



*Hooding and  
Commencement Ceremony  
2024*

WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF DIVINITY  
WAIT CHAPEL  
7 P.M. SATURDAY, MAY 18



# *Hooping Ceremony*

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SEVEN O’CLOCK IN THE EVENING  
SATURDAY, MAY THE EIGHTEENTH, TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY-FOUR  
WAIT CHAPEL

PRELUDE .....Matthew Bacon (MDiv ’24)  
*Organist*

PROCESSION OF THE LIGHT\* ..... Devin Withrow (MDiv ’25)  
*Lightbearer*

Olena Withrow (MDiv ’25)  
*Lightbearer*

Emily Burke (MDiv/MA in Counseling ’25)  
*Poetry Reading*

PROCESSIONAL\*: “Sing A New World Into Being” (page 6) ..... NETTLETON

Joshua Gregg (MDiv ’26)  
*Crossbearer*

INVOCATION ..... Courtney Jones (MDiv/MA in Counseling ’25)

DEAN’S WELCOME ..... Corey D. B. Walker  
*Dean and Wake Forest Professor of the Humanities*

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

OLD TESTAMENT READING: ISAIAH 40:30-31 ..... Shelby Miles (MDiv/MA in Counseling ’25)

*\*All who are able are invited to stand.*

REFRAIN: "THOSE WHO WAIT FOR THE LORD"

Those who wait for the Lord shall re - new their strength, they shall mount up and fly - - and they shall run and shall not be wea - ry; shall walk and shall not grow faint. *(piano)*

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NEW TESTAMENT READING: 2 CORINTHIANS 4:16-18 ..... Zachary Jackson (MDiv '24)

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER ..... C. Bradley Hunt II (MDiv '24)

SONG: "WILD RESILIENCE" (Composed for Class 2024 New Student Orientation)

I am resilience, hallelujah!	I won't back down.	Every breath I take,	I find in You,
I am resilience, hallelujah!	I'm getting stronger now,	every plan I make,	You make me new.
Wild resilience, hallelujah!	hallelujah!	The Spirit leads,	If I fail or succeed,
Wild resilience, hallelujah!	I'm getting stronger now,	and goes with me	everything that I need
Every step I take,	hallelujah!	I'm moving forward now,	I find in You,
every move I make	(Repeat)	hallelujah!	You make me new.
I won't back down,	Every breath I take,	I'm moving forward now,	<i>lyrics by Joshua Brian Campbell</i>
I won't back down.	every plan I make,	hallelujah!	<i>Director of Worship, Music,</i>
Every step I take,	The Spirit leads,	(Repeat)	<i>and the Arts, and Director of</i>
every move I make	The Spirit goes with me.	If I fail or succeed,	<i>University Gospel Choir</i>
I won't back down,		everything that I need	<i>tune-"I've Got the Victory,"</i>
			<i>traditional-congregational</i>

HOMILY.....	Derek S.Hicks <i>Associate Professor of Religion and Culture</i>
CONFERRAL OF DEGREES	
REMARKS .....	Susan R. Wente <i>President</i>
PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES .....	Corey D. B. Walker <i>Dean</i>
CONFERRING OF DEGREES .....	Susan R. Wente <i>President</i>
HOODING OF GRADUATES .....	Elizabeth O'Donnell Gandolfo <i>Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Earley Associate Professor of Catholic and Latin American Studies</i>  Brittani D. Hunt (MDiv '15) <i>Assistant Dean of Admissions and Student Services</i>  Mary Ellen Walter <i>Assistant Director of Academic Services and Assistant Registrar</i>  School of Divinity Faculty
PRESENTATION OF THE CLASS GIFT.....	Nicole Johnson (MDiv '24) Erica Baldwin (MDiv '24)
VIDEO PRESENTATION .....	Georgia McKee (MDiv '24)
SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS	
GUTHRIE PRIZE .....	Elizabeth O'Donnell Gandolfo
BILL J. LEONARD AWARD .....	Corey D. B. Walker
BENEDICTION .....	Corey D. B. Walker
RECESSIONAL*: "Go in Peace. Go in Love" (page 7) .....	GIPGIL

