

TWO HUNDRED TENTH OPENING CONVOCATION



UNION PRESBYTERIAN SEMINARY

SEPTEMBER 8, 2021

PRELUDE

✧ PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken

GTG 81

✧ CALL TO WORSHIP

Connor Ferreri

One: Great and amazing are your deeds,
Lord God the Almighty!

**All: Just and true are your ways,
King of the nations!**

One: Lord, who will not fear and glorify your name?

All: For you alone are holy.

All nations will come and worship before you.

from Revelation 15:3-4

WELCOME TO OPENING CONVOCATION

Ken McFayden

CALL TO CONFESSION

Madison Winters

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God,
In whom we live and move and have our being,
Whose face is hidden from us by our sins,
And whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts.
Cleanse us from all of our offenses,
And deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires.,
That with reverent and humble hearts
We may draw near to you,
Confessing our faults,
Confiding in your grace,
And finding in you our refuge and strength;
Through Jesus Christ your Son.

Silent Confession.

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

**We will not pass the peace at this time, but you are invited to share
the peace of Christ with our community throughout the day.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Ashtyn Bratt

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Ecclesiastes 12:9-11

PSALM

Psalm 19:17-14

One: The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul;
the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple;
**All: The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes;**
One: The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever;
the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.
**All: More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.**
One: Moreover by them is your servant warned;
In keeping them there is great reward.
**All: But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults.
Keep back your servant also from the insolent;
do not let them have dominion over me.**
One: Then I shall be blameless,
and innocent of great transgression.
**All: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.**

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Revelation 1:9-11

Rubén Arjona

SERMON

The Ministry of a Well-Placed Book

✧HYMN

Be Thou My Vision

GTG 450

LITANY OF COMMITMENT

Brett Eisenhauer

One: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

The beginning of this academic year serves as an opportunity for remembering that we have been called into Christ's service and set free to become his disciples. Discipleship is both a gift and a commitment, an offering and a responsibility.

Therefore, I ask those who are students this year to stand and respond to the following questions:

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you undertake this course of study as an offering of yourself to Jesus Christ and the world?

Students: I do.

One: Do you promise to be diligent in your studies, faithful in your worship, and a friend to those who accompany you on this way?

Student: I do.

One: I ask those who have been called as faculty to stand.

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, will you continue to fulfill your vocation as professor, teaching and nurturing these students in the wisdom and knowledge of God?

Faculty: I will.

One: I ask those who have been called as staff to stand.

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, will you continue to fulfill your vocation of support, giving of your patience, creativity, and energy to Union Presbyterian Seminary?

Staff: I will.

One: To all faculty, staff, and students: Do you welcome the responsibility of your particular calling, and through that calling, endeavor to serve the Lord and your neighbor?

All: I do.

✧ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

One: To all who are gathered here together as the Body of Christ:

Please stand and affirm that faith which binds us together, using the ancient words of the Apostles' Creed, spoken by our ancestors who have gone before us:

All: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Mairi Renwick

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give your thanks and praise.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*ecumenical*)

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

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

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND EXTENDING THE TABLE AND CUP

Whenever you break bread with family and friends, remember that this table extends to all tables.

ANTHEM

Awake My Heart

Jane Marshall

*Awake, my heart, and render to God thy sure defender,
Thy Maker, thy preserver, a song of love and fervor.
Confirm my deeds and guide me: my day, with thee beside me,
Beginning, middle, ending, will all be upward tending.
My heart shall be thy dwelling, with joy and gladness swelling;
Thy word my nurture, given to bring me on toward heaven.*

Paulus Gerhard, tr. Winfred Douglas

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

✧ CLOSING HYMN

Canto de esperanza
sung twice

GTG 765

✧ DECLARATION

Two Hundred Tenth Session Open

Brian K. Blount

✧ BENEDICTION

BANNER CARRIERS

Tommy Campbell, *Sports and Recreation Deacon*
Mary Moore Driggers, *Service Deacon*

WORSHIP LEADERS

Brian K. Blount, *President*
Ashtyn Bratt, *RSGA Clerk*
Doug Brown, *Adjunct Faculty and Director of Music*
Brett Eisenhauer, *RSGA Moderator*
Connor Ferreri, *RSGA Vice-Moderator*
Ken McFayden, *Academic Dean*
Mairi Renwick, *Chaplain*
Madison Winters, *RSGA Treasurer*

PREACHER

Rubén Arjona, *Assistant Professor of Pastoral Care*

WE WELCOME ALL and are glad you are joining us for worship. May you experience God's abundant welcome in your time here.

Communion liturgy adapted from Alec Evans, *pastor, 2nd Presbyterian Church, Richmond, VA*

Community lunch will be to-go boxes. You may enjoy your meal outside or in various locations around campus. While you break bread with colleagues, friends, and peers, remember to leave a safe amount of space between you for the safety of all of our community.