

THE ONE HUNDRED AND NINETY-EIGHTH  
COMMENCEMENT SERVICE  
*of the*  
VIRGINIA THEOLOGICAL  
SEMINARY



**Thursday, May 13, 2021**

10:00 a.m.

The Grove

Alexandria, Virginia



Virginia Theological Seminary welcomes the families and friends of the 198th graduating class. We are happy to have you as our guests on this joyous occasion.

### **USE OF CAMERAS**

Commencement occurs in the context of Morning Prayer. **Accordingly, the taking of photographs or videotaping is not permitted during the Commencement Service or during the Commencement Address.**

The official Seminary photographer may be taking photographs at appropriate, pre-arranged times and places. Family members and friends will be permitted to take photographs of graduates as the degrees are awarded. It is hoped that this can be done as unobtrusively as possible, preferably from the seats. Once the liturgy is ended, there are no restrictions on taking photographs. Your cooperation is appreciated.

In observance of COVID-19 protocols, everyone is asked to wear a mask and observe social distancing. Additionally, there will not be any congregational singing in today's liturgy. Vocal music will be offered by a cantor and prerecorded video.



## Prelude

Canzona II	<i>Giovanni Gabrieli</i>
Contrapunctus IX	<i>Johann Sebastian Bach</i>
Canzona III	<i>Giovanni Gabrieli</i>
Chorale from <i>Jupiter (Thaxted)</i>	<i>Gustav Holst</i>
Canzona IV	<i>Giovanni Gabrieli</i>
Trumpet Voluntary	<i>William Boyce</i>

## Academic Procession

Overture from <i>Music for the Royal Fireworks</i>	<i>George Frideric Handel</i>
Sonata from <i>Die Bänkelsängerlieder</i>	<i>Georg Daniel Speer</i>
Fanfare from <i>Water Music</i>	<i>George Frideric Handel</i>
Trumpet Tune	<i>Johann Fischer</i>

*The people are seated.*

<b>Hymn</b>	Christ is the world's true Light	<i>St. Joan</i>
	<i>sung by VTS Commencement Choir</i>	

*The people stand.*

## Opening Sentence

*Officiant*

Send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me, and bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling. (Psalm 43:3)

## The Invitatory and Psalter

*Officiant* Lord, open our lips.

*People* **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

*Officiant and People*

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.**

## The Invitatory

*Pascha nostrum*

*Said by all*

**Alleluia.**

**Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us; \*  
therefore let us keep the feast,  
Not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, \*  
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Alleluia.**

**Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; \*  
death no longer has dominion over him.  
The death that he died, he died to sin, once for all; \*  
but the life he lives, he lives to God.  
So also consider yourselves dead to sin, \*  
and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Alleluia.**

**Christ has been raised from the dead, \*  
the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.  
For since by a man came death, \*  
by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.  
For as in Adam all die, \*  
so in Christ shall all be made alive. Alleluia.**

*The people are seated.*

*Sung by Cantor*

Antiphon: The LORD is great in Zion; he is high above all peoples,  
hallelujah.

- 1 The LORD is King;  
let the people tremble; \*  
he is enthroned upon the cherubim;  
let the earth shake.
- 2 The LORD is great in Zion; \*  
he is high above all peoples.
- 3 Let them confess his Name, which is great and awesome; \*  
he is the Holy One.
- 4 “O mighty King, lover of justice,  
you have established equity; \*  
you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.”
- 5 Proclaim the greatness of the LORD our God  
and fall down before his footstool; \*  
he is the Holy One.
- 6 Moses and Aaron among his priests,  
and Samuel among those who call upon his Name, \*  
they called upon the LORD, and he answered them.
- 7 He spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud; \*  
they kept his testimonies and the decree that he gave them.
- 8 “O LORD our God, you answered them indeed; \*  
you were a God who forgave them,  
yet punished them for their evil deeds.”
- 9 Proclaim the greatness of the LORD our God  
and worship him upon his holy hill; \*  
for the LORD our God is the Holy One.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Antiphon: The LORD is great in Zion; he is high above all peoples,  
hallelujah.

## The First Lesson

Numbers 11:16-17, 24-29

Marty Wheeler Burnett, D.Min.

*Acting Associate Dean of Chapel, Director of Chapel Music  
and Associate Professor of Church Music*

*Lector*     The Word of the Lord.

*People*     **Thanks be to God.**

*The people stand.*

### **Canticle 9**

The First Song of Isaiah

*Ecce Deus*

Isaiah 12:2-6

*Said by all*

**Surely, it is God who saves me; \***

**I will trust in him and not be afraid.**

**For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, \***  
**and he will be my Savior.**

**Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing \***  
**from the springs of salvation.**

**And on that day you shall say, \***

**Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;**  
**Make his deeds known among the peoples; \***  
**see that they remember that his Name is exalted.**

**Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, \***  
**and this is known in all the world.**

**Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, \***  
**for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \***  
**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

*The people are seated.*

## The Second Lesson

I Corinthians 3:5-11

The Rev. John Y. H. Yieh, Ph.D.

