



*Interfaith
Baccalaureate
Service*

Friday, May 10, 2024

ORDER OF SERVICE
“Grace & Gratitude”

GATHERING MUSIC

Jazz Ensemble
“All of Me” by Simons/Marks
Directed by Greg Slawson
Adjunct Instructor of Music

WELCOME

President Anne E. McCall

**LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT
& CHALICE LIGHTING**

Rev. Enikő Ferenczy
Pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church

CALL TO MINDFULNESS

GATHERING MUSIC

Jazz Ensemble
“That’s All” by Brandt/Haymes
Directed by Greg Slawson
Adjunct Instructor of Music

READINGS

A Passage from Ram Charit Manas

Sukriti Chiripal (Hinduism)
Economics and Psychology
Kolkata, India

“In Gratitude, We Pray”
By An Unknown Author

Jenny Renner (Christianity - Roman Catholic)
French and Francophone Studies
Anthropology and Education minors
Harlan, Indiana

From Caterpillars to Butterflies:
Embracing Transformation and New Beginnings

Troy Verlon Johnson
(Christianity - Church of Christ/Presbyterian)
Anthropology, Studio Art minor
Olympia Fields, Illinois

BACCALAUREATE MESSAGE

“Grace & Gratitude”

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

UNISON PRAYER

Spirit of Life, in this time of celebration of endings and beginnings, we gather together in a posture of compassion. We acknowledge where there has been struggle over these last few years, 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.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

“Take 5/10” by Desmond

Jazz Ensemble
Directed by Greg Slawson
Adjunct Instructor of Music

READINGS

Reflection on How Far God
Has Brought Me

Selali Adoja Blege (Christianity)
Neuroscience, French & Francophone
Studies minor
Kpedze, Volta Region, Ghana

“We Will Build It”
by Mahjoub Sharif

Eltahir Elawad (Islam)
Computer Science and Mathematics
Khartoum, Sudan

“Mysteries, Yes”
by Mary Oliver

Emma Teichert (Christianity - Presbyterian)
Religious Studies and Psychology
Chevy Chase, Maryland

CLOSING REFLECTION

Rabbi Joan Friedman (Judaism)
*Lincoln Professor of Religion and Professor of
History*

BENEDICTION & CHARGE

“For Beginnings & Endings”
By Kate Bowler

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

DISMISSAL & SENDING MUSIC

Jazz Ensemble
“So What” by Davis
Directed by Greg Slawson
Adjunct Instructor of Music

Welcome to the 2024 Interfaith Baccalaureate Ceremony at The College of Wooster

On behalf of Religious & Spiritual Life, welcome and thank you for being here! The College of Wooster's Interfaith Baccalaureate Ceremony is a special time to honor and share the religious, secular, and spiritual diversity of our students, whose traditions, backgrounds, and perspectives make our community what it is. We cherish this increasingly multi-faith and global community, as we seek to model positive pluralism in a climate where difference can sometimes push people apart rather than bring them together. Today, we lift up each and every graduate with hope, knowing that wherever their paths and journeys take them, they will be surrounded by a family that reaches across the world, encouraging them in their growth and pursuits of all kinds.

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



A note on this year's theme

Many members of the Class of 2024 began their Wooster experience when the College operated almost entirely virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Classes, programs, and activities were remote or hybrid, making the formation of community and relationships more difficult than ever. Still, this group of students embodied values of grace and gratitude, not just for the faculty and staff trying to keep operations afloat, but also for themselves. Having missed several milestone moments at the end of high school and entering college, this class of seniors has shown resilience in the face of rapid change and courage in response to unknowns. Even in the most challenging moments of the last four years, these students continued to push on and encourage each other in ways that should inspire and give us hope. The theme of "Grace & Gratitude" acknowledges the importance of holding onto our humanity in times of chaos and how extending kindness and comradery can carry us to the finish line.



Special thanks this year

This year's Interfaith Baccalaureate Ceremony would not be possible without the incredible work of Darlene Hauenstein and the Campus Events team, Jennifer Sera for putting together the program and the Marketing and Communications staff for recording this gathering, and our IT and Facilities Teams for all their behind-the-scenes work helping with various technical logistics. We're grateful for the people-power and technology which allow this service to be available for our Wooster community, here and spread out all over the world. We also express our deep gratitude to President Anne McCall, as she wraps up her first academic year in leadership here at The College of Wooster.

This service, of course, wouldn't be what it is without the incredible and creative contributions of our brilliant students and performers. We appreciate the thoughtfulness, intentionality, inspiration, and hope shared in their offerings today. Many thanks to the Jazz Ensemble and Greg Slawson (named below) for their efforts to provide lively music for this occasion. A special shout-out to Rev. Enikő Ferenczy, pastor of our Congregation-in-Residence Westminster Presbyterian, for her partnership and leadership, as Westminster celebrates its 150th Anniversary this year.

Jazz Ensemble

Directed by Greg Slawson, *Adjunct Instructor of Music*

Evan Foster '24, piano
Stuart Franklin '26, flute

Felipe Jarrin '24, bass
Henry Mattison '27, drums

Garrett Morris '24, trombone

We also celebrate the years of service and leadership of Rabbi Joan Friedman, Lincoln Professor of Religion and professor of history, whose contributions to Religious & Spiritual Life over the years have been crucial, steady, and life-giving for so many students and community members. We are so grateful for all she has offered Wooster and wish her abundant blessings in retirement.

Lastly, thanks to all in attendance for being here today to honor the lives and accomplishments of our graduates. May we all remember that we are bound together in hope and love so that we never walk the path of life alone.



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