



Baccalaureate
2023

Friday, May 12, 2023

Order of Service

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

Interim President Wayne P. Webster

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT & CHALICE LIGHTING

CALL TO MINDFULNESS

Rev. Erin Guzmán
Henry J. Copeland Interfaith Chaplain
Director of Religious & Spiritual Life

MOMENT OF SILENCE

OFFERINGS & STUDENT REFLECTIONS

A Prayer of Thanks

Katiasofia Gonzales Virto
(Christianity - Roman Catholic)
Neuroscience, Biology minor
Cusco, Peru

“ATTITUDE” by Charles Swindoll

Naol Hulufe
(Islam)
Business Economics
Assela, Ethiopia and Atlanta, Georgia

“Love Comes Running” by Rev. Sarah Speed

Fiona Schieve
(Christianity - Presbyterian)
Political Science & Religious Studies
Winchester, Virginia
Yakeria Lamar
(Christianity - Non-denominational)
Education (Elementary) &
Religious Studies
Jonesboro, Georgia

A Buddhist Prayer & Moment of Reflection

Alexa Carlozzi
(Buddhism)
Global & International Studies,
French & Francophone Studies
Toledo, Ohio

BACCALAUREATE MESSAGE

*“Intentions and In-Tensions:
Finding Our Purpose”*

Rev. Erin Guzmán

UNISON PRAYER

Spirit of Life, in this time of celebration for endings and beginnings, we gather together in a posture of compassion. We acknowledge where there has been struggle over this past year and in our midst but know that cannot and will not define the entirety of our existence. We hold onto our past and present joys and where there are unexpected pleasures and opportunities for growth in our lives. Today, we hold precious space for gratitude, celebration, accomplishment, and hope. Fill each graduate with pride and encouragement. Remind them daily of the lessons and love that have taken root while here at Wooster and all that awaits them in each season of growth from here onward. Together, may we work to create a more just and equitable world, where the dignity and worth of all people is fully realized. May we be inspired to seek peace and purpose, practice kindness, and see our integrity and passions as good and worthy gifts to share. May your guiding presence be with us, now and always. Amen.

OFFERINGS & STUDENT REFLECTIONS

Change & Rebirth -
A reflection through Tarot

Conan Lemay
(Paganism/Witchcraft)
Religious Studies
Reynoldsburg, Ohio

Abby Kushner Benson
(Judaism)
Anthropology
Akron, Ohio

Colossians 3:12-14

Claire Horansky
(Christianity)
Psychology, Education minor
Fairview Park, Ohio

Raisa Tasnim Raofa
(Islam)
Physics & Math
Dhaka, Bangladesh

A Selection from *Living Buddha, Living Christ*

Kevin Poe
(Christianity - Disciples of Christ,
Buddhism)
Philosophy & Religious Studies, South
Asian Studies minor
North Canton, Ohio

BENEDICTION & CHARGE

Rev. Erin Guzmán

DISMISSAL

Welcome to the 2023 Interfaith Baccalaureate Service at The College of Wooster

On behalf of Religious & Spiritual Life, welcome and thank you for being here! We're thrilled to have the ability to gather and create meaningful spaces and occasions such as this one, where we can celebrate the lives and accomplishments of our incredible graduates. Baccalaureate is a special time to honor and share the religious and spiritual diversity of our students, whose traditions, backgrounds, perspectives, and values make our community what it is. We lift up each and every graduate with hope, knowing that wherever their paths and journeys take them, they will be surrounded by a community that reaches across the world, encouraging them in their growth and pursuits of all kinds. It is my sincere prayer that each of us here today feels the same embrace and support, as we sojourn into whatever is ahead of us. May we do our best to live lives with intentionality and integrity, as these wonderful students have modeled so beautifully for us here today.

–Rev. Erin Guzmán, Henry J. Copeland Interfaith Chaplain/Director of Religious & Spiritual Life

A note on this year's theme

This year's theme, *Intentions & In-Tensions: Finding Our Purpose*, is about finding the balance of living life by one's values and navigating a world where those values may not always be reflected around us. Despite social and political divisions, the pressures of perfectionism and achievement, and the fast pace of our technological surroundings, how do we find our footing and purpose, without compromising who we are and what we believe? What are the things that anchor us in place and compel us to be thoughtful, engaged people who strive to live our lives with intentionality and integrity when that may not be the most popular thing to do? Prophets and teachers from every religious tradition have acknowledged the ways in which our human pursuits of meaning-making, purpose, and belonging is a life-long journey involving many bumps, twists, and experimentation. Today, this theme serves as an invitation to consider how individually and collectively we can carve out spaces for discovery, authenticity, reflection, flourishing, and liberation, even when the world may seek to limit those activities.

Special thanks this year

This year's Interfaith Baccalaureate Service would not be possible without the incredible work of the entire Commencement Planning Team—and specifically Sally Whitman, Melissa Anderson, Darlene Hauenstein, Caitlin Paynich Stanowick, and Jennifer Sera—for all their work helping this celebration come together in big and small ways. We're grateful for the people-power and skills of our IT and Marketing departments and the technologies that allow this service to be available online for our Wooster community and family all over the world. We also give deep thanks to Interim President Wayne Webster for his steadfast leadership this past year, as well as all his service as vice president of advancement at Wooster these past six years. We wish him well on the next chapter of his career as president of Albion College!

This service, of course, wouldn't be what it is without the incredible and creative contributions of our brilliant students. We appreciate the thoughtfulness, intentionality, inspiration, and hope shared in their readings, reflections, and offerings. A profound thank you to them for sharing!

And lastly, thank you for being here to honor the Class of 2023. May we all remember that we are bound together in hope and love—maintained by this community and all our relationships—so that we never walk the path of life alone.



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