Columbia University in the City of New York

BACCALAUREATE SERVICE

Sunday, May 14, 2023 • St. Paul’s Chapel
10:00 A.M.
Religious Life Advisers
Student Speakers
Dean of Religious Life
Executive Vice President, University Life
Dean of Undergraduate Student Life, Columbia College and the Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science
Dean of Students, School of General Studies
Dean of the School of General Studies
Dean of the College, Barnard College
Dean of the Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science
Dean of Columbia College
University Chaplain
Order of Service

Processional

Dina Foster-Osbourne
Organist

Crown Imperial

William Walton

Opening Words

Jewelnel Davis
University Chaplain
Associate Provost

Introduction to the Baccalaureate Speakers

Rev. Dr. Ian Rottenberg
Dean of Religious Life
Tabārak al-ladhī ja’ala fī l-samā` burūjan wa ja’ala fīhā sirājan wa qamaran munīrā

Wa huwa al-ladhī ja’ala l-layla wa-n-nahara khilfatan li-man arāda an yadhdhakara aw arāda shukūra

Wa ‘ibādu l-raḥmān al-lathīna yamshūna ‘ala l-arḍhi hawnan wa idhā khāṭabahum al-jāhilūna qalū salāma

Blessed is the One Who has placed constellations in the sky, as well as a [radiant] lamp and a luminous moon. And God is the One Who causes the day and the night to alternate, [as a sign] for whoever desires to be mindful or to be grateful. The [true] servants of the Most Compassionate are those who walk on the earth humbly, and when the foolish address them [improperly], they only respond with peace.

Sura Furqan (The Criterion) 25:61–63
There is divine beauty in learning, just as there is human beauty in tolerance. To learn means to accept the postulate that life did not begin at my birth. Others have been here before me, and I walk in their footsteps. The books I have read were composed by generations of fathers and sons, mothers and daughters, teachers and disciples. I am the sum total of their experiences, their quests. And so are you.

Elie Wiesel, “Have You Learned the Most Important Lesson of All?”

But it is precisely as the member of a community that I learn a moral language, a vision and its way of life. I become articulate by acquiring a set of meanings not of my own invention, but part of a common heritage. I become connected to others through bonds of loyalty and obligation that are covenantal rather than contractual. And I become connected too, to the community’s past and future, so that I can understand my life as a chapter in a larger narrative.

Musical Selection

My Way  
Paul Anka, Claude Francois, and Jacques Revaux  
Arranged by Jonathan Nechemiah Cohen

Columbia Clefhangers

Angela Ahn, Columbia College, 2024  
Tasnim Azman, Columbia College, 2023  
Eunice Bae, Columbia College, 2023  
Mounina Dia, Columbia College, 2025  
Edwin Ding, Columbia College, 2024  
Linhan Dong, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, 2025  
Mia Gonzalgo, Columbia College, 2026  
Phoebe Sarah Klebahn, Columbia College, 2025  
Joya Kumar, Columbia College, 2023  
Alif Idlan Bin Masron, Columbia College, 2026  
Daniel Perkes, School of International and Public Affairs, 2025  
Claudia Sachs, School of General Studies/Jewish Theological Seminary, 2025
May all beings be happy and secure; 
May they be inwardly happy! 
Whatever living beings there are 
Whether frail or firm, without omission, 
Those that are long or those that are large, short, fine, or gross ... 
No one should deceive another, 
nor despise anyone anywhere. 
Because of anger and thoughts of aversion 
no one should wish suffering for another. 
Whether they are seen or unseen, 
Whether they dwell far or near, 
Whether they have come to be or will come to be, 
May all beings be inwardly happy! 
Just as a mother would protect her son, 
her only son, with her life, 
so one should develop toward all beings 
a state of mind without boundaries. 
And toward the whole world 
one should develop loving-kindness, 
a state of mind without boundaries — 
above, below, and across — 
unconfined, without enmity, without adversaries. 
Whether standing, walking, sitting, 
or lying down, as long as one is not drowsy, 
one should resolve on this mindfulness: 
they call this a divine dwelling here.

_The Suttanipāta_, Metta Sutta (Translated by Bhikkhu Bodhi)
The Lord is my shepherd; 
I shall not want.
He makes me to lie down in green pastures; 
He leads me beside the still waters.
He restores my soul; 
He leads me in the paths of righteousness 
For His name’s sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, 
I will fear no evil; 
For You are with me; 
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; 
You anoint my head with oil; 
My cup runs over. 
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me 
All the days of my life; 
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord Forever.

Psalm 23, New King James Version

So, fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.

Isaiah 41:10, New King James Version
Elevate yourself through the power of your mind, and not degrade yourself, for the mind can be the friend and also the enemy of the self.

You have the right to perform your actions, but you are not entitled to the fruits of your actions. Do not let the fruits of your actions be the motive for your actions, and do not be attached to inaction.

