

ACADIA UNIVERSITY



BACCALAUREATE and Cap and Gown Service

Convocation Hall
Sunday, 14 May 2017
10:30 a.m.

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Prelude

Procession of the Class of 2017

The congregation is requested to stand.

Welcome:

The Chaplain

Call to Worship:

The Chaplain

Chaplain: For learning about wisdom and instruction, for understanding words of insight,

People: for gaining instruction in wise dealing, righteousness, justice, and equity;

Chaplain: to teach shrewdness to the simple, knowledge and prudence to the young,

People: let the wise also hear and gain in learning, and the discerning acquire skill,

Chaplain: to understand a proverb and a figure, the words of the wise and their riddles.

People: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 1: 2-7 (NRSV)

Hymn:

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Hymn to Joy

1. Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee,
Praising Thee their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day
2. All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
Earth and Heaven reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee,
Center of unbroken praise;
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Blooming meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain,
Call us to rejoice in Thee.

3. Thou art giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living,
Ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother,
All who live in love are Thine:
Teach us how to love each other,
Lift us to the joy divine.
4. Mortals, join the mighty chorus
Which the morning stars began;
Love divine is reigning o'er us,
Binding all within its span.
Ever singing, march we onward,
Victors in the midst of strife;
Joyful music lifts us sunward
In the triumph song of life.

Henry van Dyke (1852-1933)

(Please remain standing.)

Prayer of Confession:

Abigail Hornell-Kennedy

Life Vice-President of the Class of 2017

Leader: For God alone I wait silently;

People: my deliverance comes from the Lord.

Leader: God only is my rock of deliverance,

People: my strong tower, so that I stand unshaken.

Leader: Let us pray together:

Psalm 62: 1,2 (REB)

All: We lift our hearts to you, O God, as new people beginning our pilgrimage to your Kingdom. We know that we are unworthy in ourselves, and we confess freely everything that holds us back, awakens regrets, blinds our vision, creates hesitation from uniting ourselves to you. Be merciful, O God, and encourage us through Thy holy love. Amen.

Acadia University Vespers

Chaplain: If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. God pardons and absolves all who truly repent and unfeignedly believe God's holy Gospel.

People: Amen. Thanks be to God.

Responsive Psalm 112

Carolyn Woolridge

Life Secretary of the Class of 2017

Praise the Lord! Happy are those who fear the Lord,
who greatly delight in his commandments.

**Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

Wealth and riches are in their houses,
and their righteousness endures forever.

**They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright;
they are gracious, merciful, and righteous.**

It is well with those who deal generously and lend,
who conduct their affairs with justice.

For the righteous will never be moved; they will be remembered forever.

They are not afraid of evil tidings; their hearts are firm, secure in the Lord.

**Their hearts are steady, they will not be afraid;
in the end they will look in triumph on their foes.**

They have distributed freely, they have given to the poor;
their righteousness endures forever; their horn is exalted in honor.

**The wicked see it and are angry; they gnash their teeth and melt away;
the desire of the wicked comes to nothing.**

Gloria Patri:

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world
without end. Amen.**

(The congregation may be seated.)

Reflections in Music

John Scott

Acadia University Organist

The First Lesson:

Esther 4:9-14

Madison Cyr

Life President of the Class of 2017

Hymn:

Be Thou My Vision

Slane

1. Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art;
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.
2. Be Thou my wisdom, be Thou my true word,
I ever with Thee, and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

3. Be Thou my buckler, my sword for the fight;
Be Thou my dignity, Thou my delight;
Thou my soul's shelter, Thou my high tower:
Raise Thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.
4. Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise:
Thou mine inheritance now and always;
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart;
High King of Heaven, my treasure Thou art.
5. High King of heaven, when vict'ry is won,
May I reach Heaven's joys, O bright Heav'n's sun!
Heart of my heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Irish Hymn, c. 8th Century

The Second Lesson:

Romans 12:1-8

Libby Burnham
Chancellor

The Gospel:

St. Mark 1:1-6
St. Luke 4:14-22

Raymond E. Ivany
President and Vice-Chancellor

Introduction of the Cap and Gown Speaker

The Chaplain

Cap and Gown Address

Lindsey Larder Hylands
Elected by the Class of 2017

Hymn:

Let there be light

Concord

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Let there be light,
let there be understanding,
let all the nations gather,
let them be face to face; 2. open our lips,
open our minds to ponder,
open the door of concord
opening into grace; 3. perish the sword,
perish the angry judgement,
perish the bombs and hunger,
perish the fight for gain; | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. hallow our love,
hallow the deaths of martyrs,
hallow their holy freedom,
hallowed be thy name; 5. thy kingdom come,
thy spirit turn to language,
thy people speak together,
thy spirit never fade; 6. let there be light,
open our hearts to wonder,
perish the way of terror,
hallow the world God made. |
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Frances Wheeler Davis

Introduction of the Baccalaureate Preacher

The Chaplain

Sermon:

The Rev'd. Dr. William H. Brackney
(Professor Acadia University/Acadia Divinity College)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Harry Gardner
President of Acadia Divinity College

Prayers of Intercession:

Stephanie Hutt
Life Treasurer of the Class of 2017

Leader: O God of truth and knowledge, we pray that everything taught and learned by us may be of use for the benefit and continuing growth of our society and civilization.

May each of us contribute to the increase of our collective wisdom, compassion, and good intentions of our generation, building upon what has been passed on to us.

People: Lift up your heads, you gates, lift yourselves up, you everlasting doors, that the king of glory may come in.

Leader: We pray we may receive the teachings of God and the wisdom to convey this to those in need. May each of us learn more of your presence amongst us and develop a talent of proclaiming it to those who desire faith, hope and love.

People: Such is the fortune of those who seek him, who seek the presence of the God of Jacob.

Leader: We pray for the world, and for the courage to speak of God's will and way. Where there is apathy, may we know wisdom and determination; where there is hostility, may we approach them with love; where there is agreement, may we foster unity. As we offer our prayer, may we join in our mission for peace in our world.

People: Lift up your heads, you gates, lift yourselves up, you everlasting doors, that the king of glory may come in.

Leader: We pray for our families. May they be proud of our achievements and dedication, unashamed of us in any way. We pray for peace in our world, and may we help to achieve it.

People: This is the generation of them that seek him, that seek Thy face, O God of Jacob.

The University Prayer: (Unison)

Lord God of all wisdom, we pray for Acadia University, that she may be faithful to the purposes of our Founders, continue to promote the search for truth and knowledge, and be an inspiration to others who follow. May we be a community of scholars sharing this ambition, caring for one another, and loyal to the truth revealed to us as thy disciples. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer: (Unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Hymn: *Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah* **Cwm Rhondda**

1. Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;
Hold me with Thy powerful hand;
Bread of heaven, Feed me till I want no more.
2. Open now the crystal fountain,
Whence the healing stream doth flow,
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through;
Strong Deliverer, Be Thou still my strength and shield.
3. When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell's Destruction,
Land me safe of Canaan's side;
Songs of praises I will ever give to Thee.

William Williams, 1717-1791.

The Benediction:

Chaplain: Go in peace and be God's people in the world.

People: We leave this place to live by the power of God's creative Spirit.

Chaplain: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Recessional

The congregation remains standing until the Class of 2017 has left the hall.

Organ Postlude: *Lift High the Cross* **Carolyn Hamlin**

ΑΩ

WELCOME

We welcome members of the Class of 2017, their families and their friends, to this service. We are especially thankful for those who are giving leadership this morning.

We are grateful, as well, to Acadia University Organist, John Scott, for leading in the musical portions of our service.

