

Lancaster Theological Seminary

BACCALAUREATE SERVICE

MAY 6, 2023

Assembly Bulletin



“WHEN HE HAS BROUGHT OUT ALL HIS OWN, HE GOES AHEAD OF THEM,
AND THE SHEEP FOLLOW HIM BECAUSE THEY KNOW HIS VOICE.” JN 10:4



BACCALAUREATE SERVICE

GATHERING AS THE BODY OF CHRIST

PRELUDE

“THE JOURNEY (HE LEADETH ME)”
REV. SCOTT SICILIANO

HEATHER SORENSON

WORDS OF WELCOME

CENTERING SONG

“MORNING HAS BROKEN”

UMC 145(v. 1-2)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rejoice! There is great news! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed!

Let all the earth proclaim the joy!

Let all heaven show forth praise.

Alleluia! **Alleluia!**

OPENING HYMN

“JOYFUL, JOYFUL, WE ADORE THEE” vs. 1-3

NCH 4

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.

We rejoice in the wonder of your resurrection, O Christ, but then tend to sink back into our old ways of thinking, behaving, and responding to people’s needs.

We can dance with the angels and all humankind on Easter Sunday, but the days following the Day of Resurrection cause us to slip back into apathy or despair. Forgive us when we so easily become distracted by our own cares and worries that we ignore the needs of others around us.

Forgive us when we forget your power and love for us. Charge us up, O Lord! Set our hearts to dancing! Give us a spirit for rejoicing, willing hearts and hands for helping, voices for praising you forever! AMEN.

Sing! Shout! Rejoice! Jesus calls you to serve because of his love for you. He believes in you and all the gifts you have been given! Do not be afraid. Christ is with you 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

“THE SOUND OF THE GENUINE”

HOWARD THURMAN

Student: Bill Stewart

The sound of the genuine is flowing through you. Don't be deceived and thrown off by all the noises that are a part even of your dreams, your ambitions, so that you don't hear the sound of the genuine in you, because that is the only true guide that you will ever have, and if you don't have that you don't have a thing...

Now if I hear the sound of the genuine in me, and if you hear the sound of the genuine in you, it is possible for me to go down in me and come up in you. So that when I look at myself through your eyes having made that pilgrimage, I see in me what you see in me and the wall that separates and divides will disappear and we will become one because the sound of the genuine makes the same music.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Mother of all Wisdom, and Father of Surprise, your thoughts are not our thoughts, nor are your ways our ways. Where we are closed, open us with your Word, that we might recognize the Christ and follow. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

JOHN 10: 1-10

NRSV

SERMON

DR. LEE BARRETT

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

WOMEN'S ENSEMBLE

"THANK YOU"

WALTER HAWKINS

BACCALAUREATE LITANY

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!

SERVICE OF THE TABLE

OFFERTORY

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

OFFERTORY SONG

INSTRUMENTAL

***THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Please rise, as able, as we enter the liturgy of Holy Communion.

God is with you!

And also with you!

Open your hearts!

We open our hearts to God!

Let us give thanks to God!

It is right to give our thanks and praise!

Holy God, Holy One, Holy Three! Before all this, You were God.

Outside all we know, You are God. After all is finished, you will be God.

Archangels sound the trumpets, angels teach us to sing, saints pull us into Your presence, and this is our song:

Holy, holy, holy God, power of life and love!

Heaven and earth are full of your glory!

Hosanna through the ages!

**Blessed is the One who comes
to bring your justice to earth!**

Holy God, Holy One, Holy Three! You beyond the galaxies,

You under the oceans, You inside the leaves, You pouring down rain,

You opening the flowers, You feeding the insects,

You giving us your image, you carrying us through the waters,

You holding us in the night;

Your smile on Hagar, Sarah, and Abraham, your hand with Moses and Miriam, Your words through Deborah and Isaiah –

You lived as Jesus among us, healing, teaching, dying, rising,

Inviting us all to Your feast.

And so we pray as he taught his disciples:

**...our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come,
Your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us
from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the
power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

In the night before Jesus was executed as an enemy of the Roman state, Our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; Broke it, and gave it to His disciples saying: Take and eat this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
Shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Holy God, we remember your Son, His life with the humble,
His death among the wretched, His resurrection for us all:
Your wisdom our guide, your justice our strength,
Your grace our way to rebirth.

And so we cry, Mercy:

Mercy!

And so we cry, Glory:

Glory!

And so we cry, Blessing:

Blessing!

Holy God, we beg for your Spirit.

Enliven this bread, awaken this body, pour us out for each other.

Transfigure our minds, ignite your church, nourish the life of the earth.

Make us, while many, united; make us, though broken, whole;

Make us, despite death, alive.

And so we cry, Come, Holy Spirit:

Come, Holy Spirit!