*Please join us for a reception honoring the graduates in the Green Room of Reynolda Hall.*

*\*All who are able are invited to stand.*

## ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Derek Hicks teaches and researches broadly in the areas of African American religion, religion in North America, race, the body, religion and foodways, theory and method in the study of religion, and cultural studies. He serves as co-chair of Wake Forest University's *Slavery, Race, and Memory Project*, a Wake Forest University initiative seeking to account for the institution's role with slavery. He also serves as a member of the American Academy of Religion's Program Committee. Dr. Hicks is the author of the book *Reclaiming Spirit in the Black Faith Tradition* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2012). He is currently completing a second book entitled *Feeding Flesh and Spirit: Religion, Food, and the Saga of Race in Black America*. In addition, he served as assistant editor of the volume entitled *African American Religious Cultures* (ABC-CLIO Press). He is also the co-author of an article entitled "How Much a Dollar Cost?": *Political Ideology, Religion, and Poverty Policy Through the Lens of Kendrick Lamar's Music* (Southern California Review of Law and Social Justice, Vol 28:2, 2019). Dr. Hicks is the founding director of the *Center for Research, Engagement and Collaboration in African American Life*, which serves Wake Forest University's intellectual community as an interdisciplinary research hub that promotes innovative programming and community engagement.

## CLASS OF 2024 GIFT

Members of the Class of 2024 gave a gift of \$525 toward the Wake Forest University School of Divinity processional cross. The generosity of their support makes this addition to our worship spaces possible. Their gift will play an integral role in strengthening our worship experiences. The School of Divinity appreciates the Class of 2024's efforts in contributing to our learning community.

## NOTES

- The commencement hashtags are #wakediv2024 and #wfulgrad
- Please silence all mobile devices during the ceremony
- "Sing A New World Into Being" used with permission under OneLicense.net #A-701691
- "Go in Peace. Go in Love" used with permission under OneLicense.net #A-701691

### PROCESSIONAL HYMN:

Matthew Bacon (MDiv '24), organ

### RECESSIONAL HYMN:

Sally Morris, piano

### STUDENT MARSHALS:

Sophia Carter (MDiv '25)  
Claire Cox (MDiv '26)  
Damisha Moore (MDiv '25)  
Adrian Starks (MDiv '26)  
Jason Wright (MDiv '25)

## ABOUT THE MARGARET WOODFORD GUTHRIE PRIZE

The Margaret Woodford Guthrie Prize is an award established by Wiley C. Guthrie ('52) in memory of his wife. Recipients must have a superior scholarship record, a personality suited to the requirements of Christian ministry, and have effectively participated in the school's activities.

## ABOUT THE BILL J. LEONARD DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD PRO FIDE ET HUMANITATE

The Bill J. Leonard Distinguished Service Award is awarded annually to faculty, alumni, or friends of the Wake Forest University School of Divinity. Recipients embody the principle of Wake Forest's motto of Pro Humanitate and the School's mission, such as a commitment to diverse faith engagements and to being agents of justice, reconciliation, and compassion in Christian churches and other ministries.

The award was established and funded by the late James M. Dunn and his wife, Marilyn, to honor "the life contributions of Bill J. Leonard as teacher, scholar, historian, and as the first dean of the divinity school at Wake Forest." Dunn served as resident professor of Christianity and public policy from 1999 until his retirement in 2014.

The first award was made during the 2009-2010 academic year to commemorate the School's first class of entering students in 1999 and to honor the Reverend Dr. Bill J. Leonard's decade of service to the School.

MASTER OF DIVINITY  
*May 20, 2024 Graduates*

Matthew David Bacon	Winston-Salem, NC
Erica D. Baldwin	Greensboro, NC
Gabrielle M. Banks	Stafford, VA
William Warner Branch~	Winston-Salem, NC
Brianna Nicole Eley	Rocky Mount, NC
Rebecca Jean Gordon	Winston-Salem, NC
Ana Huckins	Virginia Beach, VA
C. Bradley Hunt II	Greensboro, NC
Zachary Bruce Jackson †	Sandersville, GA
Nicole Johnson §	Winston-Salem, NC
Bethany Rose Leggett	Snellville, GA
Georgia Anne McKee	Frisco, TX
Kristina J. Meyer	Richmond, VA
Malcham Avery Seals	Decatur, GA
Strauss Moore Shiple	York, SC
Leah Terraglio	Statesville, NC
Marion Charlene Thomas §	New York, NY
Alexia Valenzuela	Washington, PA
Lance Kenneth Williams	Cincinnati, OH
Bradley Ylitalo	Wayzata, MN

