



Drew Theological School
BLESSING OF THE GRADUATES

Friday, May 15, 2026
Craig Chapel, Seminary Hall
9:30 AM

BLESSING OF THE GRADUATES

GATHERING MUSIC

“When There’s Trust In the Room”

Words: John Thornburg, Music: Mark Miller

1. When there’s trust in the room, we can breathe;
When we don’t undercut or deceive;
When there’s grace in the air, and respect everywhere
When there’s trust in the room, we can breathe.

2. When there’s trust in the room, we can see;
When the blinders come off, and we’re free;
When we’re honest and fair, and receptive to care,
when there’s trust in the room, we can see.

Refrain: Hallelujah! Sing hallelujah!
When there’s trust in the room, we can see.
When we’re honest and fair, and receptive to care,
when there’s trust in the room, we can see.

3. When there’s trust in the room, we can dream;
When our motives are just what they seem;
When our thoughts freely flow, and we’re challenged to grow,
when there’s trust in the room, we can dream.

Refrain: Hallelujah! Sing hallelujah!
When there’s trust in the room, we can dream.
When our thoughts freely flow, and we’re challenged to grow,
when there’s trust in the room, we can dream.

“Stillness”

Words: Lindy Thompson, Music: Mark Miller

Refrain: Meet me in the stillness, Lord. Be the air I breathe.
Meet me in the stillness, Lord. Free me to receive.

GATHERING WORDS

Crystal James

Leader: In the loving of neighbour and the sharing of love,

All: together we are going on.

Leader: In the celebration of life and the sharing of that life together,

All: together we are going on.

Leader: In the caring of the earth and the sharing of her harvest,

All: together we are going on.

Leader: In the variety of people and the sharing of our talents,

All: together we are going on.

Leader: In the laughter we make and the sharing of the journey,

All: together we are going on.

Leader: In the love of this community and the sharing of our faith,

All: together we are going on.

HYMN OF PRAISE

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

Words: Harry Emerson Fosdick, Music: John Hughes

God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power.
Crown thine ancient church's story; bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.

Lo! the hosts of evil round us scorn thy Christ, assail his ways.
Fears and doubts too long have bound us. Free our hearts to work and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days, for the living of these days.

Cure thy children's warring madness. Bend our pride to thy control.
Shame our wanton selfish gladness - rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.

Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore.
Let the search for thy salvation be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving thee whom we adore, serving thee whom we adore!

SCRIPTURE READING

Gonzalo Alers

Psalm 100, NRSVUE, adapted

- 1 Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth.
- 2 Serve God with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.
- 3 Know that God is *God*.
It is she who made us, and we are hers;
we are her people and the sheep of her pasture.
- 4 Enter God's gates with thanksgiving
and their courts with praise.
Give thanks to them; bless God's name.
- 5 For God is good;
Their steadfast love endures forever
and their faithfulness to all generations.

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God.
People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Unspeakable Joy”

Rev. Dr. J. Terry Todd

MUSICAL RESPONSE

“We Say Congratulations”

Led by members of AfriSCaD

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Dean Edwin David Aponte

Servers: Salia Paul Kamara, Cassidy Beckett, Shin-Young Kim, Maggie Wolford, Adrian Mendoza

Celebrant: We stand at the crossroads of justice and joy.

People: We stand at the crossroads of wild dreams and patient efforts.

Celebrant: We stand at the crossroads of weariness and “what if...?”

People: We stand at the crossroads of exodus and genesis.

Celebrant: We stand at the crossroads.

People: We stand at the cross.

Celebrant: We sit at the table.

People: We sit at the table of stranger and family.

Celebrant: We sit at the table of hunger and plenty

People: We sit at the table of simple and deep.

Celebrant: We sit at the table of missing faces,

People: And room enough for all.

Celebrant: On the night of his arrest, Jesus gathered around table with his companions. His friends. His beloveds in the struggle. Even the one who would turn him over to the cross.

He took bread, blessed it, broke it, gave it to all of them and said,
“This is my body which is given for you. Take, eat, and remember me.”
After the supper, he did the same with the cup, saying,
“This is a symbol of the new covenant. Drink in remembrance of me.”

