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# BACCALAUREATE

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THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2020  
4:30 P.M. EST

GOUCHER | college

## **COMMUNITY PRINCIPLES**

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### **Respect**

*We will treat everyone within our community with respect and learn from our differences. When conflicts arise, we will work together to come up with mutually beneficial resolutions. We also commit to respect and protect the environment on our campus and in the world.*

### **Inclusion**

*We will acknowledge and embrace the unique gifts and differences of our community members. Furthermore, we seek to include those who may feel excluded.*

### **Communication**

*We will communicate with the intent to listen and learn from others while placing a premium on maintaining a safe space for those involved. We will create opportunities for dialogue so that a variety of voices can be heard.*

### **Service and Social Justice**

*We value active participation in bettering the Goucher community as well as those communities beyond the college where we live, work, and serve. In addition, we seek to understand the issues of privilege and oppression that exist in these communities.*

### **Responsibility**

*We understand that we are accountable for our own actions, opinions, and beliefs, and for ensuring that our actions are conducive to the safety and well-being of others.*

# BACCALAUREATE 2020

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## GATHERING

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### Procession

*Lamba/Yaro Yaro Keur*  
(traditional Senegalese drum rhythm)

Khaley Inc. Drummers

### Welcome

The Rev. Cynthia A. Terry

### Call and Response of Remembrance

“In the Rising of the Sun”

Adapted by Roland Gittelsohn, from  
*Gates of Prayer* (Reform Jewish Prayerbook)

As we gather today, we acknowledge that there are many within our community grieving the loss of parents, siblings, grandparents, spouses, and friends. As we celebrate, let us remember and call to mind all these beloved family and friends, including Dr. Eli Velder, Dr. Chrystelle Trump Bond, and Ruby Johnson.

Leader: In the rising of the sun and in its going down,

Response: We remember them.

Leader: In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter,

Response: We remember them.

Leader: In the opening buds and in the rebirth of spring,

Response: We remember them.

Leader: In the blueness of the sky and in the warmth of summer,

Response: We remember them.

Leader: In the rustling of leaves and in the beauty of autumn,

Response: We remember them.

Leader: In the beginning of the year and when it ends,

Response: We remember them.

Leader: When we are weary and in need of strength,

Response: We remember them.

Leader: When we are lost and sick at heart,

Response: We remember them.

Leader: When we have joys we yearn to share,

Response: We remember them.

Leader: So long as we live, they, too, shall live, for they are now  
a part of us,

Response: As we remember them.

## REFLECTING

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### Collective Prayer

This prayer is a collection of prayers and sacred texts from many religious traditions, read in many languages.

#### *Mindfulness Bell*

As a mother watches over her children,  
Willing to risk her own life to protect them,  
So with a boundless heart, should one cherish all living beings,  
Suffusing the whole world with unobstructed loving-kindness:

May all beings be peaceful and happy  
May all beings be safe from harm  
May all beings be healthy and strong  
May all beings have ease of well-being  
(*Buddhist prayer*)

There are three virtues of Confucianism: Wisdom, Kindness, and Bravery. The wise are free from perplexities, the kindhearted are free from worries, and the brave are free from fear.

(*Confucian; Proverb; read in Mandarin*)

We pray [for] strength, determination, and willpower, to do instead of merely to pray, to become instead of merely to wish; that our world may be safe, and that our lives may be blessed.

(*Jewish; from Siddur Kol HaNishamah, the Reconstructionist Prayerbook; read in Hebrew*)

Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

(*Jewish and Christian; Joshua 1:9; read in Russian*)

In the name of God, the infinitely Compassionate and Merciful. Praise be to God, Lord of all the worlds. The Compassionate, the Merciful. Ruler on the Day of Reckoning. You alone do we worship, and You alone do we ask for help. Guide us on the straight path, the path of those who have received your grace; not the path of those who have brought down wrath, nor of those who wander astray.

(*Muslim; The Holy Qur'an, Surah 1; read in Arabic*)

Supply us, then, with Thy wondrous gifts that are hid from the eyes of men. Thou art, verily, the Fashioner of all creation. No God is there but Thee, the Almighty, the All-Glorious, the Most High.

(*Bahá'í prayer of gratitude; Baha'u'llah; read in Portuguese*)

I entreat Thee, O my Lord, by Thy Most Great Name whereby Thou didst separate light from fire, and truth from denial, to send down upon me and upon such of my loved ones as are in my company the good of this world and of the next.

*(Bahá'í prayer of gratitude; Baha'u'llah; read in French)*

Lord, now you let your servant go in peace. Your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the salvation which You have prepared in the sight of every people. A light to reveal You to the nations and the glory of Your people Israel. Amen.

*(Greek Orthodox; Prayer of St. Simeon; read in Greek)*

Be patterns, be examples, in all countries, places, islands, nations, wherever you come; that your carriage and life may preach among all sorts of people, and to them; then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in everyone.

