



**COMMENCEMENT CONVOCATION AND
CONSECRATION SERVICE**
FIFTH WEEK OF EASTER
MAY 8, 2021

COMMENCEMENT CONVOCATION

David W. Kersten, Dean of the Seminary, North Park Theological Seminary, Presiding

Prelude

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

David H. Hegarty

Welcome and Invocation

David W. Kersten

Call to Worship From Psalm 145

¹I will exalt you, my God the King;
I will praise your name for ever and ever.

²Every day I will praise you
and extol your name for ever and ever.

Hear our praise, O God, and open your ears to our cries

³Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;
his greatness no one can fathom.

⁴One generation commends your works to another;
they tell of your mighty acts.

Bless our telling and our doing and increase your kingdom on earth

⁷They celebrate your abundant goodness
and joyfully sing of your righteousness.

⁸The Lord is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and rich in love.

May our lives reflect your compassionate love and abundant goodness

⁹The Lord is good to all;
he has compassion on all he has made.

²¹My mouth will speak in praise of the Lord.
Let every creature praise his holy name
for ever and ever.

Amen.

Opening Song

Great Is Thy Faithfulness/Tu Fidelidad *Thomas O Chisholm/Miguel Cassina*
David Bjorlin, Teaching Fellow in Music and Worship

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father!
There is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not:
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Great is thy faithfulness, great is thy faithfulness,
morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided—
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Great is thy faithfulness, great is thy faithfulness,
morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided—
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow—
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Great is thy faithfulness, great is thy faithfulness,
morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided—
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Tu fidelidad es grande,
tu fidelidad incomparable es.
Nadie como tú, bendito Dios.
Grande es tu fidelidad.

*Your faithfulness is great,
your faithfulness is matchless.
No one is like you, blessed God.
Great is your faithfulness.
(unsung translation)*

Service of the Word

The Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 14:17-22

Robert Cager, Master of Arts in Christian Ministry

The New Testament Reading

2 Thessalonians 2:3-5;13-17

Grace Weng, Master of Arts in Christian Formation

Introduction of the Speaker

William Jones, Master of Arts in Christian Ministry Student

Commencement Address

“Prophets Needed: Says No Job Description Ever”

Soong-Chan Rah, Professor of Church Growth and Evangelism

Special Music

“No One Ever Cared for Me Like Jesus”

Christa Armstead, Master of Divinity Student

Steffanie Grizzle

Academic Ceremony

Presentation of the Ahnfeldt Medallion

Mary K. Surridge, President, North Park University

Student Response

Conferring of Degrees

Michelle Clifton-Soderstrom, Dean of Faculty

Congratulations to Graduates

Mary K. Surridge

Consecration Service

Prayer

Katharine Pessin, Master of Divinity/Master of Business Administration

Charge

John S. Wenrich, President, Evangelical Covenant Church

Blessing of the Graduates

David Bjorlin

The Lord Bless You

Rick Carlson

May the Lord bless you and keep you,
the Lord make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious, gracious, gracious to you.
May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you
and give you, give you, give you peace.

Postlude

Triumphal March

Theodore Dubois

Marshal: James Bruckner, Professor of Old Testament

Organ: Sharon Rich Peterson, North Park Theological Seminary Organist

Piano: David Bjorlin, Teaching Fellow

Speaker

Dr. Soong-Chan Rah holds a ThD from Duke Divinity School, with a primary field of study in theology and ethics. He also holds an MDiv and DMin, with a concentration in urban ministry leadership, from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, as well as a ThM from Harvard University, with a thesis on the immigrant church.

Dr. Rah has authored or coauthored many award-winning books including *The Next Evangelicalism: Freeing the Church from Western Cultural Captivity*, *Many Colors: Cultural Intelligence for a Changing Church*, *Prophetic Lament: A Call for Justice in Troubled Times*, *Unsettling Truths: The Ongoing, Dehumanizing Legacy of the Doctrine of Discovery*, and *Forgive Us: Confessions of a Compromised Faith*.

Dr. Rah is an ordained pastor in the Evangelical Covenant Church. He was the founding senior pastor of Cambridge Community Fellowship Church in Cambridge, MA. For the last 15 years, he has served as the Milton B. Engebretson Professor of Church Growth and Evangelism here at North Park. This summer he will transition to the Robert Munger Professor of Evangelism at Fuller Theological Seminary.

Dr. Rah is a valued colleague and mentor to current and former students and has made a tremendous impact on our institution. His commitment to theological education, racial justice, and the Church is apparent in his teaching, scholarship, and pastoral work.

