

BOSTON UNIVERSITY

BACCALAUREATE SERVICE



SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2025

11 AM

DANIEL L. MARSH CHAPEL

ORDER OF CELEBRATION

**Please rise, as you are able.*

PRELUDE Passacaglia in C minor, BWV 582

J. S. Bach (1685–1750)
Justin Thomas Blackwell
Associate Director of Music, Marsh Chapel

GREETING

The Reverend Dr. Robert Allan Hill
Dean of Marsh Chapel


The Dean: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
The Dean: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them up to the Lord!

*INTROIT Cry out and shout

Music: Knut Nystedt (1915–2014)
Text: Isaiah 12, adapted

Cry out and shout, ye people of God! The Lord is strength and song!
Cry out and shout, ye people of God! Cry out and shout, Alleluia!

*HYMN



1. All crea-tures of our God and King, Lift up your voice and with us sing
2. Thou rush-ing wind that art so strong, Ye clouds that sail in heav'n a - long,
3. Thou flow-ing wa - ter, pure and clear, Make mu - sic for thy Lord to hear,
choir only 4. Dear mo - ther earth, who day by day Un - fold - est bless - ings on our way,
5. Let all things their Cre - a - tor bless, And wor - ship him in hum-ble - ness,

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Thou burn - ing sun with gold - en beam,
O__ praise him, al - le - lu - ia! Thou ri - sing morn, in praise re - joice,
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Thou fire so ma - ster - ful and bright,
O__ praise him, al - le - lu - ia! The flow'rs and fruits that in thee grow,
O__ praise him, al - le - lu - ia! Praise, praise the Fa - ther, praise the Son,

Refrain.

Thou sil - ver moon with soft - er gleam:
Ye lights of eve - ning, find a voice:
That giv - est man both warmth and light O__ praise him, O__ praise him,
Let them his glo - ry al - so show:
And praise the Spir - it, three in One:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Music: harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

Text: Francis of Assisi, c. 1225; tr. W. H. Draper, 1925

Arrangement: John Rutter, 1974

★OPENING PRAYER

Father Kevin Staley-Joyce
University Chaplain for Catholic Students

LESSON Ecclesiastes 3:1–8

Dr. Gloria S. Waters
Provost and Chief Academic Officer of Boston University

The Provost: A lesson from the book of Ecclesiastes, chapter 3, verses 1–8:

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

The Provost: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM Effortlessly

Music: Taylor Scott Davis (b. 1980)
Text: Mechthild of Magdeburg (1207–1297)

Effortlessly,
Love flows from God into man,
Like a bird
Who rivers the air
Without moving her wings.

Thus we move in His world
One in body and soul,
Though outwardly separate in form.

As the Source strikes the note,
Humanity sings—
The Holy Spirit is our harpist,
And all strings
Which are touched in Love
Must sound.

PSALM 19:1–6

Jonathan Byung Hoon Lee
Associate Chaplain for Student Outreach

Leader: The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

People: Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.

Leader: There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;

People: Yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.

Leader: In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,
which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

People: Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them;
and nothing is hid from its heat.

The President: A lesson from Paul's epistle to the Romans, chapter 12, verses 1–2 and 9–13:

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

The President: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

★HYMN

1. For the splen - dor of cre - a - tion that draws us to in - quire, for the
2. For the schol - ars past and pre - sent whose boun - ty we di - gest, for the

mys - ter - ies of knowl - edge to which our hearts as - pire, for the
teach - ers who in - spire us to sum - mon forth our best, for our

deep and sub - tle beau - ties which de - light the eye and ear, for the
ri - vals and com - pan - ions, some - times fool - ish, some - times wise, for the

dis - ci - pline of log - ic, the strug - gle to be clear, for the
hu - man web up - hold - ing this no - ble en - ter - prise, for the

un - ex - plained re - maind - er, the puz - zling and the odd: for the
com - mon life that binds us through days that soar or plod: for this

joy and pain of learn - ing, we give you thanks, O God.
place and for these peo - ple, we give you thanks, O God.

