

BACCALAUREATE SERVICE

MAY 9, 2020

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’
teaching and fellowship.”



BACCALAUREATE SERVICE

GATHERING AS THE BODY OF CHRIST.

PRELUDE

“BE THOU MY VISION”

ARR. SCOTT SICILIANO

REV. SCOTT SICILIANO, ORGAN, DR. DARRYL STEPHENS, TRUMPET

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRESIDENT LYTCH

GATHERING SONG

“ORDER MY STEPS”

GLENN BURLEIGH

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

OPENING HYMN

“GATHERED, NOURISHED, AND SENT”

DORSEY & FULMER

Sung to the hymn tune, “Beach Spring”

In your presence here we gather to be fed and feed your sheep,
'Til that hour unbeknownst to us you shall comfort all who weep.
Breathe your spirit on us gathered, You who call us to unite.
Loose the ties of greed and prejudice; make us beacons of your light.

Spirit flowing, stretching, growing, making room for all we need
Hearts discerning, minds for learning, love for God's community
We may struggle on the journey in pursuit of what is right
God stays with us, in the midst of every moment of our lives.

Holy ground we're fed and found here, given grace for what may come
God is faithful, we're enabled to create a place of love
Where the people cry for justice, we will raise our voices, too
One, yet many, hope aplenty, we will build the world anew.

Send us forth in truth and mercy; may we go and do likewise:
Clothe the desperate, feed the hungry, visit those so oft despised.
As a pebble tossed in water sends forth ripples far and wide,
Let the work of us, your instruments, yield the love that heals divides.

CONFESSION & WORDS OF ASSURANCE

[All are invited to join us in a word of confession.]

One O Present God, our lives are often filled with distractions big and small. We confess that like the disciples we are easily scared by the unknown. We can be overcome with worry about illness, unemployment, our children, our lovers and spouses, our parents and friends, our nation, and the world as a whole. In our most vulnerable moments, we demand that you answer us when we call to you. But often we do not listen for you or seek your unexpected, grace-filled presence in the midst of our trouble.

Many Forgive us for our demands. Be gracious to us and hear the longing found within our silent prayers.

Remind us that your light shines in all moments of life. Let us feel the gladness you have placed in our hearts --more plentiful than grain and grapes— and let us live out of that glad confidence. In our waking and in our slumber, give us peace. Easter People, may living water wash over us, may the light of God's peace shine upon us in all that we say, do, think, feel, and love. We have the new dawn of God within us this day and always!

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Peace be with you!

And also with you!

Let us share this peace with one another through sign language, or by using the chat feature.

SUNG RESPONSE

“PRAYER FOR PEACE”

DAVID HAAS

**Peace before us,
Peace behind us,
Peace under our feet.
Peace within us,
Peace over us,
Let all around us be peace.**

vs 1: **Peace...**

vs 2: **Love...**

vs 3: **Light...**

SERVICE OF THE WORD

POEM

“LEAD”

MARY OLIVER

Mary Oliver’s “Lead” is a poem to break our hearts. It holds particular significance for the cross-cultural cohort who traveled to Israel-Palestine in May 2019, whose hearts and eyes were, indeed, opened by the trip. And it brings to all of us now a word of honesty and encouragement for the journey ahead.

Here is a story
to break your heart.
Are you willing?
This winter
the loons came to our harbor
and died, one by one,
of nothing we could see.
A friend told me
of one on the shore
that lifted its head and opened
the elegant beak and cried out
in the long, sweet savoring of its life
which, if you have heard it,
you know is a sacred thing,
and for which, if you have not heard it,
you had better hurry to where
they still sing.
And, believe me, tell no one
just where that is.
The next morning
this loon, speckled
and iridescent and with a plan
to fly home
to some hidden lake,
was dead on the shore.
I tell you this
to break your heart,
by which I mean only
that it break open and never close again
to the rest of the world.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

ACTS 2:37-47

NRSV

³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” ³⁸ Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.”

⁴⁰ And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” ⁴¹ So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. ⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³ Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.

⁴⁶ Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Hear what God is saying to the people.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

THE GIFT OF WELL INFORMED LEADERSHIP

MYKA KENNEDY STEPHENS

SUNG RESPONSE

“PRAYER FOR PEACE” REPRISE

**Love before us,
Love behind us,
Love under our feet.
Love within us,
Love over us,
Let all around us be Love.**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia**

BACCALAUREATE LITANY

This litany seeks to ecumenically invite people to share in an act of reflection, self-offering, and prayer.

One Today is a gift from God. Gathered on the edge of a milestone, we offer to God what we have to give: ourselves and the stirrings of our hearts and minds. Let us bless God.

All **Blessed be God!**

Graduates **Strange, surreal, like a high peak where we can look back over the way we've come and ahead to where we have not yet walked. Exciting! Scary! We're ready!**

All **Blessed be God!**

Parents and Faculty **We did our job- coaching, challenging, encouraging, risking our passion in hope that they would not only graduate, but believe in themselves as gifted, loveable people who are contributors in a world that needs them.**

All **Blessed be God!**

Religious leaders, trustees, alums, friends & well-wishers

Tradition and vision mean so much to us: God, love, justice, faith, hope, kindness, the Golden Rule, the Great Commandments, the Seven Principles, and so many life principles in which our faith traditions are grounded.

May the holy and divine Life of the world be a pathway for you as you commence your journey and find your way.

All **Blessed be God! How good it is, Divine Spirit, to share this moment of anticipation: grateful, alive, feeling whole and entering into the rest of our lives. Thank you for this milestone. Blessed be God!**

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

PRESENTATION

DEAN LOVELACE

THE BLESSING OF PRESIDENT CAROL LYTCH

Dean (Says words of farewell and blessing to President Lytch, ending with...)
 We bless you as you go!
Many **We bless you as you go!**

PRESIDENT'S RESPONSE

GOING FORTH AS THE BODY OF CHRIST

SENDING SONG **“THERE’S A FEELING IN THE AIR”** **VALDESE GARLINGTON**

**There’s a feeling in the air; God is everywhere,
And God’s resurrection power is moving in this hour that Jesus might be glorified.
(Repeat)**

**Let us glorify the name of the Lord, glorify God’s name.
God’s resurrection power is moving in this hour that Jesus might be glorified.
(Repeat)**

PARTING WORDS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEAN LOVELACE

CLOSING SONG

“TOTAL PRAISE”

RICHARD SMALLWOOD

BENEDICTION & CHARGE

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR MYKA KENNEDY STEPHENS

POSTLUDE

“PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY” ARR. SUSAN CANDILL
REV. SCOTT SICILIANO, ORGAN, DR. DARRYL STEPHENS, TRUMPET

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Prayer for Illumination: From <https://northchurchindy.wordpress.com/test/prayers-for-illumination/>.

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<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/graduation-baccalaureate-resources>.

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**The worship planning team creates all other parts of the liturgy except where noted.*

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The Worship Team seeks:

To serve the universal church of our Creator.

To minister to the unique and diverse needs of the seminary community.

To foster an expansive culture of worship that values difference, and challenges the normative.

Master's Graduates



Doctor of Ministry Graduates



Anglican Studies Certificate Graduates



Regular Faculty



Worship Team

