



EIGHTY-NINTH ANNUAL CONVOCATION  
THE BACCALAUREATE SERVICE  
SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY

FRIDAY EVENING  
THE FOURTEENTH OF MAY  
TWO THOUSAND AND FOUR  
AT EIGHT O'CLOCK  
MCFARLIN MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM

CARILLON CONCERT AND CALL TO BACCALAUREATE

Lorn L. Howard, Professor *Emeritus* of Electrical Engineering  
Fondren Science Tower, 7:30 p.m.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

THE PRELUDE

*Paeon*

Herbert Howells

THE PROCESSIONAL

*Crown Imperial*

William Walton

*The congregation rises when the procession reaches the doors of the auditorium.*

WORDS OF WELCOME

President R. Gerald Turner

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

University Chaplain William M. Finnin, Jr.

Isaiah 43:1b-2, 5-7

Fear not, for I have redeemed you;

**I have called you by name, you are mine.**

When you pass through the waters I will be with you;

**and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;**

when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,

**and the flame shall not consume you. ...**

Fear not, for I am with you;

**I will bring your offspring from the east,**

**and from the west I will gather you;**

I will say to the north, Give up,

and to the south, Do not withhold;

**bring my sons from afar**

**and my daughters from the end of the earth,**

every one who is called by my name,

**whom I created for my glory,**

**whom I formed and made.**

HYMN

*Praise the Source of Faith and Learning*

Hymn to Joy

Praise the Source of faith and learning Who has sparked and stoked the mind

With a passion for discerning how the work has been designed.

Let the sense of wonder flowing from the wonders we survey

Keep our faith forever growing and renew our need to pray.

God of wisdom, we acknowledge that our science and our art

And the breadth of human knowledge only partial truth impart.

Far beyond our calculation lies a depth we cannot sound

Where your purpose for creation and the pulse of life are found.

May our faith redeem the blunder of believing that our thought

Has displaced the grounds for wonder which the ancient prophets taught.

May our learning curb the error which unthinking faith can breed

Lest we justify some terror with an antiquated creed.

As two currents in a river fight each other's undertow

Till converging they deliver one coherent steady flow.

Blend, O God, our faith and learning till they carve a single course,

Till they join as one returning, praise and thanks to you, their Source.

Exodus 33:1-23

*The Command to Leave Sinai*

The Lord said to Moses, "Go, leave this place, you and the people whom you have brought up out of the land of Egypt, and go to the land of which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, 'To your descendants I will give it.' I will send an angel before you, and I will drive out the Canaanites, the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. Go up to a land flowing with milk and honey; but I will not go up among you, or I would consume you on the way, for you are a stiff-necked people."

When the people heard these harsh words, they mourned, and no one put on ornaments. For the Lord had said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'You are a stiff-necked people; if for a single moment I should go up among you, I would consume you. So now take off your ornaments, and I will decide what to do to you.'" Therefore the Israelites stripped themselves of their ornaments, from Mount Horeb onward.

*The Tent Outside the Camp*

Now Moses used to take the tent and pitch it outside the camp, far off from the camp; he called it the tent of meeting. And everyone who sought the Lord would go to the tent of meeting, which was outside the camp. Whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people would rise and stand, each of them, at the entrance of their tents and watch Moses until he had gone into the tent. When Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the entrance of the tent, and the Lord would speak with Moses. When all the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance to the tent, all the people would rise and bow down, all of them, at the entrance of their tent. Thus the Lord used to speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend. Then he would return to camp; but his young assistant Joshua, son of Nun, would not leave the tent.

*Moses' Intercession*

Moses said to the Lord, "See, you have said to me, 'Bring up this people'; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.' Now if I have found favor in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people." He said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." And he said to him, "If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth."

The Lord said to Moses, "I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favor in my sight and I know you by name." Moses said, "Show me your glory, I pray." And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, 'The Lord,' and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But," he said, "you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live." And the Lord continued, "See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen."

VOCAL SOLO

Bronwen Forbay

*He's Got the Whole World in His Hands*

Arranged by Margaret Bonds

INTRODUCTION OF THE PREACHER

President Turner



THE BACCALAUREATE SERMON

The Reverend Dr. William J. Abraham

“Holding Out for the Best”

*(Moments of Silence)*

RESPONSIVE PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

Chaplain Finnin

Holy God, You have called us to be diligent teachers and eager learners in all that we do, both in this community and in Your larger world. Now send us forth into that world as Your willing servants.

**Give us the strength lightly to bear our joys and sorrows.**

**Give us the strength to make our love fruitful in service.**

**Give us the strength never to disown the poor or bend our knees before insolent might.**

**Give us the strength to raise our minds high above earthly trifles.**

**And give us the strength to surrender our strength to Your will with love. Amen.**

Hindu Prayer

HYMN

*God of All Ages*

National Hymn

God of the ages, whose almighty hand  
leads forth in beauty all the starry band  
of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,  
our grateful songs before thy throne arise.

