

# HARVARD UNIVERSITY

BACCALAUREATE SERVICE FOR  
THE CLASS OF 2015 IN HARVARD COLLEGE



Tuesday, May twenty-sixth, two thousand fifteen  
two o'clock in the afternoon  
in the sanctuary of the Memorial Church



The limited seating capacity of the Memorial Church permits the admission of candidates for degrees only, in academic costume. The service is broadcast into Tercentenary Theatre, where parents and friends are invited to take their seats after they have reviewed the academic procession. The procession forms in the Old Yard, steps off from Holworthy Hall, and passes the western front of University Hall, where candidates doff their mortarboards to John Harvard. Led by their Class Marshals, they then proceed to the eastern side of University Hall and to the western porch of the Memorial Church.

This service is conducted by Professor Jonathan L. Walton, Plummer Professor of Christian Morals and Pusey Minister in the Memorial Church. Prayers are offered by the Reverend Dr. Lucy A. Forster-Smith, Sedgwick Chaplain to Harvard University and Senior Minister in the Memorial Church; Nuri Friedlander, Muslim Chaplain; and Luther Zeigler, Episcopal Chaplain.

The Commencement Choir is conducted by Andrew Clark, Director of Choral Activities at Harvard University, and Edward E. Jones, Gund University Organist and Choirmaster in the Memorial Church, Harvard University.

The Harvard College Class of 2015 Marshals are Sietse K. Goffard (First Marshal), Chisom Okpala (Second Marshal), Alejandro A. Jimenez Jaramillo, Chika-Dike O. Nwokike, Sudheer R. Poluru, Megan B. Prasad, Joshua B. Scott, and Bob Wu.

*Please silence all electronic devices upon entering the sanctuary of the Memorial Church.*

*Photography is not permitted in the Memorial Church.*

## THE BACCALAUREATE SERVICE

The Baccalaureate Service has long been associated with the commencement exercises of American colleges and universities, and forms a link between these increasingly secular institutions and their religious origins. The term baccalaureate is derived from two Latin words, *bacca*, or “berry,” and *laureus*, “laurel,” which might refer to the wreaths of laurel with which new graduates were crowned in European ceremonies of the medieval period.

Harvard’s first Commencement, that of 1642, is the first recorded such ceremony in English North America, and in it are rudiments of its Cambridge University ancestor, whose thirteenth-century statutes describe a Baccalaureate sermon preached while a candidate “sat with bowed head over which his hood was drawn, a picture of abject humility and utter embarrassment.” No seventeenth-century Harvard Baccalaureate sermons survive: eighteenth-century specimens are post-revolutionary, with the 1794 sermon of David Tappan, third Hollis Professor of Divinity, one of the oldest. One symbol of continuity maintained in this service is the singing of Psalm 78 to the tune *St. Martin’s*. The text and tune have been sung at Harvard Commencement and Baccalaureate at least since 1806.

In the nineteenth century, the seniors in Harvard College routinely extended an invitation to the President to address them, and with few exceptions this tradition has been maintained. For some years it has been our happy custom to include the readings from scriptures sacred to the many religious traditions of the Class, and to invite members of the Harvard Chaplains to offer prayers in behalf of the Class, the University, and the world. The occasion is both joyful and solemn, intimate and public, filled with the exuberance of youth and sustained by venerable and weighty tradition. Next to Commencement itself, Baccalaureate is perhaps our oldest public occasion.

*Peter J. Gomes (1942–2011)*

# ORDER OF SERVICE

PROCESSIONAL Music for the Royal Fireworks *George Frideric Handel (1685–1759)*

*Following the Class Marshals the candidates for degrees enter into the body of the church*

PRESIDENTIAL FANFARE Domine Salvam Fac *Charles Gounod (1818–1893)*

*The Class stands at the entrance of the President*

Domine salvam fac Praesidem nostram,  
Et exaudi nos in die qua invocaverimus te.

