

BOSTON UNIVERSITY

BACCALAUREATE SERVICE



SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2026

11 AM

DANIEL L. MARSH CHAPEL

ORDER OF CELEBRATION

**Please rise, as you are able.*

PRELUDE Marcia (from Symphonie No. 3)

Charles-Marie Widor (1844–1937)

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. 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

★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 Spiritus omnium

Text and Music: Kyle Pederson (b. 1971)

O Spiritus omnium, per omnia
In omnibus, qui in omnium.
Dona nobis oculos, videamus.
Miraculum tota mirabilia.

*O Spirit of all, through all things
In all, who is in all.
Grant us eyes, that we may see.
All wonders are a miracle.*

PSALM 19:1-6

The Reverend Dr. Karen Coleman
University Chaplain for Episcopal Ministry

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. Jessica Chicksa
University Chaplain for International Students

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

John Ward

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

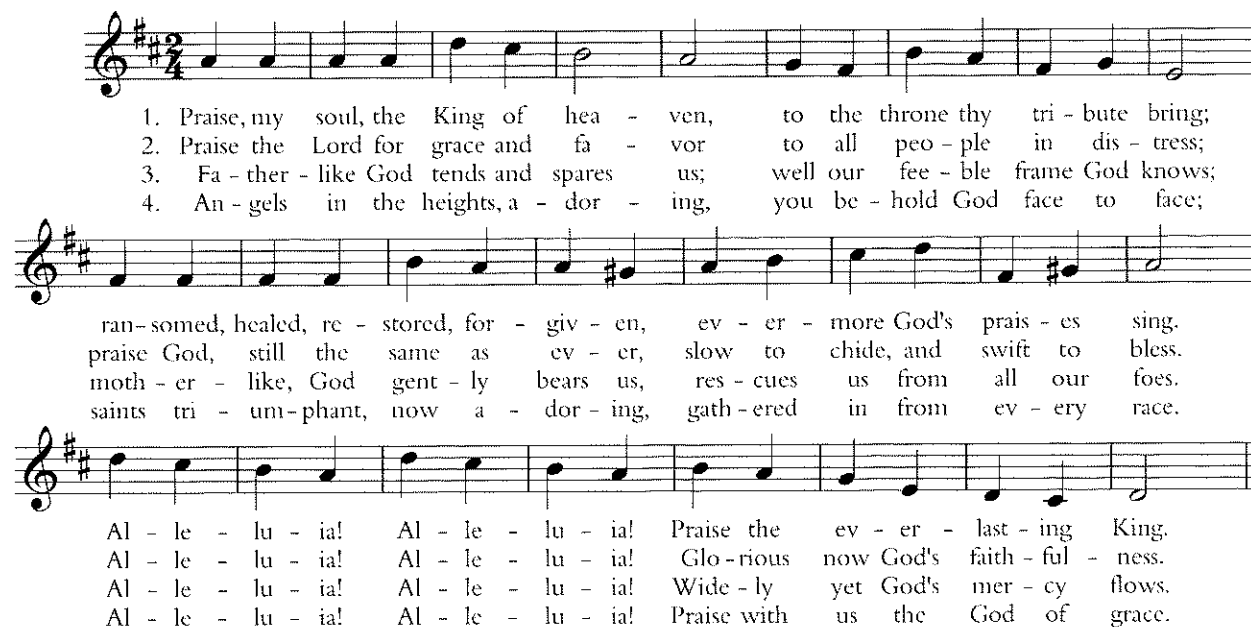
The Reverend Jonathan Byung Hoon Lee
Associate Chaplain for Student Outreach

ANTHEM God is gone up

Music: Gerald Finzi (1901–1956)
Arrangement: Scott Perkins, BM, CFA'02 (b. 1980)
Text: Edward Taylor (1642–1729)

God is gone up with a triumphant shout: The Lord with sounding trumpets' melodies:
Sing Praise, sing praises out, unto our King sing praise seraphicwise!
Lift up your heads, ye lasting doors, they sing, and let the king of Glory enter in.
Methinks I see Heaven's sparkling courtiers fly in flakes of Glory down him to attend,
and hear heart-cramping notes of melody surround his chariot as it did ascend;
Mixing their music, making ev'ry string more to enravish as they this tune sing.

*HYMN



1. Praise, my soul, the King of hea - ven, to the throne thy tri - bute bring;
2. Praise the Lord for grace and fa - vor to all peo - ple in dis - tress;
3. Fa - ther - like God tends and spares us; well our fee - ble frame God knows;
4. An - gels in the heights, a - dor - ing, you be - hold God face to face;

ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en, ev - er - more God's prais - es sing,
praise God, still the same as ev - er, slow to chide, and swift to bless.
moth - er - like, God gent - ly bears us, res - cues us from all our foes.
saints tri - um - phant, now a - dor - ing, gath - ered in from ev - ery race.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the ev - er - last - ing King.
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious now God's faith - ful - ness.
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Wide - ly yet God's mer - cy flows.
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace.