Pour out your Spirit on this bread and this cup, O God. Through these gifts, fill our hearts with courage to believe the Kingdom is within us, to live boldly in pursuit of love that liberates, and to follow the Wisdom that leads from the margins. Blessed be this meal of hope.

The bread, broken and shared, the body of Christ for us and for all.
The cup, Christ’s life poured out, for us and for all.

All: Like the bread, we are broken and blessed.

Like the wine, we are poured out and life-giving.

Like all who follow Jesus, we are humbled, yet mighty.

Like the twelve, we are welcomed, forgiven, fed, and sent.

Celebrant: We sing at the table. Let us sing together the prayer that Jesus taught us.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (sung)

*Our God, in heaven, holy is your name,
your reign come, your will done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread, and help us forgive, as we have been forgiven.
In the time of trial lead us into light,
for yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.
Our God, in heaven, holy is your name, holy is your name.*

SHARING THE GIFTS

[The sacrament of holy communion is open for all. You are invited to come forward, processing down the center aisle and returning by the side aisles. You will receive a cup to receive the wine/juice as you proceed down the aisle. At the front, the servers at either of two stations will give you a gluten-free cracker and pour either juice or wine into your cup. Then you may return to your seat. The pitchers with the ribbon contain wine. The plain pitchers contain juice.]

SONGS DURING COMMUNION

“I Choose Love”

Words: Lindy Thompson, Music: Mark Miller

In the midst of pain, I choose love.
In the midst of pain, sorrow falling down like rain,
I await the sun again, I choose love.

In the midst of war, I choose peace.
In the midst of war, hate and anger keeping score,
I will seek the good once more, I choose peace.

When my world falls down, I will rise.
When my world falls down, explanations can't be found,
I will climb to holy ground, I will rise.

In the midst of pain, I choose love.
In the midst of pain, sorrow falling down like rain,
I await the sun again, I choose love.

“Ayúdanos, O Dios”

Words and Music: Mark Miller

Ayúdanos, oh Dios, concédenos tu paz.

Ayúdanos, oh Dios, concédenos tu paz.

Oh, help us, save us, grant us peace, O God!

Ayúdanos, help us, grant us peace, O God!

Ayúdanos, oh Dios, concédenos tu paz.

“The Goodness of God”

Songwriters: Ben Fielding / Brian Johnson / Edward Martin Cash / Jason Ingram /

Jenn Johnson - OnceLicense #A-729109

I love You, Lord, for Your mercy never fails me.

All my days, I've been held in Your hands.

From the moment that I wake up,

Until I lay my head,

Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God.

Refrain: 'Cause all my life You have been faithful,

And all my life You have been so, so good.

With every breath that I am able,

Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God.

I love Your voice. You have led me through the fire.

In darkest night, You are close like no other.

I've known You as a Maker. I've known You as a Friend.

And I have lived in the goodness of God.

Refrain

Your goodness is running after, it's running after me.

Your goodness is running after, it's running after me.

With my life laid down, I surrendered now.

I give You everything.

Refrain

RECOGNITION OF THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL STUDENTS

FACULTY BLESSING OF GRADUATES

***CLOSING SONG**

“What Does the Lord Require of You”

Words and Music: Mark Miller

What does the Lord require of you? What does the Lord require of you?

What does the Lord require of you? I want to know. I want to know.

Justice, kindness. Walk humbly with your God.

Justice, kindness. Walk humbly with your God.

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Worship Notes:

The Gathering Words are adapted from Rev. Roddy Hamilton, New Kilpatrick Parish Church (nkchurch.org.uk)

The Great Thanksgiving is adapted from Rev. Martha Peck, United Church of Christ, and from M. Jade Kaiser, *enfleshed*.

Celebrating Our Graduating Drew Theological School Students

Doctor of Philosophy

Gonzalo Alers
Patrick Kelly
Jung Ae Kim
Shin-young Kim

Matthew Lai
Kenia Vanessa Mendoza
Beth Quick
Amiel Wayne

Doctor of Ministry

Janet Antico
Donna Bollinger
Jeff Bryan
Yonghoon Cho
Shinho Choi
Billy Chun
Clare Ettensohn
Carla Gittens
Nnabugwu Gogoh
Julia Haspel
Crystal James
Ingi Kim
Ji-young Kim
Ju Min Kim
Soonwon Kwon
Gyu Seob Lee
Jong Jin Lee

Michelleslie Maltese-Nehrbass
Donna Maree
Natisha Matthews
Marie Mike
Eun Kyu Park
Minkyu Park
Dana Rainey
Devon Reynolds
Dongwon Seo
Marshall Shelly
Donghoon Shin
Seungjae Shin
Kyu Sang Song
Min Geun Song
Will Sullivan
Desire Tiriwepi
Heather Williams

Certificate in United Methodist Studies

Salia Paul Kamara, Jr.