*The Molly Laird Downs Professor of New Testament*

*Lector*      The Word of the Lord.

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

*The people stand.*

### **Canticle 15**

The Song of Mary

*Magnificat*

Luke 1:46-55

*Said by all*

**My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; \*  
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.  
From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*  
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.**

**He has mercy on those who fear him \*  
in every generation.  
He has shown the strength of his arm, \*  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.  
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \*  
and has lifted up the lowly.  
He has filled the hungry with good things, \*  
and the rich he has sent away empty.  
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \*  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,  
The promise he made to our fathers, \*  
to Abraham and his children for ever.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

## The Apostles' Creed

*Officiant and People together, all standing.*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth;  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## The Prayers

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Officiant* Let us pray.

*Officiant and People*

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen**

*Officiant* Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;

*People* **Govern and uphold them, now and always.**

*Officiant* Day by day we bless you;

*People* **We praise your Name for ever.**

*Officiant* Lord, keep us from all sin today;

*People* **Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.**

*Officiant* Lord, show us your love and mercy;

*People* **For we put our trust in you.**

*Officiant* In you, Lord, is our hope;

*People* **And we shall never hope in vain.**

## **The Collects**

*Officiant*

Loving and ever-gracious God, by your grace we have come to the joy of this day, and in Christ Jesus you have given us new life and hope in a world passing away. Sustain us as we prepare for new beginnings, trusting that your Holy Spirit will empower us with your compassion which accomplishes more than we can ask or imagine. Make our lives, words, and deeds a bold and humble witness to you so that all may come to know of your goodness and enjoy life abundant and eternal, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

O God, you have committed to your servants the ministry of reconciliation and you have guided our forebears to found the Virginia Theological Seminary: watch over us we pray you in the years to come as you have guided us in the past. Keep our leaders alert to the voice of your Spirit, that we cling only to such things as are good in the past and press forward with courage to the new service of the future. Grant to teachers and students humility to learn, wisdom to plan, courage to follow where your truth may lead, and love to think of others before self. So dwell in our homes that we may reflect the Spirit of the Father for whom every family is named. Bind us all into an holy fellowship; make all our worship, work and play witness faithfully to you; so that the Seminary may be a center from which light and life and love shall radiate to the four corners of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **A General Thanksgiving**

BCP 836

*Officiant and People*

**Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.**

**We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.**

**We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.**

**We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.**

**Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.**

**Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know Christ and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. Amen.**

## **The Grace**

*Officiant*

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*The people are seated.*

## **Introduction of the Speaker**

The Very Rev. Ian S. Markham, Ph.D.  
*Dean and President*

## **The Address**

The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry

The Most Rev. Michael Bruce Curry is Presiding Bishop and Primate of The Episcopal Church. He is the Chief Pastor and serves as President and Chief Executive Officer, and as Chair of the Executive Council of The Episcopal Church. Presiding Bishop Curry was installed as the 27th Presiding Bishop and Primate of The Episcopal Church on November 1, 2015. He was elected to a nine-year term and confirmed at the 78th General Convention of The Episcopal Church in Salt Lake City, Utah, on June 27, 2015.

## **Board of Trustees Remarks**

The Right Rev. Phoebe A. Roaf  
*Vice-Chair of the Board of Trustees  
Bishop of the Diocese of West Tennessee*

## **Presentation of Awards**

The Rev. Judy Fentress-Williams, Ph.D.  
*Acting Vice President of Academic Affairs  
Professor of Old Testament*

## **Presentation of Candidates and Awarding of Degrees**

The Very Rev. Ian S. Markham, Ph.D.

## **Hymn**

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven  
*sung by VTS Virtual Choir*

*Lauda anima*

*The people stand.*

## **The Benediction**

The Very Rev. Ian S. Markham, Ph.D.

## Procession

Rondeau

*Jean-Joseph Mouret*

The Heavens Declare

*Benedetto Marcello*

Rejoicing from *Music for the Royal Fireworks*

*George Frideric Handel*

*Commonwealth Brass Quintet*

*The Immanuel Chapel bells are rung today by change ringers  
from the VTS Guild of Bell Ringers and the Washington Ringing Society.*

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## GIFT from the GRADUATING STUDENTS CLASS of 2021

The Class of 2021's gift to the Seminary is donations toward memorializing enslaved persons and others of African-American descent as the Seminary addresses its history around race, particularly as related to the reparations program. In their time at Seminary, the class learned of Julia Parker, who in 1844 at age 19, was hired out to the Seminary from Mt. Vernon for three months at a price of \$12.00. She is the first enslaved person identified with both a given name and surname by the reparations task force.

The class feels strongly about the importance of VTS acknowledging its role in the racial injustices of the past. The class prays their gift will be part of a tangible reminder of both the past and the current racial calamity experienced during their time in Seminary. It is the hope of the class that Julia Parker is the first face of many to come and that we will come to know those whose enslaved hands built these walls; and that this remembrance will assist us not only to face our sins but to fervently seek the face of Christ in others as we strive for love, justice, and reconciliation now and in the future.

