



NEW BRUNSWICK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Think Critically • Act Justly • Lead Faithfully



BACCALAUREATE

MAY 20, 2022

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BACCALAUREATE SERVICE

FRIDAY, MAY 20, 2022

7:00 PM

PRELUDE

Allein Gott in der Höh sei Ehr

Johann Sebastian Bach

*PROCESSIONAL

March in D

David N. Johnson

*LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Suzanne Wenonah Duchesne
Director of Mast Chapel

*VOTUM, SENTENCES AND SALUTATION

Micah L. McCreary
President

In the name of the Creator and of the Redeemer and of the Sustainer. **Amen.**

O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! For this is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture, and the sheep of God's hand.

Grace to you and peace from God our Parent and the Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

WELCOME

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

Beth LaNeel Tanner
Vice President and Dean of Academic Affairs

Gracious Creator, Compassionate Christ, Welcoming Spirit,
We cry out to you
who spoke in the beginning,
and by means of your Word
broke forth from the shadows of your creative chaos
making yourself known to us,
For this, we give our thanks and praise!

You know when we sit down and when we rise up;
You have been with us every step of the way.
You comforted us in our struggles,
celebrated with us in our triumphs,
and brought us thus far in your grace.
For this, we give our thanks and praise!

It is not your desire that any of your children should suffer.
You hear our cries, and
you come from heaven to save,
with plans for our welfare and not for harm,
to give us a future with hope.
For this, we give our thanks and praise!

** We invite you to rise in body or in spirit.*

And so we, whom you fashioned with divine care
and created with curiosity,
gather tonight,
reminded of your saving purposes for all who are oppressed,
seeking minds, hearts, and wills to hear your word to us,
so that we might face the future courageously,
living into our call with the same determination that led us to this place.
In Christ Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Ezekiel 37:1-10

Raynard D. Smith

Associate Professor of Pastoral Care/Pastoral Theology

SERMON

Ministry in a Time and Place of Dry Bones

Faye Banks Taylor

Director of NY Site & Field Education

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from the Belhar Confession)

Terry Ann Smith

Associate Dean of Institutional Assessment

We believe in the triune God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, who gathers, protects and cares for the church through Word and Spirit.

This God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end.

We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the communion of saints called from the entire human family.

We believe that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another.

We believe that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ.

We believe that through the working of God's Spirit it is a binding force, yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought.

We believe that this unity must become visible so that the world may believe that separation, enmity, and hatred between people and groups is sin.

We believe that anything which threatens this unity may have no place in the church and must be resisted.

We believe that true faith in Jesus Christ is the only condition for membership of this church.

Therefore, we reject any doctrine that absolutizes natural diversity in such a way that this hinders or breaks the visible and active unity of the church.

We reject any doctrine that professes that this spiritual unity is truly being maintained in the bond of peace while believers are alienated from one another and in despair of reconciliation.

We reject any doctrine that denies that a refusal earnestly to pursue this visible unity as a priceless gift is sin.

We reject any doctrine that maintains that descent or any other human or social factor should be a consideration in determining membership of the church.

We believe that, in obedience to Jesus Christ, its only head, the church is called to confess and to do all these things,

even though the authorities and human laws might forbid them and punishment and suffering be the consequence.

We believe that Jesus is Lord. To the one and only God, Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit be the honor and the glory for ever and ever.

PRESENTATION OF DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

Joan Marshall
Director of Student Care and Outreach

RECOGNITION OF STUDENT AWARDS

Beth LaNeel Tanner

SPECIAL MUSIC

Come Sunday

Duke Ellington

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

This is the Lord's Table. Everyone is invited to partake.

Suzanne Wenonah Duchesne

Nathan Jérémie-Brink
L. Russell Feakes Assistant Professor of the History of Global Christianity

GATHERING SENTENCES

Gather us in,
the lost and the lonely, the broken and breaking,
the tired and aching
who long for the nourishment found at your feast.

