Daniel Roby is the chief executive officer for Austin Street Center, one of the largest, no-cost emergency shelters for people who are experiencing homelessness in North Texas. Roby also serves on Dallas Mayor Eric Johnson’s HOPE taskforce to address the growing unsheltered homeless population in the city of Dallas.

Under Roby’s leadership, Austin Street Center has tripled the size of its case management and staff and added innovative programs and services to help individuals successfully end their homelessness. In 2022, Austin Street completed a capital campaign for the construction of a 60,000-square-foot emergency shelter and day service center that expands the services available for those who are in need.

Roby was appointed by former Mayor Mike Rawlings to participate in the City of Dallas’ Commission on Homelessness in 2016, which delivered a focused set of implementation strategies and recommendations for the city and Dallas County. He has served as a member of the board of directors of Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance (now Housing Forward) and served as chair of the Homeless Management Information System committee. Additionally, Roby served on the Executive Council of the Continuum of Care Board.

In 2017, Roby received the Nonprofit CEO of the Year award from the Dallas Business Journal. He was selected as a recipient of the Pro Ecclesia Medal of Service awarded by Baylor University in 2021 for his broad contribution to Christian ministry. Roby holds a Bachelor of Arts from Baylor University.

The McKenzie Bible was printed in 1856 and once was the property of J.W.P. McKenzie, a pioneer in Methodist education in Texas. It was used continually by McKenzie, who established McKenzie College at Clarksville, once the largest institution of higher learning in Texas. This historic Bible was presented to SMU in 1916 by Mrs. Milton Ragsdale of Dallas, a niece of McKenzie.

The McKenzie Bible was first used at SMU’s 1916 Commencement Convocation, and the University is proud to use it at tonight’s Baccalaureate Service.

For more information about tomorrow’s Commencement activities, please refer to smu.edu/maycommencement.

MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

Presiding: R. Gerald Turner, President of the University
Speaking: Daniel Roby, Chief Executive Officer for Austin Street Center
Liturgist: Elisabeth A. Garvin, Chaplain and Minister to the University

READERS:

John Morgan, Candidate for the degree of Bachelor of Business Administration Degree in Marketing
Maisy Pathan, Candidate for the degree of Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences

MUSICIANS: Imperial Brass

Meadows School of the Arts Vocal Performance Graduates:
Aiden Black – Candidate for the Bachelor of Music Degree in Music Education
Matthew Merritt – Candidate for the Bachelor of Music Degree in Music Education
Macy Muñoz – Candidate for the Bachelor of Music Degree in Voice Performance
Sebastian Poorman – Candidate for the Bachelor of Music Degree in Voice Performance
Isabella Zambrano – Candidate for the Bachelor of Music Degree in Voice Performance

GUILD OF MARSHALS

Thomas R. Fomby, Chief Marshal Emeritus
Bradley Kent Carter, Chief Marshal Emeritus
Nathan S. Balke, Procession Marshal
Jill DeTemple, Platform Marshal

Baccalaureate Marshals

Jing Cao
Ruben L. F. Habito
Robert Harrod
Maribeth Kuenzi
Tim Rosendale
David Sedman
Words: Gary Hauk
Tune: ASH GROVE

Our eyes fastened on a new heav’n, a new earth.
So let us be faithful, our hearts always grateful,
With God, who seeks most lives of love, souls of mirth.
Our hope unabating, we too are creating
As we strive to do what creation demands.
Rings forth through the ages and into all lands.
And beckons as we follow light into light.
God’s fire goes before us, God’s voice leads our chorus
The truth will at least lead us forth out of night.
Through struggle and trial, against all denial,
Praise God, who has lighted our paths in all ways.
All slumber and sadness cast off, and with gladness
To know more the Source and the End of our days.