## **Candidates for the Post-Graduate Diploma in Theology:**

Reginald Hayes

Lisa Kennedy Heller, B.A., M.A.

Regina Denise Howard

Charlotte Anne Steffensen, B.A.

## **Candidates for the Post-Graduate Diploma in Anglican Studies:**

Denise Clegg Bennett, B.F.A., M.Div.

Derek Harris Miller, M.A.T., M.A.C.M.

Rebecca Troutman, B.A., M.Div., M.A.

Gregory Dean Voiles, B.A., M.Div., M.Phil., Ph.D.

## **Candidates for the Degree of Master of Arts:**

Adega Odiwuor Ambrose, Dipl., B.A.

*Church in the Forefront: Addressing Violence Against Women in the Anglican Diocese of Bondo, Kenya*

Allen Vahton Gaye, B.A., M.Ed.

*Baptism to Confirmation in the Episcopal Diocese of Liberia: Strategies for Faith Formation in Children (Ages 7-12)*

William McKinley Harris, Sr., B.S., M.U.P., Ph.D.

*African American Men Theological Perspectives*

Oraph Joseph Mhema, B.A.  
*The Significance of Inculturation for Evangelism: A Case Study of The Anglican Church in the Diocese of Masasi, Tanzania*

Svetlana Osadchuk, B.A., M.A.  
*In Search of a Middle Way: The Strategies of Faith and Research in Russian Orthodox Biblical Scholarship on the Threshold of the Third Millennium*

Demarius J. Walker, B.A.  
*Listening for the Monastic Imagination*

### **Candidates for the Degree of Master in Divinity:**

Joseph Pager Alaak, B.A.

Christian Paul Basel, B.A., M.A., M.A.T.

Kathryn E. Beaver, B.A.

Thomas Michael Andrew St. John Clement, B.A.

Sarah Bliss Cowan, B.A.

Pedro G. Cuevas Feliz, B.A., Lic.

Elizabeth Anne DeNauw, A.S., B.S., post graduate cert.

Melina Dezhbod, B.S.W., M.S.W.

Susan C. Gage, B.J.

Margaret Barry Goldstein, B.A.

Ronnie Dillon Green, B.A.

Daniel Edward Harris, B.A., M.S.

Elizabeth Ann Prendergast Hendrix, B.S.

Joseph Lister Hubbard, Jr., B.A., J.D.

Hailey Robison Jacobsen, B.A.

Vijayathan Daniel Jeyaruban, B.A., Dipl.

Celal Jeshar Kamran, B.A.

Lauren Banks Killelea, B.A., M.F.A.

Robert Douglas Kirby, B.S., M.S.

Kevin Michael Newell, B.Mus., M.Mus.

Joshua Nathanael Francoeur Paget, B.A.

Robin Allison Reed, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.

David A. Rodrick, B.S., M.S.J.

Leslie Enid Roraback, B.A.

Lydia Hird Simmons, B.A.

Michael Edward Sweeney, B.A.

Sarah Elizabeth Watts, B.A.

Ryan David Wiksell, B.Mus.

### **Candidates for the Degree of Doctor of Ministry:**

Timothy Scott Holder, B.A., M.P.A., M.Div.

*Celebrating the Music of Appalachia in the Episcopal Church and Anglican Tradition: Mission, Evangelism, and Renewal*

Matthew Rhoades Scott, B.A., B.S., M.Div.

*Mutual Blessings*

Susan Brown Snook, B.A., M.B.A., M.Acc., M.Div.

*Leading Congregations to Become Communities of Faithful Presence*

Benjamin E. K. Speare-Hardy II, B.S., M.Div.

*The Black Church and Economic Empowerment: An Ecumenical Collaboration in The Revitalization of West Dayton*

## **Academic Prizes and Awards:**

### **The Anglican Communion Prize**

Given to recognize a graduating student who has shown an outstanding commitment to discerning the mission of God through World Anglicanism.

### **The Thomas Underwood Dudley Award for Reading of Scripture and Liturgy**

Given in memory of the Rt. Rev. Thomas Underwood Dudley (VTS 1867), by his granddaughter Katherine Woodward to a graduating student who “has demonstrated excellence in the public reading and interpretation of the Scriptures and the Liturgy.”

### **The Bishop Mark Dyer Prize for Theological Reflection**

Established in 2018 by Dr. Amy Dyer in honor of her husband, the Rt. Rev. Mark Dyer, this prize recognizes a graduating senior who has developed theological skills and insights to support preaching and service.

### **The Episcopal Preaching Foundation Award**

This award, sponsored by The Episcopal Preaching Foundation, is bestowed upon a graduating Masters-level student who, in the estimation of the Dean and Faculty, has demonstrated the most improvement in preaching.

### **The Ford Chair**

Given by Susan Ford for a “member of the M.Div. graduating class who has exhibited, through the range of his or her overall contributions, a strong commitment to the community life and mission of the Seminary.”

### **The Charles and Janet Harris Award**

Given as a bequest of Charles and Janet Harris to a graduating candidate for holy orders “who has best demonstrated academic excellence and leadership ability as well as other qualities that evidence fitness for ordained ministry.”







