



*Opening
Convocation*

GARRETT-EVANGELICAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

WEDNESDAY, THE FOURTEENTH OF SEPTEMBER
TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY TWO
FOUR O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON
CHAPEL OF THE UNNAMED FAITHFUL
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS

PRELUDE “Voluntary 12th in B-flat” Dr. Ron Anderson
Samuel Wesley *Styberg Professor of Worship*

+ Please stand in body or spirit.

+ **HYMN** Praise the Source of Faith and Learning

Praise the source of faith and learning
that has sparked and stoked the mind
with a passion for discerning
how the world 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, the Source.

+ INVOCATION

The Reverend Dr. Mai-Anh Le Tran

Vice President for Academic Affairs and Academic Dean

Associate Professor of Religious Education and Practical Theology

L: May God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Let us pray: Gracious God, we come to you at the beginning of this academic year with our many feelings, expectations, fears and hopes. Help us to remember, however, we have the comforting assurance from you: "I will always be with you."

Loving God, for all of us this is a time of transition. It is transition from the work and leisure of summer back to the classroom. It is transition from time spent with family and friends. It is transition from a slower pace of being to a more harried pace. Give us patience with ourselves as we make these transitions and give us patience with one another.

Faithful God, this beginning is totally new for some among us. Bless the newest members of our community that they may find among us a community that reflects the fullness of the body of Christ. Turn the sadness of leaving families and communities and create an openness to new friends and opportunities. Turn the anxiety about academics and new work into a quiet confidence in the way you have blessed us in the past. Give us a new perspective to see persons, events, and academic work as an invitation to develop the many gifts you have given us to be used in service for others.

Creator God, some in our community are moving into their last year at Garrett. Bless them with your gifts of awe and wonder at the friends they have made, the way their minds and hearts have been stretched and changed, and the many possibilities that lie ahead. Give them the gift of discernment to make the right choices about their futures.

Finally, Generous God, give to each member of the Garrett Community the seven gifts of the Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, courage, knowledge, piety, and awe, that in all we do and say we may reflect your purposes in the

world you have called us to serve and to give ourselves to in the manner of Jesus. **Amen.**

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

The Reverend Dr. Javier A. Viera
President and Professor of Education and Leadership

READINGS FROM SACRED SCRIPTURE

Psalm 8:1-3

Dongwoo-Paul Lee and
Maryclare Beche

I Corinthians 1:18-24

Emanuel Padilla and
Millie Piper

INTRODUCTION OF CONVOCAATION SPEAKER

The Reverend Dr. Reginald Blount
*Murray H. Leiffer Associate Professor of Formation, Leadership, and Culture
Director, Center for the Church and the Black Experience*

CONVOCAATION ADDRESS

The Reverend Dr. Starsky Wilson
President, Children's Defense Fund

+HYMN Make Me A Channel of Your Peace



1. Make me a chan-nel of your peace. _____ Where
2. Make me a chan-nel of your peace. _____ Where
4. Make me a chan-nel of your peace. _____ It



there is ha-tred, let me bring your love. _____ Where
there's de-spair in life, let me bring hope. _____ Where
is in par-don - ing that we are par - doned, _____ in



there is in - ju - ry, your par-don, Lord, _____ and
there is dark - ness, _____ on - ly light, _____ and
giv - ing of our - selves that we re - ceive, _____ and in



where there's doubt, true faith in you. _____
where there's sad - ness, ev - er joy. _____
dy - ing that we're born to e-ter-nal life. _____



3. Oh, Mas-ter, grant that I may nev - er seek _____ so



much to be con - soled as to con - sole, _____ to be



un - der-stood as to un - der - stand, _____ to be



loved as to love with all my soul. _____

INTRODUCTION OF THE ENTERING CLASS

The Reverend Scott Ostlund
Vice President for Enrollment Management

PRAYERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

The Reverend Dr. Karen Mosby
Dean of Student Life and Chaplain to the Seminary

- L: God is the source of all wisdom and knowledge. Let us ask for God's blessing upon all who seek to learn and upon all who teach in this place.