A NOTE REGARDING ACADEMIC REGALIA

Today's academic costume is a legacy of the Middle Ages. In that period, the loose-fitting academic gowns, which today are merely decorative, served a useful purpose—keeping warm in the drafty and unheated stone buildings of the medieval university. Academic hoods were equally useful for keeping the head warm. But then, as now, clothing served not only practical purposes, but was also a way to define status. When the practical uses of academic garb were superseded by central heating, the symbolic use remained.

Most academic gowns in the United States today are black. The unadorned bachelor's gown is the simplest in design. The master's gown is somewhat more ample, with a peculiar half-sleeve. The doctoral gown is yet more generous of cut and distinguished by velvet facing and three velvet chevrons on the sleeve. The velvet may be black, or it may reflect the color of the wearer's degree. You will notice, however, that some faculty are more colorfully attired. These more splendid gowns have traditionally denoted degrees from European universities, where each institution prescribes its own regalia. In recent years, however, American institutions have increasingly departed from the somber black and adopted their own more colorful garb for doctoral degrees.

Academic hoods reflect both the wearer's degree by the size of the hood and the color of the velvet trim, and the institution from which the degree was earned. At North Park, hoods are worn by both graduates and faculty. The degree colors commonly found at North Park are:

White	Arts and Letters
Gold	Science
Apricot	Nursing
Pink	Music
Scarlet	Theology or Divinity
Peacock Blue	Community Development
Drab	Business Administration, Economics, Management
Light Blue	Education
Dark Blue	Philosophy
Purple	Law
Green	Medicine
Brown	Fine Arts

The hood linings carry the colors of the school at which the degree was earned.

For the graduates, the color is also reflected in the tassels. Some graduates are distinguished by gold cords worn around the neck. These are honor cords. One pair denotes honors (cumulative grade point average of 3.5 on

a 4-point scale), and two pair denotes high honors (3.75).

The medallion traditionally worn by the President of the University contains the seal of North Park University and is the symbol of the presidential office. The Celtic Cross worn by the Dean of the Seminary was presented to him at his installation as a symbol of his office.

The order of precedence in academic processions generally places those of highest rank toward the rear. In order of procession, the degree recipients enter first, led by the marshal, banner bearer, and crucifer, followed in order by faculty, administrators, and board members, and finally the platform party. The opposite order prevails for the recessional.

These centuries old customs reflected in today's ceremonies remind us that while "commencement" points to the future, that which is now "commencing," it is also a culmination. Our resources for dealing with either the present or future are necessarily drawn from the accumulated store of wisdom that belongs to the ages and is by each generation discovered and reworked anew.

North Park Theological Seminary Class of 1971

Robert Johnston
 Brian Backstrand
 Arthur Bowman
 Verl Brown
 David Carlson *
 John Cedarleaf
 Tom Collins
 Kendall Dahlstrom
 James Ecklund
 Gene Esala
 Stephen Franklin
 Leonard Johnson
 Thomas Johnson
 Kenneth Lagerstrom
 Theodore Nordlund
 Glenn Palmberg
 Wendel Peterson *
 James Pohl
 Paul Spjut
 Gerald Swenson
 Matthew Zatkalik
 Carolyn Coleman *
 Craig Carlson
 Randall Roth
 Phillip Griep
 D. James Schneider

*Deceased

Master of Divinity

Anna Nicole Beebe, *High Honors*

Montecito Covenant Church, Santa Barbara, CA
Westmont College, BA

Matthew Walker Butin, *High Honors*, **Greek Award**

Community Covenant Church, Santa Barbara, CA
University of California, Santa Barbara, BA

Prajakta Steven David

St. Andrews Hindustani Covenant Church,
Pune, India
North Park University, MBA
North Park University, BS

Will McNeel Eastham, *Honors*, **Hebrew Award**

Immanuel Anglican Church, Chicago, IL
Moody Bible Institute, BA

A. Karen Figueroa, *High Honors*

Rolling Hills Covenant Church en español,
Rolling Hills, CA
Centro Hispano de Estudios Teológicos, Bachelor in
Christian Ministry

Jessica Hansen, *High Honors*

George Fox University, MA
University of California, Santa Barbara, BA

Michelle S. Graham, *Honors*

Intercultural Ministry Certificate
University of Illinois, BA

Taylor Kim, DEC

San Diego Calvary Korean Church, San Diego, CA
Chongshin University, BA
World Mission University, BA

Rebekah Joan Lindberg, *High Honors*, **Bible Field Award**

Cascade Covenant Church, North Bend, WA
Seattle Pacific University, MA
North Park University, BA

Arthur Nazario, DEC, **History Field Award**

Transformative Justice Certificate
Storehouse Church, Chicago, IL
St. Augustine College, BSW

