

# VIRGINIA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

Friday, May 17, 2024  
6:00 p.m.

P ~~SS~~ ~~C~~ ~~C~~  
5:30 p.m.

SUSAN S. GOODE FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS CENTER  
VIRGINIA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY  
5817 WESLEYAN DRIVE | VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23455

## ABOUT THE BACCALAUREATE SERVICE

With roots in the universities of medieval Europe, the baccalaureate service and sermon have long been associated with the commencement exercises of colleges and universities. The term *baccalaureate* is derived from two Latin words: *bacca*, meaning berry, and *alabastrum*, which means laurel, and may refer to a crown of laurel with which a newly graduated Bachelor was crowned.

This prelude to tomorrow's Commencement Ceremony is a service of worship in celebration of and thanksgiving for lives dedicated to learning and wisdom.



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## SERVICE LEADERS

Acolyte – Alex Cain '24

Bible – Brooke Underwood '24

Crucifer – Henry Handley '24

**Dr. Keith Moore, S** V c P d

**John Groulx, V c P d** F a c

**Heather Campbell '04, V c P d** E

**Jason Seward '05, A c a V c P d** Ca L  
a d O a a Ma a

**Marie Porter, D c** Ca M

**Rev. R. Perez Gatling, Pa** Eb Ba C c

**Dr. Scott D. Miller, P d** U

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VIRGINIA



WESLEYAN

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**Words of Welcome**

**Dr. Scott D. Miller**

**Invocation**

**Amaris Nolan '24**

**Scripture Reading**

**Chloe Booher '24**

**Isaiah 58:9-11**

When you will call, and the LORD will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I. "If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk, and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday. The LORD will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.

**Scripture Reading**

**Ashleigh Lockard '24**

**Philippians 4:4-9**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

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**Student Re ections**

**Zion Purvis-Allen '24**

**Anthem**

**Vox Vera**

*R a H* by Stephen Paulus

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## Hymn

**Amazing Grace** *(All stand to sing)*

Amazing Grace! How sweet the sound  
    at saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost, but now am found  
Was blind but now I see

    rough many dangers, toils, and snares  
I have already come  
‘Tis grace that brought me safe thus far  
And grace will lead me home

When we’ve been there ten thousand years  
Bright, shining as the sun  
We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise  
    an when we first begun

*Words by John Newton; Traditional Appalachian Tune*

**Once a Marlin, Always a Marlin**

**Jason Seward '05**

**Presentation of the Tassels**

**Dr. Miller**

**Rev. Gatling**

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## Recessional Hymn

**Be Thou My Vision** *(All stand to sing)*

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 and Thou only, first in my heart,  
Great God of Heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

*Words by Mary E. Byrne; Music by Carlton R. Young*

## Benediction

**Marie Porter**

## Postlude

**Majesty**, arr. Fred Bock

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*Commencement Ceremony*

Saturday, May 18, 2024

10:00 a.m.

TOWNEBANK ARENA

JANE P. BATTEN STUDENT CENTER

*F*  *a* , [www.vwu.edu/commencement](http://www.vwu.edu/commencement)

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