Gather us in,
the done and the doubting, the wishing and wondering,
the puzzled and pondering,
who long for the company found at your feast.

Gather us in,
the proud and pretentious, the sure and superior,
the never inferior,
who long for the leveling found at your feast.

Gather us in,
the bright and the bustling,
the stirrers, the shakers,
the kind laughter makers
who long for the deeper joys found at your feast.

Gather us in,
from corner or limelight, from mansion or campsite,
from fears and obsession, from tears and depression,
from untold excesses, from treasured successes,
to meet, to eat, be given a seat,
be joined to the vine, be offered new wine,
become like the least, be found at the feast.

Gather us in!

INVITATION

This is the table,
not of the Church,
but of Christ.
It is to be made ready
for those who love God and who want to love God more.

It is prepared for those
who have much faith
and those who have little,
for those who have tried to follow
and those who have failed.

**For all have failed and fallen short,
forgive us we pray
for the things we have done and have left undone,
for times we have not loved as you have loved.**

Come then, through grace
all those who seek reconciliation,
and be assured of God's forgiveness
as you meet God here at this table of welcome
where there are no distinctions of age, gender,
race, class, sexual orientation, physical or cognitive ability, or status.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Gratitude, praise, hearts lifted high,
voices full and joyful:
these you deserve.

For when we were nothing, you made us something.
When we had no name and no faith and no future,
you called us your children.
When we lost our way or turned away, you did not abandon us.
When we came back to you, your arms opened wide in welcome.

And look, you prepare a table for us
offering not just bread, not just wine, but your very self
so that we may be filled, forgiven, healed, blessed and made new again.
You are worth all our pain and all our praise.

So now, in gratitude, we join our voices
to those of the Church on earth and in heaven.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the One who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you and blessed is Jesus Christ,
who called you Abba.

As a mother tenderly gathers her children,
we gather to share the richness of your table,
all the while remembering the rawness of the earth.

We cannot take bread and forget those who are hungry.
Your world is one world, and we are stewards of its nourishment.
Put our prosperity at the service of the poor.

We cannot take wine and forget those who are thirsty.
The ground and the rootless, the earth and its weary people cry out for justice.
Put our fullness at the service of the empty.

We cannot hear your words of peace and forget the world at war.
Show us quickly,
how to turn weapons
into welcome signs
and the lust for power
into a desire for peace.

We cannot celebrate the feast of your family and forget our divisions.
We are one in spirit, but not in fact. History and hurt still dismember us.
Heal our church, heal our world
in every brokenness.

**Fill us with a longing for peace that will last and a justice that will never fail.
Amen.**

THE STORY

Jesus understood the importance of community and relationship. So, on the night in which he was betrayed, he gathered his disciples together for a meal. While they were eating, he took a piece of bread, said a blessing, broke it, and gave it to them with the words, "This is my body. It is for you. Do this to remember me." Later, he took a cup of wine, saying, "This cup is God's new covenant, sealed with my blood. Drink from it, all of you, to remember me."

So now, O God, accept this sacrifice which we offer to you through the great mercy that you have shown in Jesus Christ for us, in union with all your saints that have forged new pathways of justice and peace in your name:

Christ has died, Christ is Risen, Christ will come again!

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts, that in the breaking of this bread and the drinking of this wine we may know the presence of the living Christ and be renewed as the body of Christ for the world, redeemed by Christ's blood. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.

Amen.

THE SHARING

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have fed us at your table.
For this, we give our thanks.

You put your life into our hands;
now we put our lives into yours.

**Take us,
renew and remake us.**

From where we are
to where you need us

**Take us,
renew and remake us.**

From the security of what we know
to the adventure of what you will reveal

**Take us,
renew and remake us.**

From the deep ruts of old patterns
to the changing directions and destinies of your reign

**Take us,
renew and remake us.**

What we have been is past
what we shall be, through you,
still awaits us.

