



TLU

TEXAS LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY

2020

Winter Baccalaureate

December 19, 2020

1:30 p.m.

Texas Lutheran University  
Baccalaureate Service  
Chapel of the Abiding Presence  
December 19, 2020  
1:30 p.m.

Prelude .....“Variations on Puer Nobis”  
Michael Burkhardt  
Gayle Morris  
Chapel Organist

Opening Hymn

“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”

Awake! Awake and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning.  
sing out your joy, for Jesus is born, behold! the Child of our longing.  
Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together,  
to open wide the heavenly door, and lives now inside us forever.

To us, to all in sorrow and fear, Emmanuel comes a-singing,  
whose humble song is quiet and near, yet fills the earth with its ringing.  
Music to heal the broken soul and hymns of loving kindness,  
the thunder of the anthems roll to shatter all hate and injustice.

In deepest night Christ's coming shall be, when all the world is despairing,  
as morning light so quiet and free, so warm and gentle and caring.  
One without voice breaks forth in song, a lame one leaps in wonder,  
the weak are raised above the strong, and weapons are broken asunder.

Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night, though cold the winter and cheerless,  
the rising sun shall crown you with light, be strong and loving and fearless;  
Love be our song and love our prayer, and love, our endless story,  
may God fill every day we share, and bring us at last into glory.

Apostolic Greeting ..... Katy Miles-Wallace, M.Div  
Interim Campus Pastor

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Call to Worship .....Kevin Maxwell Garza  
Graduating Senior

Leader: The Lord is my light and my salvation,

People: Whom shall I fear?

Leader: The Lord is my strength and stronghold,

People: Of whom shall I be afraid?

Leader: I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord.

People: In the fullness of faith we go out into the world with gifts, talents, and passion.

All: Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, forever and ever. Amen.

## Hymn of Praise

### “He Came Down”

He came down that we may have love;  
He came down that we may have love;  
He came down that we may have love,  
Hallelujah forevermore.

Verses: Peace, Joy, Hope, Life

Welcome ..... Dr. Debbie M. Cottrell  
President

Reading ..... Judges 13:2-24  
Nwankwo Ikechi-Kanu Nwankwo  
Graduating Senior

A man named Manoah of Zorah, from the tribe of Dan, was married and childless. The angel of YHWH appeared to his wife and said, “You and your husband have never been able to have children, but you are going to conceive and bear a son. From now on, take care not to drink any wine or other liquor, and do not eat anything unclean, for you will conceive and give birth to a son. No razor is to touch his hair: he is to be a Nazarite, consecrated to God from the womb. The child will strike the first blow for Israel’s freedom from the power of the Philistines.

The woman went to her husband and said, “A godlike figure came to me, someone like an angel of YHWH, an awesome being. I didn’t ask where it came from, and it didn’t tell me its name. But I was told, ‘You will conceive and bear a son. In the meantime drink no wine or other fermented drink and do not eat anything unclean, for the child is to be a Nazirite of God from birth until the day he dies.’”

Then Manoah prayed to YHWH, “God, I beg you, let the angel of YHWH you sent to us return to us to teach us how to raise the child who is to be born!”

God heard Manoah’s prayer; and the angel of YHWH came to Manoah’s wife when she was out in the field alone, and she ran and told her husband, “The angel who appeared to me earlier is here!” Manoah followed his wife, and when they reached the angel of YHWH, Manoah said, “Is it you who talked to my wife?”

The angel answered, “I am.”

Then Manoah asked, “When your words are fulfilled, what rules do we need to follow for him, and what will be his life’s work?”

The angel of YHWH replied, “Your wife is to carefully do all I instructed. She must not taste anything that comes from the vine, or to take other fermented drinks. And she is not to eat anything unclean. She is to do all that I told her to do.”

Manoah said to the angel of YHWH, “We would like you to stay while we prepare a young goat for you.”

But the angel of YHWH replied, “Even though you detain me, I will not eat with you. But prepare a burnt offering, if you will, and offer it to YHWH.” Manoah did not realize who the stranger was.

Then Manoah asked the angel of YHWH, “What is your name? For we certainly will want to honor you when your words are fulfilled.”

The angel replied, “Why do you ask for my name? It is Incomprehensible.”

Then Manoah took a young goat together with a grain offering and sacrificed them on a rock to YHWH. While Manoah and his wife watched, a wondrous thing happened: as the flame blazed up from the sacrifice on the rock towards heaven, the angel of YHWH ascended in the flames of the altar. Upon witnessing this, the couple prostrated themselves on the ground.

The angel of YHWH never again appeared to Manoah and his wife, but Manoah was certain that it was the angel of YHWH. “Surely we’re going to die now,” cried Manoah, “for we have seen God!”

But his wife replied, "If YHWH had meant for us to die, our burnt offering and grain offering would never have been accepted from us, nor would we have been allowed to see all this or have been told such things."

The woman gave birth to a boy and named him Samson.

Psalms 89 (1-4, 19-26).....Katy Miles-Wallace, M.Div  
Interim Campus Pastor

- 1 I will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, forever;  
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.
- 2 I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;  
your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.
- 3 You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one,  
I have sworn to my servant David:
- 4 'I will establish your descendants forever,  
and build your throne for all generations.'"
- 19 Then you spoke in a vision to your faithful one, and said:  
"I have set the crown on one who is mighty,  
I have exalted one chosen from the people.
- 20 I have found my servant David;  
with my holy oil I have anointed him;
- 21 my hand shall always remain with him;  
my arm also shall strengthen him.
- 22 The enemy shall not outwit him,  
the wicked shall not humble him.
- 23 I will crush his foes before him  
and strike down those who hate him.
- 24 My faithfulness and steadfast love shall be with him;  
and in my name his horn shall be exalted.
- 25 I will set his hand on the sea  
and his right hand on the rivers.
- 26 He shall cry to me, 'You are my Father,  
my God, and the Rock of my salvation!'