Tune: THAXTED
Music: Gustav Holst, 1921, alt.
Text: Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1989

★COLLECT (*spoken by all*)

The Reverend Dr. Karen Coleman
University Chaplain for Episcopal Ministry

O Eternal God, bless all schools, colleges, and universities, and especially Boston University, that they may be lively centers for sound learning, new discovery, and the pursuit of wisdom; and grant that those who teach and those who learn may find you to be the source of all truth. Amen.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BACCALAUREATE SPEAKER

Dean Hill

BACCALAUREATE ADDRESS

Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Reverend Dr. Jessica Chicka
University Chaplain for International Students

ANTHEM Cert'nly Lawd

Text and Music: Traditional Spiritual
Arrangement: Moses Hogan (1957–2003)
Soloist: Dana Whiteside, baritone

★HYMN

1. Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
2. O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing
3. When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious
bar - ren land. I am weak, but thou art might - y; hold me with thy
stream doth flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me all my
fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me safe on
power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en, feed me
jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer, be thou
Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es, I will
'til I want no more; feed me 'til I want no more.
still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.
ev - er give to thee; I will ev - er give to thee.

Tune: CWM RHONDDA
Music: John Hughes, 1907
Text: William Williams, 1745; in Welsh
Translation: Peter Williams and the author, 1771
Arrangement: James O'Donnell, 2011

★BENEDICTION

Dean Hill

★CLARISSIMA

Bos - ton U - ni - ver - si - ty, Proud with mis - sion sure;
Keep-ing the light of knowl - edge high, long to en - dure;
Treas - 'ring the best of all that's old, search - ing out the new;
Our Al - ma Ma - ter ev - er - more! Hail B. U.

Music: Brenton C. Patterson, CAS 1911

Text: Dean B. Doner, Vice President of Boston University (1973–1986)

★POSTLUDE Toccata (from Symphonie No. 5)

Charles-Marie Widor (1844–1937)
Mr. Blackwell

The Marsh Chapel Choir is conducted by Dr. Scott Allen Jarrett, Director of Music at Marsh Chapel.

The organist is Justin Thomas Blackwell, Associate Director of Music.

The brass ensemble is Majestic Brass.

The violinist is Heidi Braun-Hill.

The timpanist is Robert Schulz.

LEADING IN WORSHIP

The Reverend Dr. Robert Allan Hill Dean of Marsh Chapel	Father Kevin Staley-Joyce University Chaplain for Catholic Students
Dr. Melissa L. Gilliam President of Boston University	The Reverend Dr. Jessica Chicka University Chaplain for International Students
Dr. Gloria S. Waters Provost and Chief Academic Officer of Boston University	The Reverend Dr. Karen Coleman University Chaplain for Episcopal Ministry
Jonathan Byung Hoon Lee Associate Chaplain for Student Outreach	

We welcome to this service all students and their families. May God's richest blessings be with all who graduate as they enter this new time in their lives. Today, we welcome as our speaker **Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton**.

Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton is Area Resident Bishop of the New Hope Episcopal Area. New Hope comprises New England and New York annual conferences.

Bishop Bickerton was appointed as the spiritual leader of the 409 United Methodist congregations in the New York Annual Conference in the fall of 2016 and the 537 congregations in the New England Annual Conference in the fall of 2024.

Bishop Bickerton was elected to the episcopacy in 2004 and served the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference from 2004 to 2016 before being assigned to the New York Annual Conference in 2016 and the New England Annual Conference in 2024.

A native of West Virginia, Bishop Bickerton began his pastoral career as a student pastor serving a six-point charge. He later was pastor of medium- and large-membership churches, as well as serving as a District Superintendent. In those settings he developed valuable experience in rural, suburban, and urban ministry settings. As he worked in partnership with laity, the churches he served experienced significant growth in the number of baptisms, professions of faith, and members, as well as involvement in mission and outreach opportunities beyond the local church.

Bishop Bickerton's life has been significantly shaped by involvement in ministry. His work with Volunteer-in-Mission teams in his home state, as well as in Africa, Argentina, Israel, Mexico, Russia, Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the US Gulf Coast region, has given the Bishop a "true global perspective on the need to be in ministry to all of God's children."

Bishop Bickerton earned a Bachelor of Arts in sociology and psychology from West Virginia Wesleyan College, a Master of Divinity from Duke University Divinity School, and a Doctor of Ministry from United Theological Seminary.

Bishop Bickerton has also served the ministry of the wider church over the years as the President of the Council of Bishops, on the General Board of Global Ministries, President of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), the University Senate, the General Commission on United Methodist Communications, the General Commission on United Methodist Men, the General Commission on Archives and History, and the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women.

Most notably, Bishop Bickerton served for 12 years as chair of the United Methodist Church's Global Health Initiative, which dealt with the church's response to the often fatal diseases of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria. This effort, through the church's Imagine NO Malaria campaign, raised over \$75 million within the denomination to eliminate malaria-related deaths across the world.