Thy love divine hath led us in the past;  
in this free land with thee our lot is cast;  
be thou our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay,  
thy Word our law, thy paths our chosen way.

From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence,  
be thy strong arm our ever sure defense;  
thy true religion in our hearts increase;  
thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.

Refresh thy people on their toilsome way;  
lead us from night to never-ending day;  
fill all our lives with love and grace divine,  
and glory, laud, and praise be ever thine.

THE BLESSING AND RESPONSE

Chaplain Finnin

The time has come to go forth.

Senior Class: **We go in thanksgiving for all we have learned.**

This is a bittersweet moment.

Senior Class: **We rejoice in our growth and in bonds of friendship,  
even as we bid farewell.**

This is a moment of anticipation.

Senior Class: **We look forward with excitement, eager to embrace  
all that awaits us.**

Go now in peace and hope; and may blessings accompany you always. Amen.

*Please stay in place for the Rotunda Recessional, which will follow immediately.*

## THE ROTUNDA RECESSIONAL

*One of the University's most symbolic traditions is Rotunda Passage, which includes both a processional and recessional. Many of tonight's candidates for graduation began their lives at SMU by processing through the Rotunda of Dallas Hall to Opening Convocation in this auditorium, symbolizing their entrance to SMU. Tonight, all candidates will recess through the Rotunda as a symbolic departure from campus and out into their future as the newest members of the SMU alumni family. Alumni who are parents of graduating seniors are serving as marshals for tonight's recessional. They will help line the path between McFarlin Auditorium and Dallas Hall for the recessional participants.*

### REMARKS

Britt Moen  
President of the Class of 2004

*Following her remarks, the president of the Senior Class will pass the lantern that signifies continuity to a representative of the Class of 2005.*

Don Snell  
President of the Alumni Association

### CALL TO THE RECESSIONAL

Bradley Kent Carter  
Chief Marshal

### VARSIITY

Oh we see the Varsity,  
    Varsity, Varsity,  
As she towers o'er the hill  
    Over there.  
And our hearts are filled with joy,  
    SMU, SMU,  
Alma Mater we'll be true  
    Forever!

*Following "Varsity," all candidates will remain standing. As soon as the stage party is organized in a central aisle, ushers will help guests assemble on both sides of the diagonal walk to Dallas Hall. As this is being accomplished, the stage party will lead the Rotunda Recessional. Marshals will organize the candidates' march.*

### THE RECESSIONAL

*Toccata from Symphonie V, opus 42*

Charles-Marie Widor

*Please join us for a reception following The Rotunda Recessional.*

## WILLIAM J. ABRAHAM

The Rev. Dr. William J. Abraham is the Albert Cook Outler Professor of Wesley Studies at SMU's Perkins School of Theology. A member of the Perkins faculty since 1985, he is an ordained Methodist minister and a member of the Faith and Order Commission of the National Council of Churches. His teaching specialties include courses on Methodism's founder, John Wesley; the doctrine of revelation; systematic theology; philosophy of religion; and evangelism. In May 2003 Dr. Abraham was one of four SMU faculty members named University Distinguished Teaching Professors. He is serving a two-year appointment to the SMU Academy of Distinguished Teachers. He previously received a Pew Evangelical Scholars Program Grant from the Pew Charitable Trusts.

Dr. Abraham was born and reared in Northern Ireland and earned his B.A. degree in psychology and philosophy at Queen's University of Belfast. He earned the M.Div. degree from Asbury Theological Seminary in Kentucky and the D.Phil. degree in philosophical theology from Oxford University. Before joining Perkins, he taught at Oxford and Seattle Pacific University. He is the author of several books, including *Divine Revelation and the Limits of Historical Criticism*; *Canon and Criterion in Christian Theology*, which received a Joint Book of the Year Award from the Institute of Christian Studies; *Waking from Doctrinal Amnesia*; and *The Logic of Evangelism*, among others. Dr. Abraham preaches and lectures extensively in the United States, Europe, and Central Asia.

### MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

Presiding:	Dr. R. Gerald Turner President of the University
Preaching:	The Reverend Dr. William J. Abraham Albert Outler Professor of Theology, Perkins School of Theology
Liturgists:	The Reverend Dr. William M. Finnin, Jr. Chaplain and Minister to the University Dr. Judy Henneberger, Assistant Chaplain to the University
Lector:	Arlene Manthey Director of Student Activities
Organist:	Dr. Larry Palmer Professor of Harpsichord and Organ and University Organist
Precentor:	Dr. Jasper Neel Dean of Dedman College and Vice Provost of the University
Soloist:	Bronwen Forbay Artist Certificate in Voice Performance, 2004
Ensemble:	Meadows Horn Choir