



ECKERD COLLEGE

CEREMONY OF LIGHTS

Benediction

Rabbi Ed Rosenthal, Campus Rabbi

August 9, 2024
McArthur Gymnasium

In the words of the great sage Albus Percival Wulfric Brian Dumbledore: “It is not our abilities that show what we truly are. It is our choices.”

As the newest members of the Eckerd College community, you have made perhaps the biggest choice of your lives, up until now, by being here today.

Over the next four years, you will be faced with many more choices.

Choose wisely.

We pray that you will live compassionately.

We pray that you will be comfortable and confident to be yourself.

That you will be creative.

Show gratitude.

Learn. Think outside.

Be bold and be resilient.

We pray that you will never be a bystander. Be there for each other. Stand
Up for each other. If you see something, say something.

Do Something.

Study, work, and play, but always ... always be kind to one another so that
the strength of love may overcome hate, the flame of faith (whatever that

be) may prevail over despair, and the light of hope will fill your hearts with courage—today, tomorrow, and in the years to come.

Magic doesn't just exist at Hogwarts. The next four years are going to be magical. Believe in the magic of Eckerd College.

Welcome ...

Oh ... Amen.