Certificate in Theological Studies

Joyce Hylton Spence
Lara Thompson

Master of the Arts in Theology and Ministry

Doyle Chibi
Cynthia Cupe
Abigail Hartley
Amber Gregory
Brian Johnson

Salia Paul Kamara Jr.
Jinna Lee
Steven Patterson
Deborah Russell

Master of Divinity

Steven Adade
Jong-min Ahn
Larry Alston
Doby Amos
Simone Baitey
Janice Marie Beauchamp
Cassidy Beckett
Michelle Lamberty-Benites
Karen Bentley
Michael Benyah
Lovely Cabangan
Bonnie Chiappetta
Precious Chikunguru
Yeongrok Choi
Bethany Davey
Carrie-lee Farnham
Eli Franqui
Magdalene Garsuah
Valter Gregorio
Sahnah Hahn
Jb Hatungimana
Sharon Hoff
Esther In
Dee Jackson
Nyasha Jeche

Alison Johnson
Hayoung Kim
Solomon Korir
Ji Hae Lee
Susan Mercer
Benjamin Musasizi
Marcel Salumu Okito
Pierre Omadjela
Andrea Osborne
Francis Osuji
Natalie Palacio
Jean Park
Josh Phillips
Nate Roark
Malcolm Sydnor
Esther Somp
Tom Stelzl
Danny Umba
Albarka Wakili
William White
Yolonda Williams
Margaret Wolford
Chris Won
Dohee Woo
Vincent Yohanna

Master of Arts in Religion

Asa Agooti
Carolina Alderete
Abi Harper

Lawrence Lewis
Jory Pryor
Hawk Ricketts

Master of Sacred Theology

Sangwoo Ahn
Yoonho Choe
Marcus Garcia
Salomon Hsu

Felistas Mahachi
Adrian Mendoza

**Drew University Theological School
2026 Honors & Awards**

Awards

Recipients

Rev. Dr. Joyce Bailey Award for All Around
Excellence & Order of St. Luke-Hoyt Hickman
Award

Janice Marie Beauchamp

AfriSCaD Alumni Prize

Nyasha Jeché

Class of 1959 Bernhard Anderson Prize for
Excellence in Leadership

Bethany Davey

The Frederick Buechner Writing Competition & Alton
Raynor Prize

Albarka Wakili

Robert Duncan, Sr. Prize

Francis Osuji

Henry L. Lambdin Prize for Excellence in Pastoral
Leadership

Marcel Salumu Okito

The Rev. Dr. Clayton Z. Miller T'59, 75 Prize

Jovithe Hatugimina

Jasper and Ann Steele Prize

Salia Paul Kamara Jr.

J. Newton Davies Greek New Testament Prize

Abigail Hartley

Clarence Tucker Craig Prize in Biblical Studies &
Lester Berenbroick Award in Church Music

Hayoung Kim

George R. Warren Memorial Prize & Alfred B. Haas
Prize

Yeongrok Choi

Rabbi Dr. Sheldon J. Weltman Prize for Excellence in
Bible Studies

Jung Ae Kim

Robert Jehu Bull Award

Alison Johnson

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| George R. Crooks Prize | Doby Amos |
| Fellowship Seminar Award | Dohee Woo |
| John Heston Willey Prize | Tommy Stelzl |
| Reverend Robert W. Edgar Prize for Social Justice | Matthew Tsz Him Lai |
| Daniel P. Kidder Award | Desire Tiriwepi |
| Helen LePage & William Hale Chamberlain Prize | Amiel Wayne |
| AfriSCaD Alumni Prize & Rev. William L.D. Lyght T' 33 Prize | Esther Somp |
| Annin Memorial Prize in Theology | Benjamin (Josh) Phillips |
| Robert J. Duncan, Jr. Prize | Hankwi Chun |