Gospel ..... John 7:40-52  
Kionasina Aggie-Marie Nu'u  
Graduating Senior

Several people in the crowd who had heard the words of Jesus began to say, "This must be the Prophet." But others were saying, "He's the Messiah." Still others said, "Surely, the Messiah is not to come from Galilee? Doesn't scripture say that the Messiah, being of David's lineage, is to come from Bethlehem, the village where David lived?" So the people were sharply divided over this. Some of them even wanted to arrest Jesus. However, no one laid hands on him.

The Temple guards went back to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why haven't you brought him in?"

"No one ever spoke like that before," the guards responded.

"So, you too have been taken in!" the Pharisees replied. "Do any of the Sanhedrin believe in him? Any of the Pharisees? This rabble knows nothing about the Law – and they are damned anyway!"

One of their own, Nicodemus – the same person who had come to Jesus earlier – said to them, "Since when does our Law condemn anyone without first hearing the accused and knowing all the facts?"

"Don't tell us you're a Galilean, too!" they taunted him. "Look it up. You'll see that no prophet comes from Galilee."

Message .....Nicholas Alexander Orange  
Graduating Senior

Hymn of the Day

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth!

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.  
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!

Prayers .....Reyana Denise Custodio  
Graduating Senior

Refrain, “O Lord Hear My Prayer”

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer; when I call answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer; come and listen to me.

As we anticipate the fullness of the presence of Christ, we join with the church throughout the world, praying for all who are in need. Let us pray,

**Refrain**

For the church throughout the world, for all inspired and led by the Holy Spirit, and for all who proclaim the wondrous deeds of God.

For the live oak trees and the squirrels, the citrus trees and the hawks, the rivers, the hill country and the coastal plains; we pray for all of God's creation, that we might see God revealed in everything.

For the nations and all who govern, for law enforcement and first responders, social workers and lawyers; we pray that God gives and uplifts their hearts to work for peace and justice. Let us pray,

**Refrain**

For the outcast, the bereaved, the ill, and those in danger, that they experience Christ in those who offer them care. We pray especially for essential workers, for all who work in healthcare, the food supply chain, and teaching.

For those who are traveling and those absent from this gather, for those serving in the military, for those beginning journeys of faith, and for Texas Lutheran University; that in all we do we praise and glorify God. In thanksgiving for those bright lives that we have lost this year, that their memories burn brightly and that they be examples for our living. We pray especially for the families of those lost to COVID-19 and for Coach Olivia Van Hook, Dr. Fern Garza, Darren Henkes and their families following the loss of loved ones this year. Let us pray,

**Refrain**

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, those spoken aloud and those known only to you, and grant us peace through Jesus Christ, our coming savior. **Amen.**

Leader: Lord of moments to come and memories past, bless these graduates as they continue their journey. May they never forget the people they have encountered at Texas Lutheran University and the experiences that have molded them. May we acknowledge the past with praise and thanksgiving, and the future filled with hope.

*Graduates: Oh God, our paths have intertwined here at Texas Lutheran. The journey has not always been easy, yet you have blessed us with family and friends who have supported and loved us. God, you are forever our link to the past and present. We pray that you take our hands and forever guide us through life's journey, for all our days are in your hands.*

Faculty & Congregation: Lord God, may these graduates go forward with your guidance and blessing, for when they have come to the edge of all the light they know, and are about to step off into the darkness unknown; remind them that faith is knowing one of two things will happen: there will be something solid to stand on, or they will be taught how to fly.

Leader: Graduates as you go your way, may God go with you. May God go before you to encourage you, beside you to befriend you, above you to watch over you, and within you to give you peace.

All: Praise and thanks be to God.

Choral Benediction ..... TLU School of Music  
Benediction.....Katy Miles-Wallace, M.Div  
Interim Campus Pastor

As you depart from this "Galilee," may God go with you, may goodness and righteousness pursue you all of your days, and may the Holy Spirit whisper guidance in your ears along the way. Almighty God, Creator, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

### Closing Hymn

"Go, My Children, with My Blessing"

Go, My children, with My blessing, Never alone.  
Waking, sleeping, I am with you; You are my own.  
In My love's baptismal river, I have made you Mine forever.  
Go, My children, with My blessing - You are My own.

Go, My children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.  
Here you learned how much I love you, What I can cure.  
Here you heard My dear Son's story; Here you touched Him, saw His glory,  
Go My children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.

Go, My children, fed and nourished, Closer to Me;  
Grow in love and love by serving, Joyful and free.  
Here My Spirit's power filled you;  
Here His tender comfort stilled you.  
Go, My children, fed and nourished, Joyful and free.

Postlude..... "Freu dich sehr, o meine Seele"  
Georg Boehm  
Gayle Morris  
Chapel Organist

# Congratulations Graduates!

## Participants

Dr. Debbie M. Cottrell ..... University President  
Dr. Sarah Ferguson ..... Vice President of Academic Affairs  
Kevin Maxwell Garza ..... Graduating Senior  
Nwankwo Ikechi-Kanu Nwankwo ..... Graduating Senior  
Kionasina Aggie-Marie Nu'u ..... Graduating Senior  
Nicholas Alexander Orange ..... Graduation Senior  
Reyana Denise Custodio ..... Graduation Senior

Miranda Miguel ..... Chapel Technician  
Lauren Guzman ..... Chapel Technician  
Gayle Morris ..... Chapel Organist  
Jonathan Zitelman ..... Director of Event Services  
Katy Miles-Wallace, M. Div ..... Interim Campus Pastor