**Take us,
renew and remake us.**

So, we may go and share the good news of God's love
through all the earth.

Amen.

BLESSING OF THE SENIORS AND PRESENTATION OF THE SEMINARY LIGHT

Micah L. McCreary

*BENEDICTION

Faye Banks Taylor

*RECESSIONAL/POSTLUDE

Finale

Healey Willan

You are cordially invited for refreshments in the Courtyard following the service.

WORSHIP NOTES:

The elements for Holy Communion will be distributed after they are blessed. Please wait until all are served so that we may partake together.

Prayer: S. Duchesne 2021, "Gathering Prayer".

Affirmation of Faith: © 2006 Reformed Church Press. Originally published in *Unity, Reconciliation, and Justice: A Study Guide for the Belhar Confession*. David Alexander. Used with permission.

Celebration Of the Lord's Supper adapted by S. Duchesne from "The Lord's Supper: Hungering for Justice," from: Ellis and Blyth in *Gathering for Worship: Patterns and Prayers for the Community of Disciples* (Norwich: Canterbury Press, 2012) and "Bilingual Eucharist for Sojourners," authorship unknown, english translation by Lydia Muñoz in "World Communion Sunday 2021 Resources" umcdiscipleship.org, used with permission.

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Participating in the Baccalaureate Service

Rev. Micah L. McCreary, PhD

President

John Henry Livingston Professor of Theology

Rev. Beth LaNeel Tanner, PhD

Vice President and Dean of Academic Affairs

The Norman and Mary Kansfield Chair of Old Testament

Rev. Raynard D. Smith, PhD

Associate Professor of Pastoral Care/Pastoral Theology

Rev. Faye Banks Taylor, DMin

Director of NY Site

Director of Field Education

Rev. Terry Ann Smith, PhD

Associate Dean of Institutional Assessment

Associate Professor of Biblical Studies

Joan Marshall, MDiv

Director of Student Care and Outreach

Rev. Suzanne Wenonah Duchesne, PhD

Visiting Professor of Worship and Preaching and Director of the Mast Chapel

Rev. Nathan Jérémie-Brink, PhD

L. Russell Feakes Assistant Professor of the History of Global Christianity

Mark A. Trautman, MM

Organist & Pianist

Lynette Joy Fraiter (NBTS MDiv & MA Student)

Saxophonist

About our Baccalaureate Preacher

Rev. Dr. Faye Banks Taylor



The Rev. Dr. Faye Banks Taylor was born and raised in Virginia and educated in the State's public schools. Dr. Taylor holds a bachelor's degree in Sociology from Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia, a Master of Divinity degree, Summa Cum Laude, from New Brunswick Theological Seminary, and a Doctor of Ministry degree, with a concentration in pastoral care and counseling, from the Drew Theological School in Madison, New Jersey.

While in Virginia, Dr. Taylor worked in the Richmond public school system and for several non-profit, community-based organizations. In 1982, she relocated to New York State. For twenty-four years, she was employed at Phoenix House Foundation, a drug rehabilitation program in New York City. She retired from there in 2007. Her current position is with New Brunswick Theological Seminary, as Director of the New York site at St. John's University in Queens, New York, and Director of Field Education. She has also served as the New York Regional Recruitment Coordinator for the seminary. Dr. Taylor is a member of the Board of Directors of Ruby's Place, a transitional housing program for women. Additionally, she sits on the Board of Directors of Crying for Help Ministries, a resource ministry created to provide tuition support for children in Haiti.

Dr. Taylor is an ordained itinerant elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. In June, 2004, she was appointed to St. Mark's Chapel AME Church where she continues to serve as its pastor. She currently also serves her denomination as the presiding elder of her district overseeing the work of several congregations.

Dr. Taylor is married to her husband of thirty-five years, has two adult stepchildren and two beautiful granddaughters, one who is graduating from college this year and the other who is a freshman in high school.