Tune: LAUDA ANIMA; John Goss, 1869

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1834 (Ps. 103)

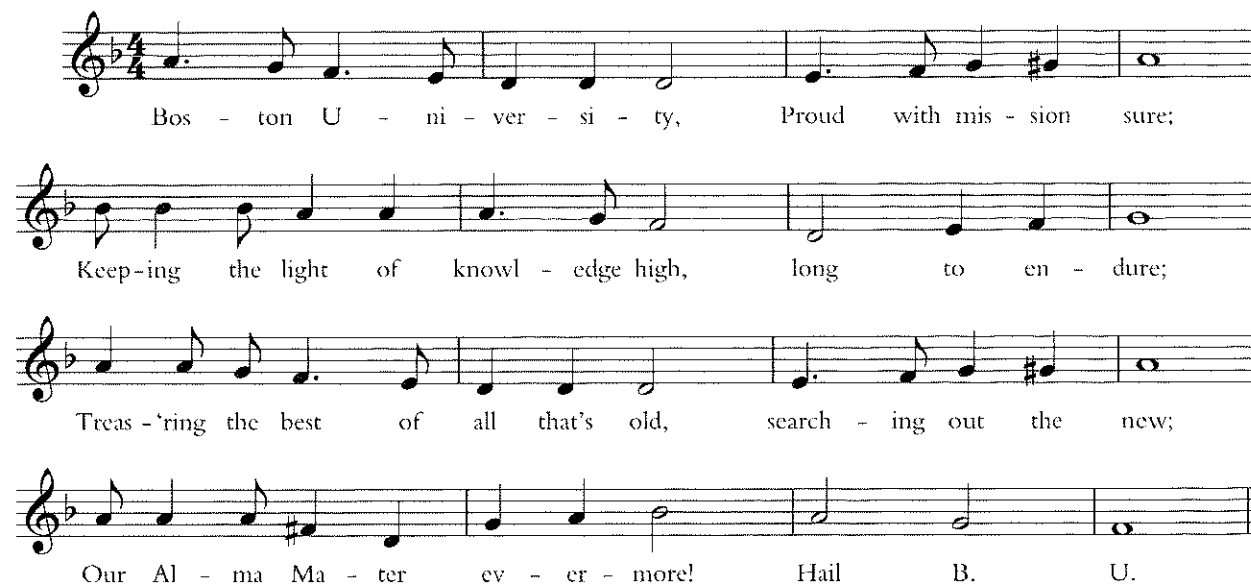
Fanfare: Scott Perkins

Final Stanza: Scott Allen Jarrett

*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 Crown Imperial

William Walton (1902–1983)
arr. Herbert Murrill (1909–1952)
Mr. Blackwell

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

The soprano soloist is Logan Trotter, Marsh Chapel Choral Fellow.

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

The brass ensemble is Majestic Brass.

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

The Reverend 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 **John Ward**.

John Ward received his JD from Boston University School of Law in 1976. After clerking for Judge Raymond Pettine (LAW'43) in the US District Court for the District of Rhode Island, he went into private practice in Boston in 1977. In 1978, in response to a pattern of police harassment of gay men, he gathered a group of community activists and founded Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders, now known as GLAD LAW (GLBTQ Legal Advocates and Defenders). He has handled a number of noteworthy cases involving LGBTQIA+ clients, including the Rhode Island prom case upholding the right of a high school senior to bring another young man to the prom as his date, and the Boston St. Patrick's Day Parade case, during which he became the first openly gay man to argue before the United States Supreme Court.

Recently, Mr. Ward served as co-counsel in a criminal case involving a transgender woman—the first to be housed in a gender-appropriate prison, because of a lawsuit brought by GLAD LAW. After her transfer, she was charged with a criminal offense while in prison, a prosecution alleged to be in retaliation for her successful transfer. Mr. Ward also worked for fifteen years representing death row inmates in post-conviction proceedings in California. Mr. Ward received the Spirit of Justice Award from GLAD in 2008, joining previous recipients Governor Deval Patrick (Hon.'14), Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr. (Hon.'10), and author Tony Kushner, among others.

In 2021, he was selected by the History Project (now Queer History Boston) to receive the prestigious HistoryMaker Award, presented to those whose lifetime achievements have had a significant and positive effect on the Boston and Massachusetts LGBTQIA+ communities.

For the past several years, Mr. Ward has taught a seminar at BU School of Law and Boston College Law School entitled The Courts and the LGBT+ Movement: A Critical Assessment. Mr. Ward and his husband Alain Balseiro live in Tarragona, Catalonia, Spain.