



Commencement Convocation and Consecration Service

May 11, 2024
Sixth Week of Easter

COMMENCEMENT CONVOCATION

Dennis R. Edwards, Dean of the Seminary and Vice President for Church Relations,
North Park Theological Seminary, presiding

Prelude

“Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim”

Elizabeth Stirling

Please stand.

Processional

“Festival Prelude”

Carl Nielsen

Welcome and Invocation

Dennis R. Edwards

Call to Worship

Psalm 8

Dennis R. Edwards

O LORD, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory above the heavens.

Out of the mouth of babes and infants
you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,

to silence the enemy and the avenger.

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established;

**what are human beings that you are mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them?**

Yet you have made them a little lower than God
and crowned them with glory and honor.

You have given them dominion over the work of your hands;

you have put all things under their feet,
all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,
the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the sea.

**O LORD, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!**

Opening Song

Christa Armstead, Master of Arts in Christian Formation
"Trust in God"

Elevation Worship

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine.
He's been my fourth man in the fire, time after time.
Born of his Spirit, washed in his blood,
and what he did for me on Calvary is more than enough.

Chorus

I trust in God, my Savior,
the one who will never fail.
He will never fail.

COMMENCEMENT CONVOCATION

Perfect submission, all is at rest.
I know the author of tomorrow has ordered my steps.
So this is my story and this is my song,
I'm praising my risen King and Savior all the day long.

Bridge
I sought the Lord and he heard and he answered,
that's why I trust him, that's why I trust him.

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
just to take him at his word,
just to rest upon his promise,
and to know, "Thus saith the Lord."

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him!
How I've proved him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
O for grace to trust him more!

Service of the Word

Please be seated.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 62:1-5
Michael Nevergall, Vice President for Advancement
North Park University

Please stand.

The Gospel Reading

John 2:1-12
Brian Johnson, Midwest Conference Superintendent
Evangelical Covenant Church

Please be seated.

Introduction of the Speaker

Dennis R. Edwards

Commencement Address

"Living Water"
Mary C. Miller

Please stand.

Responsive Song

"I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"

African American spiritual

I'm gonna live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna live so God can use me,
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

1. I'm gonna pray so...
2. I'm gonna work so...
3. I'm gonna sing so...

COMMENCEMENT CONVOCATION

Academic Ceremony

Please be seated.

Awards Announcement

Hauna Ondrey, Associate Professor of Church History and Dean of Faculty

History

Kate Cooper

Theology

Lauren Thurston

Biblical Exegesis and Interpretation

Eliza Stiles

Biblical Languages

Amy Jayne

Innovative Ministry

Aisha Cox & Cheyenne Johnson

Presentation of the Ahnfeldt Medallion

Mary K. Surridge, President

North Park University

Congratulations to Graduates

Mary K. Surridge

Conferring of Degrees

Hauna Ondrey

Dennis R. Edwards

Consecration Service

The Prayers

Of Thanksgiving

Aisha Cox, Master of Arts in Christian Formation

Of Intercession

Lisa Cummins, Doctor of Ministry

Of Consecration

James Edwards, Master of Arts in Christian Ministry

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

Amen.

Charge

Tammy Swanson-Draheim, President

Evangelical Covenant Church

COMMENCEMENT CONVOCATION

Please stand.

Hymn 412

“Be Thou My Vision”

Traditional Irish hymn

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word,
I ever with thee, and thou with me, Lord;
thou my great Father, thy child I shall be,
thou in me dwelling and I one with thee.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, o bright heav'n's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Benediction

Mary Miller

Recessional

“Triumphal March”

William Stickles

Postlude

“Toccata Festiva”

Richard Purvis

COMMENCEMENT CONVOCATION

Speaker

Mary C. Miller was ordained to word and sacrament in 1981 and has served Evangelical Covenant churches across the Midwest. A graduate of Western Illinois University, she earned her Master of Divinity at North Park Theological Seminary. Miller wrote a column in *The Covenant Companion* for 12 years and authored *Devotions for Those Living with Loss*, a book about her husband, who died at a young age, as well as many journal and periodical articles. Graduating so closely to the 1976 denominational vote to affirm women ministers, Miller has had the opportunity to preach and teach in many churches, conferences, denominational meetings, and camps. She has served on six Evangelical Covenant Christian administrative boards, including the North Park University Board of Trustees. Miller earned her Doctor of Ministry in Spiritual Direction from Graduate Theological Foundation, which equipped her to teach at the Weborg Center for Spiritual Direction. In 2000, she was appointed the first female officer of the denomination as vice-president for administration. She currently serves as lead chaplain at Covenant Living Holmstad in Batavia, Illinois.

