BACCALAUREATE



Methodist Theological School in Ohio

Friday, May 19, 2023 7:30 p.m.

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Welcome

Jay Rundell, president

Song of Gathering "God of Grace and God of Glory"

See screens

Invocation

Anika-Kafi Summers, M.Div. Kim Metzer, M.Div. Ashton Dupler, M.Div.

Blessed are you, Eternal God of the universe:
We acknowledge you, we welcome you, and we thank you
for you have brought us to this moment, this time, and this place:
this moment of crossing and convergence —
this time of ending and beginning —
this place of closing and opening.

Grant us, we pray, your comfort this evening and in the midst of transition.

Receive our grief over loss of friends, colleagues and relationships; our fear of change and of an uncertain future; and our doubts of our own abilities and divine calling.

May they be overshadowed by the potential for new relationships, the courage for new challenges, and the hope for new direction.

Grant us we pray, your wisdom and your courage in the choices we are making and in the paths we are pursuing.

Grant us we pray, your peace — the personal peace which passes all understanding and overwhelms our hearts, and the corporate peace that comes only amidst the building of just relationships with one another and with all of your creation.

Loving God, creator of all that is and was and will be: in this moment, may we recognize and experience your transforming presence among us. Amen.

Song of Preparation "Spirit of the Living God"

Spirit of the living God – Fall fresh on me. Spirit of the living God – Fall fresh on me. Melt me – mold me – fill me – use me. Spirit of the living God – fall fresh on me.

Spirit of the present God – transform us, we pray. Spirit of the present God – transform us, we pray. Love us – hold us – shape us – strengthen us. Spirit of the present God – transform us, we pray.

Spirit of the guiding God – reveal yourself anew. Spirit of the guiding God – reveal yourself anew. Stir us – challenge us – lead us – employ us. Spirit of the guiding God – reveal yourself anew.

Scripture Reading

Acts 1:1-14

Gabrielle Fields, M.Div.

One: A word of life and comfort for a people in need.

All: Thanks be to God.

Message

"Who Knew?"

Nicole Hogarth, M.Div.

Song of Response

onse Jacob Tipantasig-Wolverton, M.Div. "Goodness of God"/"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

Blessing of the Graduates

Vernell Bristow, D.Min. student

Response: We thank God for giving you everything you need.

Ritual of Remembrance

Jeremy Garber, director of student services and the writing center

Prayer

Valerie Bridgeman, dean

Benediction

Nicole Hogarth, M.Div.

GOODNESS OF GOD Words and Music by Ben Fielding, Brian Johnson Ed Cash, Jason Ingram, Jenn Johnson © 2018 Capitol CMG Paragon

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS Words by Thomas O. Chisholm Music by William M Runyan

GOD OF GRACE AND GOD OF GLORY Words by Harry Emerson Fosdick Music by John Hughes

Prayer of Invocation based on the original work of D. Jay Losher

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