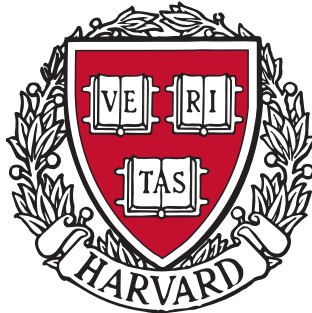


HARVARD UNIVERSITY

BACCALAUREATE SERVICE FOR
THE CLASS OF 2021 IN HARVARD COLLEGE



Tuesday, May twenty-fifth, two thousand twenty-one
two o'clock in the afternoon

THE BACCALAUREATE SERVICE

The Baccalaureate Service has long been associated with the commencement exercises of American colleges and universities and forms a link between these increasingly secular institutions and their religious origins. The term baccalaureate is derived from two Latin words, *bacca*, or “berry,” and *laureus*, “laurel,” which might refer to the wreaths of laurel with which new graduates were crowned in European ceremonies of the medieval period.

Harvard’s first Commencement, that of 1642, is the first recorded such ceremony in English North America, and in it are rudiments of its Cambridge University ancestor, whose thirteenth-century statutes describe a Baccalaureate sermon preached while a candidate “sat with bowed head over which his hood was drawn, a picture of abject humility and utter embarrassment.” No seventeenth-century Harvard Baccalaureate sermons survive: eighteenth-century specimens are post-revolutionary, with the 1794 sermon of David Tappan, third Hollis Professor of Divinity, one of the oldest.

In the nineteenth century, the seniors in Harvard College routinely extended an invitation to the President to address them, and with few exceptions this tradition has been maintained. For some years it has been our happy custom to include the readings from scriptures sacred to the many religious traditions of the Class and to invite members of the Harvard Chaplains to offer prayers in behalf of the Class, the University, and the world. The occasion is both joyful and solemn, intimate and public, filled with the exuberance of youth and sustained by venerable and weighty tradition. Next to Commencement itself, Baccalaureate is perhaps our oldest public occasion.

*The Reverend Peter J. Gomes (1942–2011)
Former Pusey Minister in the Memorial Church
and Plummer Professor of Christian Morals*

ORDER OF SERVICE

- PRELUDE “Sinfonia” from Cantata BWV 29 *Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)*
Transcribed by Harvey Grace (1874–1944)
- SALUTATION Stephanie Paulsell
Susan Shallcross Swartz Professor of the Practice of Christian Studies
Interim Pusey Minister in the Memorial Church
- PRAYER Khalil Abdur-Rashid
Muslim Chaplain at Harvard University
- READINGS *from the Humanist tradition: selection from Desiderata by Max Ehrmann*
read by Adelle Goldenberg ’21 and Nkazi Nchinda ’21

from the Sikh tradition: Deh Shiva Var Mohe
read by Jaspreet Kaur ’21
- ANTHEM What Is Good (2018) *Carson Cooman ’04 (b. 1982)*
You have been told, O mortal, what is good,
and what is required of you:
to do justice, to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God.

Micah 6:8
- READINGS *from the Christian tradition: John 1:1–14*
read by Joseph Anthony Barisas ’21

from the Buddhist tradition: Four Limitless Qualities
read by Migmar Tseten
Chaplain, Harvard Buddhist Community
- PRAYER Jonah Steinberg
Executive Director, Harvard Hillel
President, Harvard Chaplains

<p>ANTHEM</p> <p><i>Veritas</i>—</p> <p>Give ear, ye children, to my law Devout attention lend Let the instructions of My mouth Deep in your hearts descend</p> <p>Trust thyself: Every heart vibrates to that iron string.</p> <p>Plunge into the sublime seas, Dive deep, And swim far.</p> <p>For, after all, Every one who wishes To gain true knowledge Must climb the Hill.</p> <p>I slip back many times, I fall, I stand still, I trudge on</p> <p>I get more eager And climb higher And begin to see The widening horizon.</p> <p><i>Every struggle is a victory.</i></p> <p>So wake up— wake up! Lift your voices You belong among the stars.</p> <p>Together, we can inspire galaxies of greatness For generations to come. The sky is not the limit. It is only the beginning.</p> <p><i>So wake up— Wake up! Lift off.</i></p>	<p>Veritas: A Celebration of the Centuries (2019)</p> <p><i>Chung Hon Michael Cheng '19 (b. 1997)</i> <i>[17th c.; motto adopted 1643]</i></p> <p><i>[18th c.; first sung 1737 at inauguration of Edward Holyoke AB 1705 AM 1708]</i></p> <p><i>[from "Self-Reliance" (1841)]</i></p> <p><i>[from journal (1838) 19th c.; Ralph Waldo Emerson AB 1821]</i></p> <p><i>[20th c.; Helen Keller AB 1904]</i></p> <p><i>[21st c.; Donovan Livingston EdM '16]</i></p>
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<p>ADDRESS</p>	<p>Lawrence S. Bacow MPP-JD '76, PhD '78 <i>President of Harvard University</i></p>
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ANTHEM A Parting Blessing (2008)

Alfred V. Fedak (b. 1953)

Walk softly upon the earth.
May its beauty forever surround you,
Its wonders forever astound you,
May its wisdom delight you, its music invite you
To dance and to play and to sing.
May you love and be loved by all you meet.
May you know and practice compassion.
Rejoice in the earth and in all of creation.
Rejoice in life.

BLESSINGS *from* the Christian tradition
 Aidan Luke Stoddart '21

from the Jewish tradition
 Rebecca Thrope '21

from the Muslim tradition
 Bilal Wurie '21

from the Bahá'í tradition
 Johnathan Cook '21

from the Christian tradition
 Alden Emery Jackson Fossett '21

from the Hindu tradition
 Pranati Parikh '21

POSTLUDE "Toccatà" from *Symphony No. 5, Op. 42, No. 1* (1879) *Charles-Marie Widor (1844–1937)*

David von Behren
Assistant University Organist and Choirmaster

Archival choral recordings from past services featuring the
Harvard Commencement Choir and the Harvard University Choir directed by
Andrew G. Clark, *Director of Choral Activities* and
Edward Elwyn Jones, *Gund University Organist and Choirmaster*