*O Lord, save our President,  
And answer us when we call on you.*

SALUTATION Jonathan L. Walton  
*Plummer Professor of Christian Morals and Pusey Minister,  
The Memorial Church, Harvard University*

HYMN No. 355, “Give Ear, Ye Children, to My Law” *St. Martin’s*

*The Class standing*

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|---|---|
| I. Give ear, ye children, to my law<br>Devout attention lend,<br>Let the instructions of my mouth<br>Deep in your hearts descend. | IV. Let children learn the mighty deeds<br>Which God performed of old,<br>Which, in our younger years, we saw,<br>And which our fathers told. |
| II. My tongue, by inspiration taught,<br>Shall parables unfold:<br>Dark oracles, but understood<br>And owned for truths of old,   | V. Our lips shall tell them to our sons,<br>And they again to theirs,—<br>That generations yet unborn<br>May teach them to their heirs.       |
| III. Which we from sacred registers<br>Of ancient times have known,<br>And our forefathers’ pious care<br>To us has handed down.  |   |

READINGS

*from* the Holy Quran (Islam)  
Read in Arabic by Fatima Mirza  
Read in English by Shehryar Rahim Sheikh

*from* the Yasna (Zoroastrianism)  
Read in Avestan and English by Zeenia Framrose

*from* the New Testament (Christianity)  
Read in Greek by Constantine Tarabanis  
Read in English by Jazmyne Reid

*from* the Writings of Oscar Romero (Catholicism)  
Read in Spanish and English by Fernando Espino

PRAYER

Nuri Friedlander  
*Muslim Chaplain*

ANTHEM

Artist's Benediction

*Professor Noam D. Elkies PhD '87 (b. 1966)*

Calm and serene thy moments glide along,  
And may the muse inspire each future song!  
Still, with the sweets of contemplation blessed,  
May peace with balmy wings your soul invest!

*Phillis Wheatley (1753–1784)*

READINGS

*from* Pirkei Avot (Judaism)  
Read in Hebrew by Emily Rubenstein  
Read in English by Samuel Fisher

*from* the Upanishads (Hinduism)  
Read in Sanskrit by Divya Shah  
Read in English by Pulkit Agrawal

*from* the Sutra of Forty-Two Chapters (Buddhism)  
Read in Chinese and English by Andrew Pan

PRAYER

Luther Zeigler  
*Episcopal Chaplain*

ANTHEM	Oseh Shalom (A Prayer for Peace)	<i>Samuel G. Ruchman '15 (b. 1992)</i>
	Oseh shalom bim'romav Hu ya'aseh shalom aleinu V'al kol Yisrael, V'imru amen.	<i>He who makes peace In High Places Bring peace to us and all Israel And let us say, Amen.</i>
ADDRESS	Drew Gilpin Faust <i>President of Harvard University</i>	
HYMN	No. 5, "Now Thank We All Our God"	<i>Nun danket alle Gott</i>
	<i>The Class standing</i>	
	Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices, Who wondrous things hath done, in whom his world rejoices, Who, from our parents' arms, hath blessed us on our way With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.	
	O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us, With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us, And keep us in his grace, and guide us when perplexed, And free us from all ills in this world and the next.	
BLESSING	Lucy A. Forster-Smith <i>Sedgwick Chaplain to the University and Senior Minister, The Memorial Church, Harvard University</i>	
RECESSIONAL	"Alles was Odem hat" from <i>Singet dem Herrn, BWV 225</i>	<i>J. S. Bach (1685–1750)</i>
	Alles was Odem hat, lobe den Herrn, Halleluja! <i>Everything that has breath, praise the Lord, Hallelujah!</i>	<i>Psalm 150:6</i>
	"Toccatà" from <i>Symphony No. 5</i>	<i>Charles-Marie Widor (1844–1937)</i>
	<i>The Class exits following the President, clergy, readers, and Class Marshals</i>	