The Cap and Gown address will be given by Lindsey Larder Hylands. Lindsey is a fourth-year biology student at Acadia. She works at the QEII Hospital in Halifax as a Medical Laboratory Assistant, and plans to work there for a year until she pursues her masters in microbiology and immunology. Lindsey has volunteered during her time at Acadia by participating in Relay for Life, SMILE, and Biology Society. She also invested the majority of her time this year on her research in the field of microbiology with Agriculture Canada. Lindsey is happy to address you as the Cap & Gown Speaker of Acadia's 2017 graduating class. We welcome her as the representative for her graduating year.

The Baccalaureate sermon will be preached by The Rev'd Dr. William H. Brackney. Bill came to Acadia in July 2006. He was the first professor appointed as the Millard R. Cherry Distinguished Professor of Christian Thought and Ethics at Acadia. He is also an Adjunct Professor in Acadia's Faculty of Arts in the Department of History and Classics. Previously Bill taught at Houghton College, Colgate Rochester Divinity School, and Eastern Baptist Seminary. He was also Vice President and Dean at Eastern, later becoming the Principal of McMaster Divinity College in 1988. At McMaster he assumed the professorial rank of professor of historical theology and as a member of the Faculty of Theology; he was also dean of that university faculty. In 2000 Dr. Brackney became the chair of the Department of Religion at Baylor University and an adjunct faculty member of the George W. Truett Theological Seminary at Baylor. In Canada he has served on the national boards of the Canadian Council of Churches, the Church's Council on Theological Education, the Canadian Bible Society (President for the past five years), and InterVarsity Canada. He is an ordained Baptist minister who frequently serves in pastoral ministry. Bill is married to Kathryn, an artist, and they have two sons and a daughter, and they reside in the historic Gaspereau Valley. Bill retires from Acadia in June.

Participating from the Class of 2017 are Madison Cyr (Life President), Abigail Hornell-Kennedy (Life Vice-President), Carolyn Woolridge (Life Secretary), and Stephanie Hutt (Life Treasurer).

A special welcome is offered to Dr. Harry Gardner, President of Acadia Divinity College, Dr. Raymond E. Ivany, President and Vice-Chancellor of Acadia University, and to Dr. Libby Burnham, Chancellor of Acadia University.

HYMNS FOR THE SERVICE

The first hymn was written by Henry van Dyke (1852-1933). He was born in Pennsylvania and became pastor of the Brick Presbyterian Church in New York City. Henry later became professor of English literature at Princeton, American Ambassador to the Netherlands and President of the National Institute of Arts and Letters among other roles. In 1907, Henry was invited to preach at Williams College in Massachusetts. At breakfast one morning, he handed the college president a piece of paper saying, "Here is a hymn for you. Your mountains (the Berkshires) were my inspiration. It must be sung to the music of Beethoven's 'Hymn to Joy'."

The Second hymn was written in the eighth century by an unknown poet. After much work had been done by St. Patrick in Ireland five hundred years earlier, the Christian church there had flourished and was producing a great amount of hymns, prayers, sermons and songs of worship. In 1905, Mary Byrne, a scholar in Dublin, translated this ancient Irish poem into English. Another scholar, Eleanor Hull of Manchester, took Byrne's translation and crafted it into verses with rhyme and meter. It was then set to the traditional Irish folk tune, "Slane," named for an area in Ireland where Patrick preached the Gospel.

Our third hymn, *Let there be light*, is by Frances Wheeler Davis. This is a reasonably modern hymn in thought and construction. Echoes of the Lord's Prayer are found within the hymn. The subjects are stark but certainly appropriate for today's church. The final verse is a fine prayer for our graduates as they leave Acadia this weekend. The hymn is found in the 1973 Anglican/United Hymn Book, and the British Baptist (1974) *Praise for Today*.

The fourth hymn is well-known. William Williams (1717-1791) began to study medicine but a sermon by Howell Harris in 1738 made him decide to be a minister. It was written in his native Welsh in 1745, and translated into English by Peter Williams (no relation) in 1771. The images are found in *Exodus* 13, 16 and 17. *Cwm Rhondda* ('Rhondda Valley') was composed for a Welsh song festival in 1905 by John Hughes (1873-1932), an official of the Great Western Railway and precentor of a Baptist church in Pontypridd.