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Come, let us enter into this sacred space with joy and delight. Amen.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

CARILLON CONCERT
Quarter Past Four in the Afternoon
Adam Neal, Carillonneur
Fondren Science Tower

PREFLUDIAL CONCERT
Imperial Brass

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

WORDS OF WELCOME
R. Gerald Turner
President of the University

THE CALL TO WORSHIP
Elisabeth A. Garvin
Chaplain and Minister to the University

BASED ON PSALM 100
We gather to celebrate and joyfully sing to God!
Together, let us share our praises and thankfulness.
Come, let us enter into this sacred space with praise.
You O God, are the Holy God always and forever!
You are the Eternal One from whom all things come.
Come, let us enter into this sacred space with thanks.
O God, We are your children
created by and with your love.
Come, let us enter this sacred space with joy and delight. Amen.
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HYMN
Come All Who Love Learning
Imperial Brass
Meadows Vocal Performance Graduates

Come all who love learning, whose hearts still are yearning
To know more the Source and the End of our days.
All slumber and sadness cast off, and with gladness
Praise God, who has lighted our paths in all ways.
Through struggle and trial, against all denial,
The truth will at least lead us forth out of night.
God’s fire goes before us, God’s voice leads our chorus
And beckons as we follow light into light.
Divine song ever rising in descants surprising
As we strive to do what creation demands.
Our hope unabating, we too are creating
With God, who seeks most lives of love, souls of mirth.
So let us be faithful, our hearts always grateful,
Our eyes fastened on a new heav’n, a new earth.

Tune: ASH GROVE
Words: Gary Hauk

READING FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE
Proverbs 3:13-24
John Morgan
Candidate for the degree of Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing

INTRODUCTION OF THE SPEAKER
President Turner

THE BACCALAUREATE SERMON
Daniel Roby
Chief Executive Officer of Austin Street Center

THIS DAY WE SAY GRATEFUL*
Raahim Pathan
Candidate for the degree of Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences

HYMN
“Forth in Thy Name, O Lord”
Imperial Brass
Meadows Vocal Performance Graduates

Forth in Thy name, O Lord, I go,
My daily labor to pursue;
Thee, only Thee, resolved to know
in all I think or speak or do.
The task Thy wisdom hath assigned,
O let me cheerfully fulfill,
in all my words Thy presence find,
and run my course with even joy,
and prove Thy good and perfect will.
Thee may I set at my right hand,
and labor on at Thy command,
and offer all my works to Thee.
For Thee delightfully employ
whate’er Thy bounteous grace hath given;
and run my course with even joy,
and closely walk with Thee to heaven.

THE BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH
Reverend Garvin

May God bless us with comfort
At easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships
So that we may live deep within our hearts.
May God bless us with anger
At injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people
So that we may work for justice, freedom and peace.
May God bless us with tears to shed
For those who suffer from pain, injustice, starvation, and war,
So that we may reach out our hands to comfort them and to turn their pain into joy.
And may God bless us with enough foolishness to believe
We can make a difference in the world,
So that we can do what others claim cannot be done.

Go forth in peace to be world changers!
Be of good courage. Think big. Do good.
So that those to whom love is a stranger find in you generous friends.
AMEN!

THE ROTUNDA RECESSIONAL
One of the University’s most symbolic traditions is Rotunda Passage, which includes both a processional and a 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 retrace 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 Memorial Auditorium and Dallas Hall for the recessional participants.

REMARKS
Sydney P. Castle ’23
Student Body President
Following remarks, the president of the Student Body passes the lantern that signifies continuity to the Class of 2024, represented by Alex Alarcon.

Kristin W. Henderson ’82
Chair of the SMU Alumni Board

ALMA MATER
Varsity
Imperial Brass
Meadows Vocal Performance Graduates

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 Platform Party is organized in a central aisle, ushers will help guests assemble on both sides of the walk to Dallas Hall. As guests fill the walkways, the Platform Party will lead the Rotunda Recessional. Marshals will organize the candidates’ march.

THE RECESSIONAL
Imperial Brass