Bhagavad Gita, Chapter 6, Verse 5, and Chapter 2, Verse 47
Musical Selection

“Jesus bleibet meine Freude,” from Cantata BWV 147  
Johann Sebastian Bach

Columbia University Bach Society

Karen Copeland, School of Engineering and Applied Science, 2023
James Abednego Delinois, Columbia College, 2024
Andrea Dubbels, Columbia College, 2024
Yutong Gao, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, 2023
Brian Jiang, Columbia College, 2023
Andrew Lee, Columbia Community Member
Dylan Lee, School of General Studies, 2023
Elaine Lee, Columbia College, 2023
Christine Li, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, 2023
Brigitt Molina-Alvarado, Barnard College, 2026
Margaret Mushi, Columbia College, 2023
Audrey Nicholson, Columbia College, 2023
Nitya Nigam, Columbia College, 2025
Isaac Parlin, Columbia College, 2023
Elliot Parlin, Columbia Community Member
Maya Saar, School of General Studies, 2023
Claire Schnatterbeck, Columbia College, 2024
Amy Stulman, Barnard College, 2026
Joanna Wang, Columbia College, 2023
Mikey Xie, Columbia College, 2026
Sophia Yanney, Barnard College, 2025

Senior Reflections

Areej Qamar Qadeer
Barnard College, 2023
Muslim

Lily Margaret Conable
Barnard College, 2023
Episcopalian
Order of Service

Musical Selection

Song Medley: Kesariya, Kabira

Arranged by Hari Bhimaraju

Arjit Singh

Pritam

Columbia Sur

Hari Bhimaraju, School of Engineering and Applied Science, 2025
Navya Chopra, Barnard College, 2023
Fariyah Chowdhury, Columbia College, 2024
Sonali Dasari, Columbia College, 2023
Mehr Kaur, School of Engineering and Applied Science, 2023
Riya Kishen, Barnard College, 2026
Akshay Nambudiripad, Columbia College, 2025
Priyanka Nanayakkara, Barnard College, 2026
Neha Narayan, School of Engineering and Applied Science, 2024
Sanjay Natesan, School of Engineering and Applied Science, 2025
Roma Nayak, Barnard College, 2023
Brian Qi, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, 2024
Shaurir Ramanujan, Columbia College, 2025
Aishwarya Rao, Barnard College, 2026
Priyanka Shrijay, Barnard College, 2023

Senior Reflections

Harpreet Kaur
Barnard College, 2023
Sikh

Victoria Ardelean
School of General Studies/Jewish Theological Seminary, 2023
Jewish
Musical Selection

Heavy/Mizmor LeDavid

Birdtalker

Arranged by Raphael Simonson

Pizmon

Talia Albukrek, Barnard College, 2023
Daniel Caplan, School of General Studies/Jewish Theological Seminary, 2025
Dan Amiran Cohen, School of General Studies/Jewish Theological Seminary, 2023
Ilan Cohen, School of General Studies/Jewish Theological Seminary, 2024
Gabriel Freedman-Naditch, School of General Studies/Jewish Theological Seminary, 2026
Noah Friedman-Nathan, School of General Studies/Jewish Theological Seminary, 2024
Alix Gilkarov, School of General Studies/Jewish Theological Seminary, 2026
Emily Herman, Barnard College, 2023
Rachel Rumstein, School of General Studies/Jewish Theological Seminary, 2025
Adeena Bromberg Seltzer, Barnard College/Jewish Theological Seminary, 2025
Sofia Silva, Barnard College, 2025
Raphael Simonson, Columbia College, 2023
Naomi Walthour, Barnard College, 2024

Family Tribute

Astrid Mercedes Liden
Columbia College, 2023
Catholic

Closing Words

Chaplain Jewelnel Davis
Recessional Hymn

Alma Mater

Stand, Columbia!  

*Gilbert Oakley Ward, Columbia College, 1902*  
*Franz Joseph Haydn*

*(Please rise as the music begins and remain standing as you are able.)*

Mother, stayed on rock eternal,  
Crowned and set upon a height,  
Glorified by Light supernal—  
In thy radiance, we see light.

Torch, thy children’s lamps to kindle,  
Beacon-star to cheer and guide,  
Stand, Columbia! Alma Mater—  
Through the storms of Time abide!

Mighty patriots, warriors, sages  
Thou hast borne, a shining band;  
Teach thy kin in future ages  
Still to love their native land.

Thron’d upon the hill where heroes  
Fought for liberty, and died,  
Stand, Columbia! Alma Mater—  
Through the storms of Time abide!

Honor, love, and veneration  
Crown forevermore thy brow!  
Many a grateful generation  
Hail thee as we hail thee now!  
Till the lordly Hudson seaward  
Cease to roll his heaving tide,  
Stand, Columbia! Alma Mater—  
Through the storms of Time abide!
Order of Service

Organ Postlude

Dina Foster-Osbourne
Organist

Festival Prelude on Thaxted
Gustav Holst
Arranged by David Howard Pettit

Baccalaureate

The Baccalaureate service is believed to have originated in a statute of 1432 at Oxford University requiring each bachelor to deliver a sermon in Latin as part of his academic exercise. Since the earliest universities in this country were founded primarily to educate ministers, the British practice of a Baccalaureate service was continued.

The tradition of the Baccalaureate service at Columbia University began after the move to the Morningside Heights campus in 1897. The Baccalaureate service is a multifaith service celebrating the completion of the undergraduate academic career.

This service is prepared and coordinated by the Commencement Office and the Office of Religious Life.