

# **The 195th Fall Convocation**

Friday, August 28, 2020

3:00 p.m.

Convocation Address by Bishop Peggy Johnson



**Lancaster**  
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

**Lancaster Theological Seminary  
Fall Convocation 2020**

**Prelude**

**“Bless the Lord”  
Andraé Crouch**

**\*Processional**

**“God is Here, As We Your People Meet”  
NCH 70, Verses 1 & 4 (*Tune: Abbot’s Leigh*)**

**God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer,  
may we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.  
Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts  
wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.**

**Sovereign God, of earth and heaven, in an age of change and doubt  
keep us faithful to the gospel, help us work your purpose out.  
Here, in this day’s dedication, all we have to give, receive;  
we, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!**

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**Welcome**

**President Rowe**

**Litany of Gathering**

Adapted from a litany written by the Rev. Dr. Catherine E. Williams

- One: For the gathering together of God’s people across the distances to mark the beginning of our new journey together...
- Many: We enter this time and place.
- One: For the Spirit of God who allows us to engage in acts of prayer, moments of healing, opportunities for reconciliation, calls to action, and the sharing of peace while sheltered in place...
- Many: We give thanks for this time and place.
- One: For the Word of God that proclaims good news to the poor, justice to the oppressed, freedom to the enslaved, and the enduring hope of God’s blessed and eternal reign...
- Many: We honor this time and place.

One: For the voices raised in song, and for the musical instruments that declare the praises of our good and gracious God...

Many: We rejoice in this time and place.

One: For silence and sound, artistry and simplicity, faith and doubt, and for every spectrum of human yearning...

Many: We embrace the stillness of this time and place. *(30 seconds of silence)*

One: For the flourishing of learning and wisdom, as this community works for the redemption and liberation of all of God's creation...

Many: We give thanks for this time and place.

One: Hear these prayers O God; weave them together with our unspoken dreams and desires for our seminary.

Many: Weave them together with your vision for us and for the world in which we live, so that, through our practices of worship here and beyond, your love and justice may spread far and wide. For these and all other blessings we give thanks and bless your holy name.  
Amen.

**Recognitions**

**President Rowe**

**Prayer for the Seminary**

**Jennifer Weitzel**

**Special Music – Liz Fulmer**

**“Wesleyan Covenant Prayer”**

**Introduction of Speaker**

**The Rev. Dr. Darryl Stephens**

**Convocation Address: *What is Your Superpower?***

**Bishop Peggy Johnson**

**\*Sending Song**

**“As a Fire is Meant for Burning”**

**Blessing & Benediction**

**President Rowe**

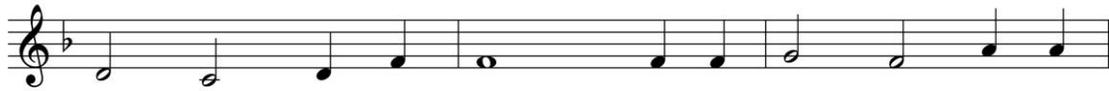
**\*Recessional**

**“Laudation”  
by Gilbert Martin**

# As a Fire Is Meant for Burning



1. As a fire is meant for burn - ing With a  
2. We are learn - ers; we are teach - ers; We are  
3. As a green bud in the spring - time Is a



bright and warm - ing flame, So the church is meant for  
pil - grims on the way. We are seek - ers; we are  
sign of life re - newed, So may we be signs of



mis - sion, Giv - ing glo - ry to God's name.  
giv - ers; We are ves - sels made of clay.  
one - ness 'Mid earth's peo - ples, man - y hued.



Not to preach our creeds or cust - oms, But to  
By our gen - tle, lov - ing ac - tions, We would  
As a rain - bow lights the heav - ens When a



build a bridge of care, We join hands a - cross the  
show that Christ is light. In a hum - ble, lis - t'ning  
storm is past and gone, May our lives re - flect the



na - tions, Find - ing neigh - bors ev - 'ry - where.  
Spir - it, We would live to God's de - light.  
ra - diance Of God's new and glor - ious dawn.



**Bishop Peggy A. Johnson** is a native of Baltimore, Maryland and serves as the episcopal leader of the Philadelphia Area of the United Methodist Church, which includes the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference and the Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference. She received a Bachelor of Science degree from Lebanon Valley College, a Master of Divinity from Asbury Theological Seminary and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Wesley Theological Seminary. Prior to her election to the episcopacy in 2008, she served as a pastor in the Baltimore-Washington Conference since 1980. Her churches included a 4-point rural circuit in Frederick, MD, a suburban Baltimore congregation, a campus ministry at Gallaudet University and for 20 years, she

was the pastor of the Christ UMC of the Deaf. Bishop Johnson has a particular passion for ministry with people with disabilities. During her tenure as a bishop, she has served as a board member on the Commission on the Status and Role of Women and on the General Board of Church and Society. She authored a UMW “Mission U” study book: “The Church and Disabilities” in 2014. She is married to the Rev. Michael C. Johnson, a United Methodist pastor, and they have two adult sons, Peter and Gabriel.

### **Participants in Litany of Gathering**

Vanessa Lovelace – *Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of the Seminary*

Equilla Curry – *Student*

Anne Thayer – *Professor of Church History*

Parker Loesch – *Interim Director of Admissions and Financial Aid*

Kathy Harvey Nelson – *Adjunct Faculty, Alumna*

Freeman Palmer – *Trustee*

Robert Garvey – *Student*

Dan Jurman – *Student*

### **Musicians**

Rev. Scott Siciliano, '17, Piano/Pipe Organ

Rev. Dr. Darryl Stephens, Trumpet

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