2022 AWARDS, PRIZES, AND SCHOLARSHIPS

PRESIDENT'S SERVICE AWARD

The President's Service Award recognizes a member of our community for their service to the church and the wider community, who lives out:

Think Critically, Act Justly, Lead Faithfully. **Darell J. Schregardus**

ALUMNI AWARDS

The Chaplaincy Alumni Award is given to an alum who is an extraordinary model of significant ministry, service, and chaplaincy.

Rev. Lester Shelley (MDiv 2016) served in chaplaincy for over forty years working extensively with veterans.

The Global Ministry Alumni Award is given to an alum with a heart for global ministry who has demonstrated a commitment to holistic ministries of justice and compassion.

Rev. Paul Nulton (MDiv 1972) ministered in multiple countries and served as the Volunteer Services Coordinator for the Synods of New York and New Jersey for several years.

The Prophetic Ministry Award is given to an alumnus whose leadership and contributions to community engagement reflect a prophetic theological understanding.

Rev. Pamela Pater-Ennis, PhD (MDiv 1984) has spent nearly four decades in ministry opening doors of healing for those who have been abused by the church.

ACADEMIC AWARDS

THE PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLAR IN DECONSTRUCTING POWER AND PRIVILEGE

is awarded to a Doctor of Ministry student who is chosen to produce theological reflections enhancing our antiracism focus and pedagogical innovations in justice, care, ministry, and mission.

Gregory Dunlap

THE FRANCES D. BEARDSLEE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

is awarded to the woman who exhibits excellence in scholarship and personal growth. **Michael W. Leach & Vivian Campbell**

**THE REVEREND JOHN W. BEARDSLEE, III, AWARD
IN REFORMED CHURCH HISTORY**

is awarded to the student who demonstrates excellence in the area of Reformed Church History. **Hale B. Thompson**

THE BLUSCHKE/BECKSTEAD SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

is given to the student who demonstrates excellence in pastoral care and ministerial practice **Barbara R. Cummings**

THE CERCA CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AWARD

goes to a graduate whose gifts and achievements show the most promise for Christian education. **Eshe M. Killian**

THE JOHN W. COAKLEY PRIZE

is awarded to a student who has demonstrated excellence in the fields of both Church History and Foundational Theology. **Brenda L. Crespo**

THE MARY B. DOOLITTLE PRIZE

in New Testament Interpretation is awarded to the member of the Middler class who submitted the best paper in New Testament Exegesis **Ann M. Garrick**

THE REVEREND JAMES EELMAN PRIZE IN PREACHING

is awarded to the student who demonstrates excellence by exploring the nature and development of preaching in a given ecclesiastical tradition. **Kali D. Lewis**

THE ROBERT HATCHER PRIZE

is awarded to the student who excels in Christian Education. **Gene McRae**

THE REVEREND EDWARD LODEWICK PRIZE

is awarded to the member of the Senior Class who demonstrates excellence in preaching **Brenda L. Crespo**

THE REVEREND FREDERICK MOLD, JR., AWARD

is awarded to the senior who demonstrates excellence in the field of Reformed Church Polity. **Carlos Encarnacion Lugo**

THE BENJAMIN LANHAM ROGERS PRIZE IN OLD TESTAMENT

is presented to the senior who demonstrates outstanding competence in Old Testament studies **Selema C. Johnson**

**THE REVEREND HORACE G. UNDERWOOD PRIZE
IN ASIAN AMERICAN MINISTRY**

is awarded to a student of Asian heritage who has exhibited performance in scholarship and has a promising future for growth in ministerial skills. **Ha Cho**

THE REVEREND CLARA WOODSON AWARD

recognizes the graduating senior whose love, compassion, and spiritual gifts have fostered the bond of Koinonia at the New York campus **Gregory Cowart**

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GRADUATE THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION SINCE 1784

MA, MATS, MDiv, DMin & CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

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