

# BACCALAUREATE SERVICE

MAY 7, 2022



“...DO YOU LOVE ME MORE THAN THESE?...FEED MY SHEEP.” JN 21:15



# GATHERING AS THE BODY OF CHRIST.

**PRELUDE**

**“GATHER US IN”**

**ARR. JEANNE COTTER**

REV. SCOTT SICILIANO, PIANO

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

**DEAN VACEK**

**CENTERING SONG**

**“ORDER MY STEPS”**

**BY GLENN BURLEIGH**

REV. DR. KELLIE TURNER & ENSEMBLE

**INVITATION TO WORSHIP**

**OPENING HYMN**

**“GATHER US IN” (SEE PG. 7)**

**MARTY HAUGEN**

**CONFESSION & WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

[All are invited to turn towards the baptismal font.]

The baptismal font reminds us of God’s promise of cleansing and forgiveness. In that confidence, let us lift our hearts in a prayer of confession.

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.

**ALL**

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

[The assembly prays silently.]

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.

People of Eastertide, 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 appropriate gestures and signs.

## **SERVICE OF THE WORD**

### **READING**

### **"THRESHOLDS"**

**JOHN O'DONOHUE**

*O'Donohue's words have special significance for those who graduate from seminary today.*

Student: Jenifer Butler

A threshold is not a simple boundary; it is a frontier that divides two different territories, rhythms, and atmospheres. Indeed, it is a lovely testimony to the fullness and integrity of an experience or a stage of life that it intensifies toward the end into a real frontier that cannot be crossed without the heart being passionately engaged and woken up.

At this threshold a great complexity of emotion comes alive: confusion, fear, excitement, sadness, hope. This is one of the reasons such vital crossings were always clothed in ritual.

It is wise in your own life to be able to recognize and acknowledge the key thresholds: to take your time; to feel all the varieties of presence that accrue there; to listen inward with complete attention until you hear the inner voice calling you forward.

The time has come to cross.

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Holy God, giver of peace, author of truth, may your Spirit abide among us in the reading of scripture to expose the sins that divide us and explore the hope that unites us in Jesus Christ, who is our center and our circumference. **Amen.**

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

**Thanks be to God!**

**INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER**

**DEAN VACEK**

**SERMON**

**REV. DR. NELSON RIVERA**

## **RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**MUSIC FOR REFLECTION**

**MACINTOSH'S LAMENT**

**ARR. CHRISTINE MARTIN**

DEACONESS MYKA KENNEDY STEPHENS

### **BACCALAUREATE LITANY**

Graduates, faculty, alumni/ae, and the whole assembly share in an act of reflection, self-offering, and prayer.

Dean V. 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!**

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, compassionate people who are contributors in a world that needs them.

**All Blessed be God!**

Alumni/ae 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 to share this moment of anticipation:  
grateful, alive, feeling whole and entering into the rest of our lives.  
Thank you, God, for this milestone. Amen!**

## **GOING FORTH AS THE BODY OF CHRIST**

**PARTING WORDS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**DEAN LOVELACE**

**SENDING SONG**

**“O HAPPY DAY”**

**HAWKINS**

**O HAPPY DAY! O HAPPY DAY!**

**WHEN JESUS WASHED, OH WHEN HE WASHED, WHEN JESUS WASHED**

**HE WASHED MY SINS AWAY (O HAPPY DAY, O HAPPY DAY)**

**HE TAUGHT ME HOW TO WATCH AND PRAY**

**AND LIVE REJOICING EVERY DAY.**

**BENEDICTION & CHARGE**

**REV. DR. NELSON RIVERA**

**POSTLUDE**

**“FESTIVAL ALLELUIA”**

**DAN MILLER**

**REV. SCOTT SICILIANO, ORGAN**

Christ is alive and goes before us to show and share what love can do.

This is a day of new beginnings; our God is making all things new.

*Brian Wren*

Marty Haugen



1. Here in this place, new light is stream-ing, now is the  
 2. We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the  
 3. Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will  
 4. Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin - ing, not in some



1. dark - ness, van - ished a - way, See, in this space, our  
 2. old who yearn for your face, We have been sung through-  
 3. take the bread of new birth, Here you shall call your  
 4. heav - en, light years a - way, but here in this place, the



1. fears and our dream-ings, brought here to you in the light of this  
 2. out all of his - t'ry, called to be light to the whole hu - man  
 3. sons and your daugh - ters, call us a - new to be salt for the  
 4. new light is shin - ing, now is the King - dom now is the



1. day, Gath - er us in the lost and for - sa - ken, Gath - er us  
 2. race, Gath - er us in the rich and the haugh - ty, Gath - er us  
 3. earth, Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, Give us to  
 4. day, Gath - er us in and hold us for - ev - er, Gath - er us



1. in the blind and the lame; Call to us now, and we shall a -  
 2. in the proud and the strong; Give us a heart so meek and so  
 3. eat the bread that is you; Nour - ish us well, and teach us to  
 4. in and make us your own; Gath - er us in all peo - ples to -



1. wa - ken, we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.  
 2. low - ly, give us the cour-age to en - ter the song.  
 3. fash - ion, lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.  
 4. gath - er, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

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**Reading:** An excerpt from "Thresholds" by John O'Donohue in *To Bless The Space Between us: A Book of Blessings*, (NY: Random House, 2008), 48.

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

**Macintosh's Lament:** arr. Martin, Christine. *Traditional Scottish Fiddling*. Upper Breakish, Isle of Skye: Taigh na Teud, 2002.

**Baccalaureate Litany:** Adapted from a Baccalaureate Litany by Discipleship Ministries.

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

**Sending Song:** "O Happy Day" by Edwin Hawkins.

**Postlude:** "Festival Alleluia" by Dan Miller ©2015 Birnamwood Publications, a division of MorningStar Publishers.

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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.*