



WILLIAM PEACE UNIVERSITY

*Baccalaureate
Service*

FRIDAY, MAY 9, 2025 3:30 P.M.



Holy Trinity Anglican Church

Program

PRELUDE "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring"
Johann Sebastian Bach

PROCESSIONAL "Ceremonial March in D Major"
David Johnson

The congregation will rise, if able, when the students enter.

WELCOME & GREETINGS Lynn Morton, Ph.D.
President

INVOCATION Rev. Tanner Brown '19, M.Div.
William C. Bennett Chaplain

CALL TO WORSHIP: Adapted from Psalm 27 (NIV)
Jamie Luersen '25

Leader: One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

All: Teach me your way, Lord.

Leader: To gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.

All: Teach me your way, Lord.

Leader: For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling;
he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and set me high upon a rock.

All: Teach me your way, Lord.

Leader: I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land
of the living.

All: Teach me your way, Lord.

Leader: Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart, and wait for the Lord.

All: We will wait for the Lord.

READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT: Genesis 15:1-6 (NLT)
Jacob Trump '25

"Some time later, the Lord spoke to Abram in a vision and said to him, 'Do not be
afraid, Abram, for I will protect you, and your reward will be great.'

But Abram replied, 'O Sovereign Lord, what good are all your blessings when I

don't even have a son? Since you've given me no children, Eliezer of Damascus, a servant in my household, will inherit all my wealth. You have given me no descendants of my own, so one of my servants will be my heir.'

Then the Lord said to him, 'No, your servant will not be your heir, for you will have a son of your own who will be your heir.' Then the Lord took Abram outside and said to him, 'Look up into the sky and count the stars if you can. That's how many descendants you will have!'

And Abram believed the Lord, and the Lord counted him as righteous because of his faith."

MUSICAL SELECTION "For Good" (from *Wicked*)
Kaitlyn Bliss '26

READING FROM THE GOSPEL: Matthew 5:14-16 (NIV).....
Ashley Wyrick '25

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

SPEAKER INTRODUCTION Lynda Szymanski, Ph.D.
Vice President for Academic Affairs

BACCALAUREATE ADDRESS "So...Now What?"
Pastor Tony Parham

HOODING CEREMONY Wade Newhouse, Ph.D.
Faculty Moderator

BACCALAUREATE PLEDGE President Morton

BENEDICTION Rev. Brown

RECESSIONAL HYMN "Lead On, O King Eternal"
Ernest W. Shurtleff

Matt Hodge, M.F.A.
Pianist

The congregation will rise, if able, and remain in place for the recessional. After the faculty have recessed, the ceremony has concluded. Graduates will not recess out.

“Lead On, O King Eternal”

*Lead on, O King eternal,
The day of march has come;
Henceforth in fields of conquest
Thy tents shall be our home.
Through days of preparation
Thy grace has made us strong;
And now, O King eternal,
We lift our battle song.*

*Lead on, O King eternal,
Till sin's fierce war shall cease,
And holiness shall whisper
The sweet amen of peace.
For not with swords' loud clashing,
Nor roll of stirring drums;
With deeds of love and mercy
The heavenly kingdom comes.*

*Lead on, O King eternal,
We follow, not with fears,
For gladness breaks like morning
Where'er Thy face appears.
Thy cross is lifted over us,
We journey in its light;
The crown awaits the conquest;
Lead on, O God of might.*

Baccalaureate Pledge

We, the graduates of 2025, mindful of the knowledge, talents and opportunities that are ours, pledge today to expend our energy and skills in the pursuit, not only of our own individual success, but for the betterment of our communities and our world.

We commit ourselves to employ the knowledge we have acquired and the abilities we have strengthened, solely for the good of all they may affect, and, in the best tradition of William Peace University.



This year marks the 28th anniversary of William Peace University's Baccalaureate service. The Class of 1997 was the first graduating class to receive a four-year degree. At that time, Peace College offered five Bachelor of Arts degree programs. Peace is now home to more than 800 students and more than 35 majors and minors. During its 168-year history, Peace has impacted the lives of tens of thousands of students, awarded nearly 2,000 baccalaureate degrees, and has over 12,000 alumni around the world.

ABOUT OUR SPEAKER — PASTOR TONY PARHAM

Antonio (“Tony”) Parham is a multifaceted leader with over 30 years experience in business, technology, public service, and Christian ministry. In the private sector, he is a seasoned executive known for driving innovation and operational excellence for firms like Fidelity Investments, IBM, Microsoft, and Hewlett-Packard. In the public sector, he most notably became the first Chief Innovation Officer for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. And in ministry, “Pastor Tony” has held leadership roles in small and large congregations, trained pastors internationally, guided couples through marriage counseling, and provided executive coaching to pastors. He continues to lead in faith-based and professional settings — fostering growth and transformation for many people and organizations.

UNIVERSITY STUDENT MARSHALS

Marshals are students who have achieved the highest academic standing among their peers.

Sophomore Marshals:

Megan Hobbs '27

Ryan-John Laraway '27

Olivia Lubak '27

Junior Marshals:

LaShae Brown '27

Caroline Burdsal '26

Emily Parris '27

Gaby Vazquez '26



WILLIAM PEACE UNIVERSITY

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