

Graduation Service
Wesley Theological Seminary



Course of Study School

July 29, 2021

4:00 P.M.

Prelude: *Andante Grazioso*
W.A. Mozart, from *Sonata in A* , arr. Stewart Landon

Gathering:

Leader: Lord of all the earth, Creator of the universe, Holy Triune God, from everlasting to everlasting, you are Lord. Your law brings life, O Lord, and we meditate on it day and night;

People: **Happy are we when we walk in your ways, O Lord.**

Leader: To you we own all allegiance and gratitude. In the midst of the temptations, distractions, and glamour of the world,

People: **Fasten our attention to the faith we have received from others and are called to share with others.**

Leader: Make us your true apostles, through Christ, who summons and sends us.

ALL: **Amen**

Greeting: Rev Dr. Douglas Tzan

Opening Prayer:

Holy Spirit, the life that gives life: you are the cause of all movements;
you are the breath of all creatures;
you are the salve that purifies our souls;
you are the ointment that heals our wounds;
you are the fire that warms our hearts;
you are the light that guides our feet.
Let all the world praise you. Amen
(Hildegard of Bingen 1098 -1179)

Greeting from Rev. Dr. David McAllister-Wilson, President Wesley Theological Seminary

Opening Hymn: *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

UMH 89

Collect:

God of grace: To all clergy who have taken responsibility for the care of your church, give a love for the people of God equal to a love of the Gospel. Let no discouragement or spiritual weariness overtake them and no temptation be put in their way that they cannot resist. Enable them to trust you and to serve you with gladness all the days of their lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Scripture: Acts 1:12-26

Reflection: Rev. Dr. Douglas Tzan

Service of Graduation

Hymn: *A Charge to Keep I Have*

UMH 413

Prayer of blessings for those persons graduating.

Dr. Douglas Tzan

Graduates, please respond to these questions honestly, using the words, **“With God’s help, I will.”**

I ask you:

Will you continue to devote yourself to faithfully serve God in the congregations to which you are called?

With God’s help, I will

Will you live in a manner which enables the church to be a people of love and peace?

With God’s help, I will

Will you use the knowledge and experiences you have received through the Course of Study School, as you witness to Jesus Christ in the World, and to follow his teachings through acts of compassion, justice, worship, and devotion, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit?

With God’s help I will

Will you be accountable for your continued discipleship, striving to continue growing in your faith as you lead others?

With God’s help I will.

Will you help members of your congregations be accountable for their discipleship, not judging them, but watching over them in love?

With God’s help, I will.

Naming of the Graduates:

Sara Sheppard

2020

Althea Carey
Denise Gisotti
Bonnie Hovermann

J. Stephen Little
Beverly Petrovich
Scott Summers

2021

Deborah Barnett
DeMario F. Benson, Sr.
Robert V. Bishard, Jr,
Gay Karen Green Carden
Therese M. Finney

Christa L. Levesque
Ruth James Liples
Garland Chico Martin
Kenneth Mason
Wendy Morrison

Carol Folk
Eileen Annette Foster Gilmer
Cynthia L. Hall
David W. Hill
Dartanyon Lee Hines
Gay Irwin Russ
Richard Keller

Sheila A. Paige
Ronald Palmer
Dawn M. Quesenberry
Carol Reale
Scott J. Sassaman
Karin Squires
Barbara Taylor
Clara Emily Wilder

Closing Hymn: *We've a Story to Tell the Nations*

UMH 569

Benediction:

God of truth and knowledge,
By your wisdom we are taught the way and the truth.
Bless these graduates as they now finish this course of study.
We thank you for those who taught and worked beside them,
And who supported them along the way.
Walk with these graduates as they leave and move forward in life.
Strengthen their many talents and gifts,
Instill in them a confidence in the future you plan,
Where energies may be gathered up and used for the good of all people;
For the sake of Jesus Christ,
Amen.

Postlude: March of the Patriots (Pomp and Circumstance)
Edward Elgar, Arr. And Extended by James Moffatt

Our sincere thanks to St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Sykesville, MD for hosting this service and to the following without whom this would not have been possible;

Judy Law; organist
Jay McNeil, Brian Williams and Gary Rains; Technical support

Sources:

Invocation, opening prayer and collect are from *This Day A Wesleyan Way of Prayer* by Laurence Hull Stookey

Prayer of Blessings is adapted from "For Graduates" (Andy Langford, USA, 20th Cent.) from The United Methodist Book of Worship (Nashville: The United Methodist Publishing House 1992), 536.