For our students, as they begin this new academic year, that the Spirit of God may grant them the gifts of wisdom and understanding, curiosity and awe, and deep respect and appreciation for difference in experience and in thought. Let us pray to the Lord.

- P: Fill us with your wisdom, Lord.**

- L: For our faculty and all who teach in this place, that they may share their knowledge freely with gentleness, patience, and concern for their students, that they may foster among us all a love of learning and cultivate the life of the mind as food for the soul. Let us pray to the Lord.

- P: Fill us with your wisdom, Lord.**

- L: For our staff and senior leadership, that they may approach the governance and administration of this school with great care and humility, seeking always the welfare of all and the fulfillment of our mission as the purpose of their work. Let us pray to the Lord.

- P: Fill us with your wisdom, Lord.**

- L: O God of wisdom, we offer thanks and praise for the gift of new beginnings and for the opportunity to learn and to wonder and to grow. We pray for the students, faculty, and staff of this venerable school, that this academic year may be one of promise and transformation. Be with us as we face the challenge of new tasks, the fear of failure, the expectations we place on ourselves, and the expectations placed on us by others.

In all we do, may your calling on our lives never be far from us. May the communities and peoples who sent us here never be far from our thoughts and our aspirations. May the suffering and pain of your people in this community and around the world never be numb to us. May the loftiness of our thoughts and complexity of our words never obscure the purpose of training and service. May the security and comfort of these walls never insulate us from the needs of the most vulnerable—the world’s children, the poor, the hungry, the sick, and the othered.

In our work, in our learning, in our teaching may we grown in service to others, may we grow ever in your likeness, and may grow in love for your world, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

P: Amen.

+ HYMN 475 Come Down, O Love Divine

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn,
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let they glorious light shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong, with which the soul will long,
shall far out pass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till Love create a place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.

+BENEDICTION

The Reverend Dr. Virginia Lee
Associate Professor of Christian Education
Director, Deacon Studies

RECESSIONAL

“Jubilate”
Roy Douglas

Dr. Ron Anderson

Hymn Credits:

“Praise the Sources of Faith and Learning” -- Tune: *Hyfrydol*; Text: Thomas H. Troeger © 1987, Oxford University Press. Reprinted by permission under OneLicense #A-725350

“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace” -- Text: Based on the prayer traditionally ascr. to St. Francis of Assisi, ca. 1182-1226; Text and music, Sebastian Temple © 1967, 2003, OCP. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under OneLicense #A-725350.

“Come Down O Love Divine” -- Tune: *Down Ampney*, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906; Text: Bianco of Siena, 1851; trans. Richard F. Littleton, 1867.



Convocation Speaker

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary is delighted to welcome the Reverend Dr. Starsky Wilson as the 2022 Convocation Speaker. Dr. Wilson is currently the president and CEO of the Children's Defense Fund (CDF) and CDF action Council. CDF envisions a nation where marginalized children flourish, leaders prioritize their

well-being, and communities wield the power to ensure they thrive. Wilson is board chair for the National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy (NCRP) and the Forum for Theological Exploration (FTE).

From 2011 through 2020, Rev. Wilson was president & CEO of Deaconess Foundation, a faith-based philanthropy for child well-being and racial justice in St. Louis. From 2008 through 2018, Dr. Wilson also pastored Saint John's Church (The Beloved Community), a multiracial congregation in the city. Under his leadership, the foundation constructed and established the Deaconess Center for Child Well-Being, a community action tank engaging thousands of citizens annually. After the police killing of Michael Brown, Jr., the church hosted the #BlackLivesMatter Freedom Ride to Ferguson and other mobilizations.

Wilson was appointed co-chair of the Ferguson Commission, which released the *'Forward Through Ferguson: A Path Toward Racial Equity'* Report, calling for sweeping changes in policing, the courts, child well-being and economic mobility in 2015. He currently serves boards for Duke Divinity School, the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Dr. Wilson earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Xavier University of Louisiana, Master of Divinity from Eden Theological Seminary, and the Doctor of Ministry from Duke University. A member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. and Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, Starsky is married to Dr. LaToya Smith Wilson, a dentist and child advocate. They are raising four children.