JURIS DOCTOR / MASTER OF DIVINITY  
*May 20, 2024 Graduates*

Kit Everett Kniss	Chambersburg, PA
Jada Mileena Williams	Snellville, GA

MASTER OF DIVINITY / MASTER OF ARTS IN COUNSELING  
*May 20, 2024 Graduates*

Michael Lee Branton	Shelby, NC
Amelia Hope Britt	Savannah, GA
Kirby Elizabeth Jones	Garner, NC

§ *Interfaith Literacy and Leadership Concentration*

† *Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Graduate Concentration*

~ *In Memoriam*

# SING A NEW WORLD INTO BEING



1. Sing a new world in - to be - ing. Sound a  
2. Sing a new world in - to be - ing where each  
3. Sing a new world in - to be - ing where the  
4. Sing a new world in - to be - ing. Join the



bold and hope - ful theme. Find a tune for si - lent  
gen - der, class, and race brings its rain - bow gifts and  
home - less find a home, where no chil - dren ev - er  
an - cient proph - ets' cry for a time of health and



yeam - ings. Lend your voice and dare to dream:  
col - ors to God's lim - it - less em - brace;  
hun - ger but are filled in God's sha - lom;  
plen - ty when all tears have been wiped dry;



dream a church where all who wor - ship find their  
where the lines that once di - vid - ed form in -  
where all peo - ple work for jus - tice, where all  
when com - pas - sion flows like wa - ters, pour - ing



lives and loves be - long. Sing a new world in - to  
stead the ties that bind. Sing a new world in - to  
hate and venge - ance cease. Sing a new world in - to  
balm for all who grieve. Sing a new world in - to

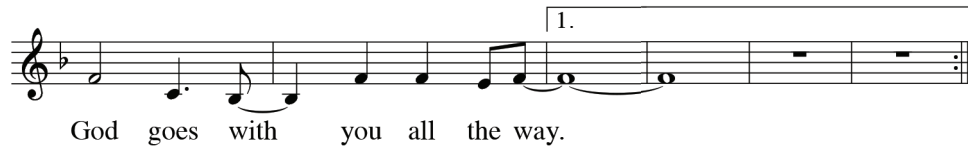


be - ing. Sing as Christ in - spires your song!  
be - ing: risk trans - form - ing heart and mind!  
be - ing: raise the har - mo - nies of peace.  
be - ing: live the prom - ise you be - lieve!

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# GO IN PEACE. GO IN LOVE



Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b.1953  
Tune: GIPGIL; Sally Ann Morris, b.1952  
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EVEN *youths* WILL FAINT AND BE WEARY, AND THE  
YOUNG WILL FALL EXHAUSTED, BUT THOSE WHO *wait*

FOR THE LORD SHALL *renew* THEIR STRENGTH;  
THEY SHALL MOUNT UP WITH WINGS LIKE *eagles;*

THEY SHALL *run* AND NOT BE WEARY

THEY SHALL *walk* AND NOT FAINT.

*Isaiah 40:30-31*

SO WE DO NOT LOSE *heart.* EVEN THOUGH OUR OUTER

NATURE IS WASTING AWAY, OUR INNER NATURE IS BEING

*renewed* DAY BY DAY. FOR OUR SLIGHT, MOMENTARY

AFFLICTION IS PRODUCING FOR US AN ETERNAL WEIGHT OF

*glory* BEYOND ALL MEASURE, BECAUSE WE LOOK NOT AT

WHAT CAN BE SEEN BUT AT WHAT CANNOT BE SEEN,

FOR WHAT CAN BE SEEN IS *temporary,*

BUT WHAT CANNOT BE SEEN IS *eternal.*

*2 Corinthians 4:16-18*



WAKE FOREST  
UNIVERSITY