Mayra Nicole Ramos,* **Ministry Field Award**

All Nations Worship Assembly, Chicago, IL
Bethany University, BA

Master of Divinity/Master of Nonprofit Administration

Jonathan David Maus, *High Honors*

Life in Christ Church, Saint Paul, MN
North Central University, BA

Master of Divinity/Master of Business Administration

Peter Andrew Frost, *High Honors*, **Youth Ministry Award**

Excelsior Covenant Church, Excelsior, MN
Colorado State University, BS

Glynis M. James-Watson, *Honors*, **Preaching Award**

Vineyard Christian Church, Evanston, IL
Northwestern University, BS

Katharine S. Pessin, *High Honors*

Windsor Road Christian Church
University of Illinois, BA

Glen Michael Sandberg, *High Honors*

Faith Covenant Church, Farmington Hills, MI
Grand Valley State University, BA

Master of Arts in Christian Formation

Julie Eileen Torkelson Chamberlain, *High Honors*

Decorah Covenant Church, Decorah, IA
Luther College, BA

Heather Nicole Chapman, *High Honors*

Mountain View Covenant Church, San Juan
Capistrano, CA
Azusa Pacific University, BA Biblical Studies, BA
Global Studies
Vanguard University, Certificate in Elementary
Education

Jacqui Lyne Crumrine, *High Honors*

Covenant Grove Church, Modesto, CA
Central Washington University, BA

Bryant Garcia

Common Ground Covenant Church, Sacramento,
CA

*Pending completion of requirements
DEC., completed requirements December 2020

Melody D. Johnson, *Honors*
Simi Covenant, Simi Valley, CA
Woodbury University, BS

Kathryn A. Langley
Grace Covenant Church, So. San Francisco, CA

Kayleigh E. Leonard, *High Honors*,
Christian Formation Award
Faithbridge Church, Racine, WI
Carthage College, BA

Haley Jo Neiderhiser, *High Honors*
Stockton Covenant Church, Stockton, CA
Huntington University, BS

Daniel Joseph Schmitz
New Hope Covenant Church, Oakland, CA
Cal State East Bay, BA

Mauricia Ariana Skei, *High Honors*
On Ramps Covenant Church Fresno, CA
Fresno Pacific University, MA
Fresno Pacific University, BA

Leanne Smiles, *Honors*, DEC
Brookdale Covenant Church, Brooklyn Center, MN
North Park Theological Seminary, Spiritual
Direction Certificate
University of Minnesota, BS

Kayla Mahar Stelle, *Honors*,
Community Service Award
BOSS Church, Sacramento, CA
North Park University, BA

Lisa A. Thompson, *Honors*
Bayside Church, Granite Bay, CA
San Jose State University, BA

Justin Gerald Tomscak*
Freedom Point Covenant Church, Penryn, CA
Sierra College and Liberty University, Studies

Grace Anne Weng, *High Honors*, **Theology Field
Award**
Bethel Community Presbyterian Church
Los Angeles, CA
University of California Los Angeles, BS

Theodore J. Wilson, *Honors*
Hilmar Covenant Church, Hilmar, CA
Multnomah Bible College, BS

Master of Arts in Christian Ministry

Robert Alexander Cager
Cutting Edge, Chicago, IL
North Park University, BA
Intercultural Ministry Certificate

Brynn Anastasia Casas, *High Honors*
All Things New, Monterey, CA
San Diego State University, BA

John Emory Chapman, *Honors*
Mountain View, San Juan Capistrano, CA
Vanguard University, MA
Vanguard University, BA

Jeffrey Duane Colen Jr
Marin Asian Community Church, San Rafael, CA
Charleston Southern University, BA

Joseph Groenwald
Genesis Church, Phoenix, AZ

Elizabeth Gundlach, *High Honors*
Modesto Covenant Church, Modesto, CA
California State University, Stanislaus, BA

Nathan Irvine, *High Honors*, DEC
The Salvation Army, Milwaukee, WI
Trinity International University, BA

Troy Alexander Nichols
Common Ground Church, Sacramento, CA
Post University, MBA
California State University, Sacramento, BS

Alexandra Helena Rapetti, *High Honors*
San Andreas Community Covenant Church,
San Andreas, CA

Master of Arts in Christian Ministry and Master of Nonprofit Administration

Rebecca Lynn Buchholz-Szántó,* *Honors*
Christian Fellowship, Columbia, MO
William Woods University, BS

*Pending completion of requirements
DEC., completed requirements December 2020

Certificate in Spiritual Direction

Gillie D. Abdiraxman-Issa

Jared Magnus Baker

April Eichholtz

Jillian C. Evans

Sarrah Lynne Havens

Rachel Tsang Lee

Lynne J. Lindberg

Eileen Lundy

Fábio Muniz

Melanie Marie Myatt

Faith Needham

Julia L. Styles

Sheli Sloterbeek

Janice K. Weed Tizon

Monica Alexandra Tzeng

Ruth Christine Zschoche