



NEW BRUNSWICK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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BACCALAUREATE

MAY 19, 2023

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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. Faye Banks Taylor, DMin

Assistant Professor of Spiritual Formation & Field Education

Director of Field Education & Career Services

Director of NY Site

Rev. Elizabeth Testa

Coordinator for Women's Transformation and Leadership and

Equity-Based Hospitality, Reformed Church in America,

Member, NBTS Board of Trustees

Janice McLean-Farrell, PhD

Dirck Romeyn Assistant Professor of Metro-Urban Ministry

Assistant Dean of Doctoral Studies

T. Patrick Milas, PhD

Director of the Gardner A. Sage Library

Assistant Professor of Theological Bibliography & Research

Rev. Wesley Wilson, III

Assistant Pastor, Second Canaan Baptist Church

NBTS Class of 2018

Rev. Suzanne Wenonah Duchesne, PhD

Visiting Professor of Worship and Preaching

Director of the Mast Chapel

Rev. Neal Presa, PhD

Vice President of Student Affairs and Vocational Outreach

Associate Professor of Preaching and Worship

Mark A. Trautman, MM

Organist & Pianist

Lee Ann Newland (NBTS MAPCC Student)

Horn

John Lambert

Trumpet

BACCALAUREATE SERVICE

FRIDAY, MAY 19, 2023

7:00 PM

PRELUDE	<i>Adoration</i>	Florence Price
*PROCESSIONAL	<i>March in D</i>	David N. Johnson
*LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT		Suzanne Wenonah Duchesne <i>Director of Mast Chapel</i>
*VOTUM, SENTENCES AND SALUTATION		Micah L. McCreary <i>President</i>

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!

And so we, whom you fashioned with divine care
and created with curiosity,
gather tonight,

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

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

Isaiah 52:7

Faye Banks Taylor
Director of NY Site & Field Education

Elizabeth Testa
Member, NBTS Board of Trustees

SERMON

Fasten Your Seat Belt: It's Going to Be a Bumpy Ride

Janice McLean-Farrell
Assistant Dean of Doctoral Studies

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from the Belhar Confession)

T. Patrick Milas
Director of the Gardner A. Sage Library

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

Wesley Wilson, III

RECOGNITION OF STUDENT AWARDS

Beth LaNeel Tanner

SPECIAL MUSIC

Come Sunday

Duke Ellington

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Suzanne Wenonah Duchesne

Neal Presa

Vice President of Student Affairs and Vocational Outreach

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. ...

... 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. ...

... 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

*This is the Lord's Table. Everyone is invited to partake.
Please wait until all are served so that we may partake together.*

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

Janice McLean-Farrell

*POSTLUDE

Finale Jubilante

Healey Willan

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".

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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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About our Baccalaureate Preacher



Dr. Janice McLean-Farrell

Dr. Janice McLean-Farrell is the Dirk Romeyn Assistant Professor of Metro-Urban Ministry and Assistant Dean of Doctoral Studies at New Brunswick Theological Seminary (NBTS). She teaches in the areas of urban ministry, migration, research methods, and community leadership. She conducts research in the areas of religions of the African Diaspora, Christianity in the Caribbean, migration, parenting within immigrant families, urban immigrant youth and religion, immigrant churches in the Diaspora, and women and migration. In the classroom, Dr. McLean-Farrell's teaching philosophy is intentionally post-colonial and liberative.

Her pedagogy affirms multiple ways of learning, the significance of experiential learning, and making one's learning applicable to one's context. Dr. McLean-Farrell is the author of *West Indian Pentecostals: Living their Faith in New York and London* (Bloomsbury, 2016) and numerous articles including "Mission in Contested Places/Spaces: The SPG, Slavery, and Codrington College, Barbados" (2021) and "Nurturing the Disruptive Voice: Reflections on Naaman's Slave Girl (2 Kings 5) and Cultivating the Voices of African American and Black Immigrant Girls" (With Dr. Terry Smith - forthcoming). She is the co-editor of *Understanding World Christianity: The Vision and Work of Andrew F. Walls* (Orbis, 2011) and *Engaging the World: Christian Communities in Contemporary Global Societies* (Regnum, 2014). Dr. McLean-Farrell serves on various committees at NBTS and on the steering committee of the Alliance for Black Pentecostal scholarship. She also co-chairs the World Christianity unit of the American Academy of Religion and is a member of the Vital Worship Grant Advisory Board for the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship at Calvin University. Dr. McLean-Farrell is passionate about equipping leaders for ministry in urban spaces. For several years, she served as a commissioned pastor at New Song Community Church in Harlem, NY. She was also the co-chair of the board of trustees for New Song Community Cooperation. Dr. McLean-Farrell is a consultant for various immigrant churches in New York City. She and her family are members of Madison Avenue Christian Reformed Church in Paterson, New Jersey. She and her husband live in New York City, and they are the parents of two children. In her spare time, Dr. McLean-Farrell likes to garden, grow vegetables in grow bags on her deck, cook, take nature pictures, and watch Korean dramas.

2023 AWARDS, PRIZES, AND SCHOLARSHIPS

The Frances D. Beardslee Memorial Scholarship

is awarded to the woman who exhibits excellence in scholarship and personal growth **Kia Inman**

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 **Kebin Huang**

The Bluschke/Beckstead Scholarship Award

is given to the student who demonstrates excellence in pastoral care and ministerial practice **Betrice Thompson and Lynette Fraiter**

The Cerca Christian Education Award

goes to a graduate whose gifts and achievements show the most promise for Christian education **Barrington Hibbert**

The John W. Coakley Prize

is awarded to a student who has demonstrated excellence in the fields of both Church History and Foundational Theology **Heather Wilson**

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. **Kebin Huang**

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. **Tracey Henry**

The Robert Hatcher Prize

is awarded to the student who excels in Christian Education. **Etasha Webb**

The Reverend Edward Lodewick Prize

is awarded to the member of the Senior Class who demonstrates excellence in preaching **Kia Inman**

The Reverend Frederick Mold, Jr., Award

is awarded to the senior who demonstrates excellence in the field of Reformed Church Polity **Arlene Romaine**

The Benjamin Lanham Rogers Prize In Old Testament

is presented to the senior who demonstrates outstanding competence in Old Testament studies. **Arlene Romaine**

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. . . . **Laura LuNing Choi**

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 **Gene McRae**

2023 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

The 1784 Legacy Alumni Award

is given to an NBTS graduate of four decades or more who has given dedicated service to God and God's people in the Reformed Church in America. This person will have exemplified dedication to the church, faithful service in ministry, pastoral care, and a commitment to life-long learning.

Rev. Allan J. Janssen, PhD (M.Div. 1973) dedicated more than forty years of faithful service to the RCA as an author, editor, pastor, and General Synod professor.

The Chaplaincy Alumni Award

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

Rev. Jerrold Smith, Jr. (M.Div. 2016) has served as both a resident and staff chaplain for Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital.

The Prophetic Ministry Award

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

Rev. Barry E. Wise II (M.Div. 2016) has been a staunch advocate for the marginalized through his proclamation of the gospel and community organizing.

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