

Vanderbilt University



Divinity School

COMMENCEMENT

Sunday, the second day of May
Two-thousand and twenty-one
Four o'clock in the afternoon

An Act of Worship and Celebration

In Honor of the Class of 2020

Video and the Prelude, *Toccatta in C* by Johann Pachelbel (1653 – 1706), performed by Stephanie A. Budwey, M.S.M., Th.D, organist, and
The Luce Dean's Faculty Fellow Assistant Professor of the History and Practice of Christian Worship and the Arts

The Greeting

Ellen True Armour, Ph.D.

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Associate Professor of Feminist Theology

The Invocation

Paul Chang-Ha Lim, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of the History of Christianity

The Address to the Class of 2020

Susan R. Wentz, Ph.D.

Provost and Vice Chancellor

(Interim Chancellor 2019-2020)

Recognition of the Graduates of the Class of 2020

Emilie M. Townes, Ph.D.

Dean and Distinguished Professor of Womanist Ethics and Society
and Associate Dean Armour

Prayer for the Graduates

composed and delivered by Brian Frelix, MDiv'20

Recognition of Awards and Certificates

Associate Dean Armour

The Charge to the Graduates

Dean Townes

Dismissal

Vanderbilt University Alma Mater

The Vanderbilt Divinity School Hymn

Vanderbilt University Divinity School
The Class of 2020

August 2019

Julia McCorvey, MTS
Samuel Aubrey Ordnung, MDiv
Justine Elizabeth Smith, MTS

December 2019

Dawson Scott Allen, MTS
Rebecca Lea Griffin, MDiv
Heather Helton, MDiv
Randall Phillip Hiroshige, MTS, JD
Serim Huh, MTS
Michael Johnston, MDiv
Benjamin Logan, MTS
Michael Paul McNichol, MDiv
John William Melick, MDiv
Brenda Alejandra Perez De La Pena, MDiv
Denero Antoine Rahming, MDiv
Tremaine Sails-Dunbar, MDiv
Keaton Carlyle Walkine, MTS
Christine Camille Wilson, MTS

May 2020

John Young Ahn, MDiv
Taylor Mayne Pearl Brooks, MTS
Donald Eugene Carter III, MDiv
Eui Hyun Chung, MDiv
Jacqueline Wright Collins, MTS
Michael Corder, Jr., MDiv
Nicholas Donkoh, Jr., MTS, MEd
Kevin John Ekstrom, MDiv
Andrew Russell Flanigan, MDiv
Brian Clifford Frelix, MTS
Sahel Gingerich, MTS
Melvin Guest, Jr., MDiv
Caleb Hampton, MDiv
Patricia Hannigan, MTS

Rachel Paul Hartman, MDiv
Elizabeth Leigh Welliver Hengen, MTS
Summer Nicole Hyche, MDiv
Tiffany Brooke Jones, MDiv
Anna Nicole Kelly, MTS
Matthew Louis Kelly, MTS
Abigail Labrecque, MDiv
Elizabeth Ashely Land, MTS
Lina Irene Landstroem, MTS
Michael Dennis Le Buhn, Jr., MDiv
Kathryn Janel Heierman Minnis, MDiv
Jessica Marie Pagan, MTS
Diane Crosby Palmer, MDiv
Nathaniel Partee, MDiv
Indie Janean Pereira, MDiv
Russell Andrew Pointer, Jr., MTS
Stephanie Lee Powers, MDiv
Adulin Prophete, MTS
Hunter Shea Rhodes, MDiv
Kalie Rhodes, MDiv
Brent Roe-Hall, MDiv
William Roelofs, MDiv
Karla Felecia Scaife, MTS
Abigail Anne Siegel Hyman, MTS, MEd
Samantha Sue Smith, MDiv
Shinji Takagi, MTS
Caroline Kimrey Talbert, MDiv
Rachel Ternes, MDiv
Blake Ellis Tims, MTS
Marvin Wilcox, Jr., MTS
Mollie Donihe Wilkerson, MDiv
Ryan Dean Wilkerson, MDiv
Travis Dasean Williams, MTS
Sidney Lee Young, MTS
Emma Grace Zyriek, MTS

The Founder's Medal for first honors in the Divinity School's Class of 2020 is presented to **Michael Fears Johnston**.