*(Quaker; from "Exhortation to Friends in the Ministry," from Launceston Prison, 1656; read in Spanish)*

Prove all things, hold fast to that which is good.

*(The Goucher College motto; 1 Thessalonians 5:21; read in Swahili)*

*Mindfulness Bell*

**Student Address**

Lilith Saylor '20

**Staff Address**

Kathleen Hake

**Choral Piece**

*Light of a Clear Blue Morning*

Words and Music by Dolly Parton,  
arr. Craig Hella Johnson

Performed by a virtual choir of members of the  
Goucher Choral Society and the Deer Creek Chorale

## Graduate Voices

- Graduate: As we prepare to go from this place, we remember this portion of our life's journey. We remember roommates and friends, teachers and mentors, coaches and administrators and staff, and families near and far. We remember with gratitude those who have accompanied us in these years.
- Graduate: We remember friendships made, celebrations enjoyed, promises kept; intellectual and academic accomplishments; caring and nurture given and received; and play and work, study and rest. We remember and celebrate the blessings we have known here.
- Graduate: We remember personal sorrows and traumas; conflict with family and friends; experiences of failure and fatigue; and times of struggle and confusion. We remember and honor the challenges and difficulties of our college years.
- Graduate: We remember experiences abroad and in Baltimore; late night conversations about things that matter and things that don't; internships and classroom time; and reflection and engagement. We remember and hold fast to all that has been transformative about Goucher College.
- Graduate: Our journeys will continue in new places with new friends, opportunities, and challenges. May we continue to gain wisdom and experience. May we offer competence and compassion to all the endeavors of our future. May we give back to the world as we have received.

# GOING FORTH

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## Introduction

President Kent Devereaux

## Sending Forth

Senator Cory Booker

## Blessing of the Graduates

Leader: As you prepare to become graduates tomorrow, may you remember that it is as much a commencing, a beginning, as it is an ending.

Families & Friends: May you carry with you our love and support for all that lies ahead.

Faculty & Staff: May you carry with you our belief in your accomplishments and potential as you head into professional work, further study, community service, or time off.

Families & Friends: May you carry with you our belief in your goodness and humor as you begin building new lives while holding on to the old.

Faculty & Staff: May you carry with you our belief in your abilities and character as future leaders in our communities, our schools, even our nation and our world.

Leader: And may you carry with you a strong belief in yourselves, as you continue to grow and learn, to give and receive. May you go in peace.

## Toast

John Nobriga '19  
Recent Graduate Trustee

## Final Words

The Rev. Cynthia A. Terry

# PARTICIPANTS

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## **Drummers**

Keur Khaleyi Inc. Drummers

Diarra Von Hendricks

Ayende Von Hendricks

## **Leaders of Liturgy**

The Rev. Cynthia A. Terry, college chaplain

Stacy Cooper Patterson, associate dean of students for student and campus engagement

Amanda Thom Woodson P '20, professor

Angelo Robinson, associate professor of English

Rob Ferrell, photo and video specialist

Miriam Hutchins '73, '20 family member

## **Call and Response of Remembrance**

Cecile Adrian '20

Imani Payne '20

Phaye Poliakoff-Chen, director of individualized interdisciplinary majors and creative writing

Arnelle Quashi Hanley, director of accessibility services

Ellie Struewing '20

## **Senior Voices**

Antonia Pettit '20

Zaidel Sanchez '20

Josie McKinley '20

Molly Sutter '20

Chabria Cannaday '20

## **Language Readers of the Prayer**

Gong & Buddhist Prayer:

Justin Brody, associate professor of data, mathematical and computational sciences

Mandarin Chinese: Yuwan Zhang '20

Hebrew: Michelle Cheifetz '20

Russian: Meighan Winner '20

Arabic: Tabara Sy '20

Portuguese: Daniel McDavitt, assistant professor of music and director of Goucher College Choirs and Orchestra

French: Adi Daniels '20

Greek: Monica Neel, director, counseling center

Spanish: Ruth Diaz-Rivera '20

Swahili: Lucas Muya '20

## **Alumnae/i Toast**

John Nobriga '19, Board of Trustees

## **Musicians**

Daniel McDavitt

The Goucher Choral Society and the Deer Creek Chorale



# CHORAL PIECE

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As Goucher moved classes online for the rest of the semester in response to a global pandemic and thousands of arts organizations canceled performances throughout the world, the Goucher Choirs were forced to cancel a major collaboration with the Deer Creek Chorale. What soon developed, however, was an opportunity to experiment with a virtual choir between the two ensembles in order to preserve our collaboration and as an outlet to sing during this time. Over 50 singers between the two ensembles contributed to the project—a performance of Dolly Parton’s “Light of a Clear Blue Morning,” which the Goucher College Commencement Choir was planning to perform in-person at Baccalaureate this year. Instead, we offer this virtual expression of resilience to the Class of 2020. Parton wrote this song as she was emerging from a time of great personal struggle early in her life. It has become an anthem that beckons to any who find themselves searching for a light or at the dawn of a brand new day.

