

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

*Baccalaureate Service for
the Class of 2009 in Harvard College*



THE MEMORIAL CHURCH

*Tuesday, June second, two thousand nine
two o'clock in the afternoon*

PLEASE SILENCE PERSONAL TELEPHONES AND PAGERS
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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

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

Following the Class Marshals, the candidates for degrees enter into the body of the Church. The members of the platform party, led by the Verger, take their places in the chancel. When the President takes her seat, the Class is seated.

SALUTATION The Reverend Peter J. Gomes
Plummer Professor of Christian Morals
and Pusey Minister in The Memorial Church

READINGS *from* The Analects of Confucius
Read in Chinese by Meijie Tang
Read in English by Susan Y. Yao

from The Hebrew Bible
Read in Hebrew by Peter N. Ganong
Read in English by Anna M. Resnick

ANTHEM For the Splendor of Creation
Adapted from the orchestral suite: The Planets, Op. 32 *Gustav Holst (1874–1934)*
Arranged for the Commencement Choir *Jameson Marvin (b. 1941)*

For the splendor of creation that draws us to inquire,
For the mysteries of knowledge to which our hearts aspire,
For the deep and subtle beauties which delight the eye and ear,
For the discipline of logic, the struggle to be clear,
For the unexplained remainder, the puzzling and the odd:
For the joy and pain of learning, we give you thanks, O God.

For the scholars past and present whose bounty we digest,
For the teachers who inspire us to summon forth our best,
For our rivals and companions, sometimes foolish, sometimes wise,
For the human web upholding this noble enterprise,
For the common life that binds us through days that soar or plod:
For this place and for these people, we give you thanks, O God.

Text by Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1989

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This service is conducted by The Reverend Peter J. Gomes, Plummer Professor of Christian Morals and Pusey Minister in The Memorial Church. Prayers are offered by Rabbi Norman Janis, Hillel Foundation; Mr. Pat McLeod, Campus Crusade for Christ Chaplain and Chairman of the Harvard Chaplains; and The Reverend William F. Murphy, Undergraduate Catholic Chaplain. The Commencement Choir is conducted by Dr. Jameson Marvin, Director of Choral Activities in Harvard College; the organist is Edward E. Jones, Gund University Organist and Choirmaster, The Memorial Church. The Harvard College Class of 2009 Marshals are Lumumba B. Seegars, First Marshal; Philip L. Perez, Second Marshal; Kameron A. Collins; Amanda K. Fields; Heidi E. Kim; Christopher C. Lo; Margaret M. Wang; and Joyce Y. Zhang.

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.

Photography is not permitted in The Memorial Church.

The Memorial Church
Harvard University
2 June 2009

READINGS

from Hindu Scripture
 Read in Sanskrit by Ravi B. Parikh
 Read in English by Lekha R. Tummalapalli

from The Holy Quran
 Read in Arabic by Sadia Ahsanuddin
 Read in English by Sarah H. Arshad

from The New Testament
 Read in Greek by Ioannis C. Konstantinidis
 Read in English by Kathleen E. Breeden

ANTHEM

O Clap Your Hands *Ralph Vaughan Williams*
(1872–1958)

O clap your hands, all ye people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph.
 For the Lord most high is terrible; he is a great King over all the earth.
 God is gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.
 Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises unto our King, sing praises.
 For God is the King of all the earth; sing ye praises, everyone that hath understanding.
 God reigneth over the heathen, God sitteth upon the throne of his holiness.
 Sing praises unto our King, sing praises.

from Psalm 47

ADDRESS

Drew Gilpin Faust
President, Harvard University

HYMN

No. 355, "Give Ear, Ye Children, to My Law" *St. Martin's*
The Class standing

Give ear, ye children, to my law
 Devout attention lend,
 Let the instructions of my mouth
 Deep in your hearts descend.

My tongue, by inspiration taught,
 Shall parables unfold:
 Dark oracles, but understood
 And owned for truths of old,

Which we from sacred registers
 Of ancient times have known,
 And our forefathers' pious care
 To us has handed down.

Let children learn the mighty deeds
 Which God performed of old,
 Which, in our younger years, we saw,
 And which our fathers told.

Our lips shall tell them to our sons,
 And they again to theirs,—
 That generations yet unborn
 May teach them to their heirs. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE DAY

Here are offered prayers and collects by chaplains appointed to serve in the University in behalf of the candidates for degrees, their families, the University, and the peace and good order of the world.

HYMN

No. 5, "Now Thank We All Our God" *Nun danket alle Gott*
The Class standing

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
 Who wond'rous 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. Amen.

BLESSING

POSTLUDE "Toccata" from *Symphony No. 5* *Charles-Marie Widor*
(1844–1937)

The readers and the platform party leave following the Verger, to be followed by the Class Marshals and the candidates for degrees.