The Academic Achievement Award is shared by **Randall Phillip Hiroshige, Abigail Anne Siegel Hyman, Shinji Takagi, and Elizabeth Leigh Welliver**.

The Umphrey Lee Dean's Award for exemplifying the mission and vision of the Divinity School is presented to **Julia McCorvey**.

The Florence Conwell Prize for accomplishments in preaching is awarded to **Rebecca Lea Griffin**.

The Saint James Academy Award for composing the outstanding sermon is presented to **Mollie Catherine Donihe**.

The Frederick Buechner Prize for excellence in preaching is presented to **Donald Eugene Carter III**.

The W. Kendrick Grobel Award for accomplishments in Biblical studies is presented to **Eui Hyun Chung**.

The J.D. Owen Prize for accomplishments in New Testament is shared by **Indie Janean Pereira and Eui Hyun Chung**.

The Luke-Acts Prize for composing the most significant paper on an aspect of Luke-Acts is shared by **Mollie Catherine Donihe and Summer Nicole Hyche**.

The John Olin Knott Award for scholarly writing is shared by **Sahel Gingerich, John William Melick, and Denero Antoine Rahming**.

The Elliott F. Shepard Prize for accomplishments in church history is presented to **Jessica Marie Pagan**.

The Wilbur F. Tillett Prize for accomplishments in the discipline of theology is awarded to **Emma Grace Zyriek**.

The Nella May Overby Memorial Award for honors in field education is presented to **Michael Dennis Le Buhn, Jr.**

The William A. Newcomb Prize for exemplifying the idea of minister as theologian and for receiving honors on one's master of divinity degree project is awarded to **Kevin John Ekstrom**.

The Frederick Buechner Prize for the master of theological studies thesis is presented to **Anna Kelly**.

The Liston O. Mills Award for academic distinction in pastoral theology and the study of religion, psychology, and culture is presented to **Diane Crosby Palmer**.

The Disciples Divinity House Scholar Award for academic distinction by students representing the Christian Church, Disciples of Christ is presented to **Michael Dennis Le Buhn, Jr.**

The Robert Lewis Butler Award for service and ministry in the African-American church is shared by **Russell Pointer, Jr., and Travis Desean Williams**.

The Bishop Holland Nimmons McTyeire Award for exemplifying the Wesleyan ideals of Christian servant leadership is shared by **Rachel Paul Hartman and Kathryn Janel Heierman Minnis**.

The Bettye R. Ford Graduate Student Service Award for significant contributions to Vanderbilt University's Graduate Department of Religion is presented to **Debbie Brubaker**, doctoral student in theology.

The Student Government Association Service Awards presented to the students and to members of the administration, faculty, and staff for significant contributions to the Divinity School community; for this academic year, the Student Government Association recognizes **Angela Dillon**, systems coordinator for the office of admissions, vocation, and stewardship; and **Hunter Shea Rhodes**.

Certificates earned in Jewish Studies

Eui Hyun Chung and Justine Elizabeth Smith

Certificates earned in Religion and the Arts in Contemporary Culture

Sahel Gingerich, Rebecca Lea Griffin, Kalie Rhodes, and Sidney Lee Young

Certificates earned in Carpenter Program in Religion, Gender, and Sexuality

Jessica Marie Pagan and Stephanie Lee Powers

Certificates earned in the Kelly Miller Smith Institute in Black Church Studies

Melvin Guest, Jr., Matthew Louis Kelly, Denero Antoine Rahming, Tremaine Sails-Dunbar, Hunter Shea Rhodes, Keaton Carlyle Walkine, Travis Dasean Williams, and Marvin Wilcox, Jr.

Certificates earned in the Center for Latin American Studies

Michael Fears Johnston

Technician: cue the *Alma Mater*, followed by the *Vanderbilt Divinity School Hymn* and slide show of images of the Divinity School and the class of 2020.

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