**Text:**

It’s been a long dark night,  
And I’ve been a waitin’ for the morning.  
It’s been a long hard fight,  
But I see a brand new day a dawning.

I’ve been looking for the sunshine  
‘Cause I ain’t seen it in so long;  
Everything’s gonna work out just fine,  
Everything’s gonna be all right, it’s gonna be okay.

I can see the light of a clear blue morning,  
I can see the light of a brand new day;  
I can see the light of a clear blue morning,  
Everything’s gonna be all right, it’s gonna be okay.

# S P E A K E R S

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## **Lilith Saylor '20**

Lilith Saylor graduates with a triple major in international relations, political science, and economics with honors. She is from Loveland, Ohio, and has been actively involved in student government since her first year, in addition to participating in intermittent student advocacy efforts in unofficial organizations on campus. Lilith is currently pursuing careers in which she can combine her three majors and her growing interest in machine learning in order to produce individualized solutions to large-scale problems in development, both locally and nationally.

## **Kathleen Hake**

Kathleen Hake finished her first semester of college with only a .9 GPA. She completed her degree with a 3.9. It took eight years. During that time, she waited on tables, bartended, dishwashed, and cooked. She learned a lot about hard work, learning how to learn, shame, hope, resilience, disappointment, fear, courage, focus, and joy. She thanks her parents, to this day, for sticking by her.

One thing remains the same—she loves learning, in all of its non-linear, often messy, many times thrilling, ways.

Hake continued her education and earned an M.Ed. in educational policy/global studies in education from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. She completed a graduate certificate in women, leadership, and change from Johns Hopkins University. As a lifelong learner, she continues to engage in learning opportunities. Her current interests are brain-based learning and strategies, as well as how the embodied practices of mindfulness, self-compassion, and breathwork can enhance and improve resilience, well-being, and academic learning and success.

She has worked in higher education for 25 years in many capacities: community-based learning, student activities, leadership development, teaching, critical thinking and college reading, and academic coaching.

As an academic coach at Goucher, Hake loves creating an academic space where students can tap into their own wisdom, remember and name their strengths, develop learning skills, and harness their natural sources of energy for motivation, attention, and focus for the things that matter to them.

She lives 1.5 miles north of Goucher with her husband, Bryan, her son, Brady, and her two dogs, Annie and Ben. In her free time, she enjoys hiking the trails at Loch Raven, observing nature, reading, swimming, and vacuuming. (Seriously, she loves to vacuum.)

# S P E A K E R S

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## **Cory Booker**

Cory Booker believes that the American dream isn't real for anyone unless it's within reach of everyone. Booker has dedicated his life to fighting for those who have been left out, left behind, or left without a voice.

Booker grew up in northern New Jersey and received his undergraduate degree from Stanford University. At Stanford, Booker played varsity football, volunteered for the campus peer counseling center, and wrote for the student newspaper. He was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship and went on to study at the University of Oxford, and then Yale Law School, where he graduated in 1997.

Instead of working for a corporate law firm, Booker moved to Newark after law school and started a nonprofit organization to provide legal services for low-income families, helping tenants take on slumlords. In 1998, Booker moved into the Brick Towers housing project in Newark, where he lived until its demolition in 2006. Booker still lives in Newark's Central Ward today, where the median household income is less than \$15,000.

At 29, Booker was elected to the Newark City Council, where he challenged the city's entrenched political machine and fought to improve living conditions for city residents, increase public safety, and reduce crime.

Starting in 2006, Booker served as Newark's mayor for more than seven years. During his tenure, the city entered its largest period of economic growth since the 1960s. In addition, overall crime declined and the quality of life for residents improved due to initiatives such as more affordable housing, new green spaces and parks, increased educational opportunities, and more efficient city services.

In October 2013, Booker won a special election to represent New Jersey in the United States Senate. In November 2014, Senator Booker was re-elected to a full six-year term.

As New Jersey's junior Senator, Cory Booker has brought an innovative and consensus-building approach to tackling some of the most difficult problems facing New Jersey and our country. He has emerged as a national leader in the effort to fix our broken criminal justice system and end mass incarceration, helping craft the most sweeping set of criminal justice reforms in a generation, the First Step Act, which became law in December 2018.

Booker sits on the Judiciary Committee, the Foreign Relations Committee, and the Environment and Public Works Committee.

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Named one of the top 10 most innovative colleges in the country by *U.S. News & World Report*, Goucher College prepares students for the jobs of the future.

Located just outside Baltimore, MD, Goucher enjoys a national reputation for its top-tier academics and a rich legacy of innovation, social justice, and access.

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GOUCHER | college

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