Great Places! You’re off and away!
You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes.
You can steer yourself any direction you choose.
You’re on your own. And you know what you know.
And YOU are the couple who’ll decide where to go.
You’ll look up and down streets. Look ’em over with care.
About some you will say, “We don’t choose to go there.”
With your heads full of brains and your shoes full of feet,
You’re too smart to go down, any not-so-good street.
And you may not find any you’ll want to go down.
In that case, of course, you’ll head straight out of town.
It’s opener there in the wide open air,
Out there things can happen and frequently do
to people as brainy and footsy as you.
And when things start to happen, don’t worry. Don’t stew.
Just go right along. You’ll start happening too.

OH! THE PLACES YOU’LL GO!

You’ll be on your way up! You’ll be seeing great sights!
You’ll join the high fliers who soar to great heights!
You won’t lag behind, because you’ll have all the speed.
You’ll pass the whole gang, and you’ll soon take the lead.
Wherever you fly you’ll be best of the best.
Wherever you go, you will top all the rest.
Except when you don’t. Because sometimes, you won’t.
You’ll get mixed up of course, as you already know.
You’ll get mixed up with so many strange birds as you go.
So be sure when you step.
Step with great care and great tact
and remember that Life’s a Great Balancing Act.
Just never forget to be dexterous and deft.
And never mix up your right foot with your left.
And will you succeed?
Yes! You will indeed!
98 and 3/4 percent guaranteed.

5 Declaration of Intent

Officiant:

Laura and Jason will now declare their intent to be married. Will you, Jason, take Laura to be your wedded wife?

Jason:

I will

Officiant:

Will you, Laura, take Jason to be your wedded husband?

Laura:

I will

6 Wedding Vows

Officiant:

We've come to the point of your ceremony where you're going to say your vows to one another. But before you do that, I ask you to remember that love – which is rooted in faith, trust, and acceptance - will be the foundation of an abiding and deepening relationship. No other ties are more tender, no other vows more sacred than those you now assume. If you are able to keep the vows you take here today, not because of any religious or civic law, but out of a desire to love and be loved by each other fully, without limitation, then your life will have joy and the home you establish will be a place in which you both will find the direction of your growth, your freedom, and your responsibility.

Officiant:

Please read the vows you have written for each other.

Laura:

Jason,

For the last five and a half years, you have been an incredible force in my life. You are my best friend, my confidante, my strongest supporter, and the person I can't wait to spend the rest of my life with. In that time I promise to stand by your side as together we face the challenges of life, and share the joy of living. I will take care of you when you're sick, comfort you when you're sad, and laugh with you every day. I promise to always be there for you when you need me most. If life's got you down and you just need a hug, I'll be there. If you want to sit around in your pajamas on a Sunday and play video games all day, I'll be there. If you want to fall asleep next to someone while watching QVC in bed, I'll be there. And if you want someone to love you for the rest of your life, I'm here. I love you, Jason.

Jason:

Laura,

Five years ago you sent me a letter with the key to your heart, each day since then you have become even more my friend, someone to laugh with, count on, and especially, love. There is no one else I would rather spend each coming day with. Five years ago you sent me a letter with the key to your heart, today in return I promise you my eternal friendship, support, and love.

Officiant:

May we have the rings, please?

Officiant:

Laura, Please repeat after me: *I give you this ring, as a daily reminder of my love for you.*

Laura:

I give you this ring, as a daily reminder of my love for you.

Officiant:

Jason, Please repeat after me: *I give you this ring, as a daily reminder of my love for you.*

Jason:

I give you this ring, as a daily reminder of my love for you.

Officiant:

By the power of your love and commitment I now pronounce you husband and wife!
You may kiss each other!

7 Recessional