And so the church shouts, Come, Holy Spirit:

Come, Holy Spirit!

And so the whole earth pleads, Come, Holy Spirit:

Come, Holy Spirit!

You, Holy God, Holy One, Holy Three –
Our life, our mercy, our might, our table, our food, our server, our rainbow,
our ark, our dove, our sovereign, our water, our wine, our light, our
treasure, our tree,
Our way, our truth, our life
– You, Holy God, Holy One, Holy Three!
Praise now, praise tomorrow, praise forever!
Amen.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

We have a few COVID related options for those who wish to partake. If you wish to receive from the ministers, take an empty eco-friendly cup from the stack on the aisle table and approach the minister, who will place a piece of bread in your open hand. All bread is gluten free.

Or you may take one of the sealed celebration cups with the wafer on top and juice beneath; hold them out to the minister for a blessing. A minister will pour grape juice into your cup. Eat, drink, and dispose of the cup in the waste baskets at the side aisles as you return to your seat.

COMMUNION SONG

“CHRISTUS PARADOX”

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GOING FORTH AS THE BODY OF CHRIST

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ’s resurrection you send light to shine in every corner, living water to raise new life, and the bread of heaven to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses of the resurrection who have responded to your call to spread your good news as we go into all the world; in the name of the risen Christ we pray. Amen.

***CLOSING SONG**

“JOYFUL, JOYFUL, WE ADORE THEE” vs. 4

NCH 4

PARTING WORDS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Go forth knowing that you have a Divine presence offering you
Protection, love, guidance, freedom, and so much more.
This is just the beginning.

Our gratitude to Bishop Nathan Baxter for commissioning and donating our custom white and gold parament set, designed and made by Sarah Clarke, a Lancaster artisan. The pelican motif adorns the pulpit and lectern and one of the wood carving motifs from the high altar and wall panels adorns the altar table cloth.

Cover Art:

Prelude: "The Journey (He Leadeth Me)" by Heather Sorenson (C)2012 Hal Leonard Corp.

Call to Worship: <https://www.ministrymatters.com/worship/entry/2507/worship-connection-easter-2021>

Confession & Words of Assurance: <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/3724/worship-connection-april-10-2016>

Reading: Excerpts from *The Sound of the Genuine* by Howard Thurman (1899-1981),

<https://www.dailygood.org/story/1846/the-sound-of-the-genuine-howard-thurman/>, accessed April 1, 2023.

Prayer for Illumination: Hamilton Union Presbyterian Church, HUPC – Prayer for Illumination,

<http://hamiltonunionpresbyterianchurch.org/files/HUPC%20-%20Prayers%20for%20Illumination.pdf>.

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

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

Women's Ensemble: Just Wanna Praise You - Songwriters: Arthur Tannous - Just Want to Praise You Lyrics © Thank You Music Ltd

Communion Liturgy: From *Celebrate God's Presence: A Book of Services* by Gail Ramshaw, with adaptations.

Postlude: "Joyful Recessional" by Phil Lehenbauer (C)2021 Phil Lehenbauer.

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

LANCASTER THEOLOGICAL WORSHIP TEAM

Chynaah Maryoung-Cooke '21, Equilla Curry, Rev. Liz Fulmer, '20, Patty Hall, Cam Richesson, Stephanie Oelrich, Max Staley, Beth Taylor, Rev. Dr. Kellie Turner '18.

Rev. Dr. Catherine E. Williams, Advisor

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.

Christus Paradox



1. You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shep - herd.
 2. Clothed in light up - on the moun - tain,
 3. You, who walk each day be - side us,
 4. Wor - thy is our earth - ly Je - sus!



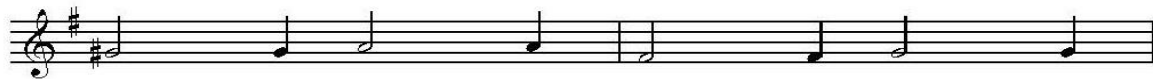
You, Lord, are both prince and slave.
 Stripped of might up - on the cross,
 Sit in pow - er at God's side,
 Wor - thy is our cos - mic Christ!



You, peace - mak - er and sword - bring - er
 Shin - ing in e - ter - nal glo - ry,
 You, who preach a way that's nar - row,
 Wor - thy your de - feat and vic - t'ry.



Of the way you took and gave.
 Beg - gar'd by a sol - dier's toss,
 Have a love that reach - es wide.
 Wor - thy still your peace and strife.



You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
 You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
 You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
 You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;



You, whom we both scom and crave.
 You, who are both gift and cost.
 You, who are our pil - grim guide.
 You, who are our death and life.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993, © 1991, GIA Publications, Inc.
 Tune: WESTMINSTER ABBEY, 8 7 8 7 8 7; adapt. from an anthem of Henry Purcell, 1659-1695