Banner Bearer: Rodney Gadsden, Master of Arts in Christian Formation

Crucifer: Sarah Lynch, Master of Arts in Christian Formation

Marshal: David D. Bjorlin, Assistant Professor of Worship

Organ: Sharon Peterson, Seminary Organist

Piano: David D. Bjorlin

Head Usher: Yoshhisa Mack, Master of Divinity student

Please refrain from flash photography during the service. Immediately following, we invite you to a reception in the gymnasium honoring the graduates.

A NOTE REGARDING ACADEMIC REGALIA

Today's academic attire is a legacy of the Middle Ages. While defining status, they kept wearers warm in the period's drafty and unheated stone buildings. In modern times, the attire is no longer protective, but is still worn to signify the wearer's degree.

Unadorned bachelor's gowns are the simplest in design, master's gowns have half-sleeves, and doctoral gowns are distinguishable by their velvet facing and three velvet chevrons on the sleeve. The velvet may be black or reflect the color of the wearer's degree.

You will notice some faculty are more colorfully attired. These gowns have traditionally denoted degrees from European universities, where each institution prescribes its regalia. In recent years, however, American institutions have increasingly departed from black and adopted more colorful garb for doctoral degrees.

Academic hoods reflect both the wearer's degree by the hood's size, the velvet trim's color, and the institution from which the degree was earned. At North Park, both graduates and faculty wear hoods. 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.

The color is also reflected in the tassels for the graduates. Some graduates are distinguished by gold cords worn around the neck. These are honor cords. One pair denotes honors (a cumulative grade point average of 3.50 on a 4-point scale), and two pair denotes high honors (3.75).

The medallion traditionally worn by the university president contains the seal of North Park University and is the symbol of the presidential office. The Celtic cross worn by the seminary dean was presented to him as a symbol of his office at his installation.

The order of precedence in academic processions generally places those of the highest rank toward the rear. In processional order, the degree recipients enter first, led by the marshal, banner bearer, and crucifer. They are followed in order by faculty, administrators, board members, and 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 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 discovered and reworked anew by each generation.

North Park Theological Seminary Class of 1974

Douglas J. Anderson
Timothy K. Anderson
Jerry E. Au
James R. Bucher
Daryl L. Darst
James W. Gustafson
David A. Hicks
Jack W. Kraaz
Bruce A. Metcalf
John M. Miller
Emmi Mueller
Reuben C. Rosnau *

*Deceased

Doctor of Ministry

Lisa Trevino Cummins

"Caminando Juntos: The Hispanic Church and Its Neighborhood."

Leslie Xavier Sanders

"Trauma in the Pews: Using Preaching as a Tool to Navigate Pastoral Leadership in the Midst of Congregational Trauma."

Michael Paul Snyder, Dec. +

"Engaging Across Boundaries: Practicing Embrace and Hospitality."

Daniel Glen Walker

"Becoming the Beloved Community: A Road Map for Becoming a Multi-ethnic and Multicultural Beloved Community."

Master of Divinity

Cosette Jenks, Dec. +

Eliza Rose Stiles, High Honors

Cody Taylor*

Lauren Celeste Thurston, High Honors, Dec. +

Ryan Christopher Wendt, Honors*

Master of Divinity & Master of Nonprofit Administration

Amy Jayne, High Honors

Master of Arts in Theological Studies

Kathryn Julia Porten, Honors +

Master of Arts in Restorative Justice Ministries

Rebekah Cheyenne Johnson, High Honors

Master of Arts in Christian Formation

Christa M. Armstead

Amy Bloyer, High Honors

Jael Boeschling, High Honors

Meghan Regh Bruggeman, High Honors

Tyler James Carlson, High Honors

Melvin B. Cole +

Kate M. Cooper, High Honors

Aisha Hache Cox, High Honors

Maurice Merreal Cox

Kellie Ann Davidson, High Honors

Amber Lynne Eaton, Honors

Jacob Carr Fisher, High Honors

Rodney M. Gadsden

Nicole M. Guthrie, Honors +

Daniel Johnsen, High Honors Dec.

Sarah Irene Lynch, High Honors

Kelly S. Morrow, Honors

Phyllis Kim Myung, Honors

Jennifer Lynne Pearson, High Honors

Mark Eric Peterson, Honors

Dawn Reimers, High Honors

Denise Rodriguez Lucas, Honors

Kendall Smith, High Honors

Israel Solomon

Anthony R. Thomas

Anthony Cameron Wedel, High Honors

Master of Arts in Christian Formation & Master of Nonprofit Administration

Sandra Hudson

Master of Arts in Christian Ministry

Christina W. Kaetzel, *High Honors* +

Cynarra Cherí Nichols

Tracy Perrilliat

Sarah Wood, *High Honors*

James Leo Edwards +

+ In absentia

* Pending completion of requirements

Dec. completed requirements in December 2023



NORTH PARK
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
CHICAGO