



Baccalaureate

The Service of Praise and Consecration

Friday, December 11, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

Livestream | CUChicago.edu/Live

Together, a New Creation

2 Corinthians 5:17-18

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come! Everything is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. (CSB)

Relentless forces at work in our world seek to divide us. A worldwide pandemic has caused physical separation as well as economic instability, not to mention the deaths of hundreds of thousands. Deep-seated and long-standing racial inequities in our nation remain unaddressed and unresolved. Civil unrest erupted in dozens of urban centers this past summer. Strife, bitterness, envy and malice abound on all sides. And yet, Concordia University Chicago gathers for its 157th academic year with the conviction that our educational imperatives—truth, freedom, vocation—are extensions of God’s activity for good in a divided and divisive world.

Even more than this, as a Christian university, we proclaim a greater unity and greater reconciliation than the world offers. This year’s theme, “Together, a New Creation,” places Christ at the center. We are together, equally broken and fallen creatures, marred by our own sin and the effects of sin around us. Not one of us is righteous in ourselves nor blameless in our attitudes and actions toward each other. And yet, because of the blood of Christ and in the power of His resurrection, each of us has been reconciled to the Father and made into new creatures through the Spirit. The gift of full reconciliation with God necessarily overflows into the work of reconciliation toward one another. The two are inseparable.

This year’s hymn of the year sings of the unity we have in Jesus. Written for an English missionary exhibition, the text celebrates the expanse of the whole earth brought together in the brotherhood of the faith. In Him, nothing that seeks to divide us can overcome the One who holds us together. Henry T. Burleigh (1866-1949) adapted a tune from the African-American spiritual tradition for use with the hymn text. Himself a descendent of slaves, Burleigh collected, edited and arranged hundreds of tunes then known as “plantation songs.” No other musician did more to both popularize and legitimize the spiritual as a compelling and distinctively American musical art form. An accomplished singer and composer in his own right, Burleigh’s personal perseverance through the endemic prejudice within the classic music circles of his day makes his contributions all the more remarkable.

Concordia-Chicago is honored that Stacey V. Gibbs, a prolific and highly accomplished Black composer, has arranged “In Christ There Is No East or West” for the enrichment of our worship this academic year. Gibbs’ composition follows Burleigh’s as a stirring example of a musical tradition birthed from a painful past but now liberating and edifying for all.

~Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Leininger

PRELUDE

Savior of the Nations, Come

Johann Sebastian Bach

WORDS OF WELCOME

Pastor Jeff Leininger

INVOCATION AND OPENING SENTENCES

P In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P We have been made new creatures through the work of Christ.

C **The old has passed away, and behold, the new has come!**

P Reconciled and renewed by His cross, let us embrace the unity given in Him.

C **We are one people, redeemed by His blood; our days and seasons rest in His hands.**

P Come, let us celebrate God's abundant blessings upon this place and in our lives!

C **Let us join our voices with the whole Church, the angels and all creation,**

P proclaiming Christ Jesus Lord of all things,

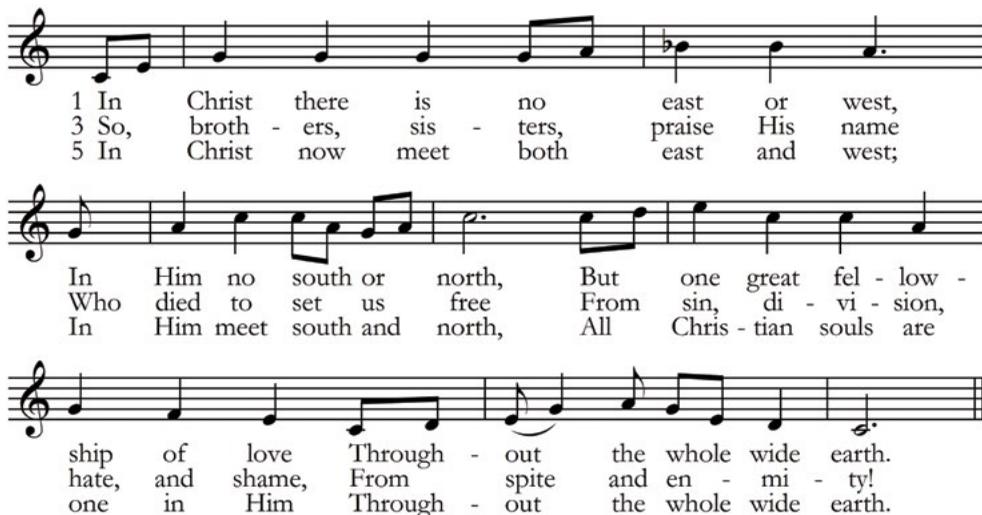
C **and rejoicing together, a new creation!**



HYMN

In Christ There Is No East or West
(We join the choir on stanzas 1, 3, 5)

Setting by Stacey V. Gibbs
Commissioned for Concordia's 157th Academic Year



1 In Christ there is no east or west,
3 So, broth - ers, sis - ters, praise His name
5 In Christ now meet both east and west;

In Him no south or north, But one great fel - low -
Who died to set us free, From sin, di - vi - sion,
In Him meet south and north, All Chris - tian souls are

ship of love Through - out the whole wide earth.
hate, and shame, From spite and en - mi - ty!
one in Him Through - out the whole wide earth.

- 2 With God there is no tribe or race;
In Him we all are one.
He loves us as His children through
Our faith in His dear Son.
- 4 Join hands, brothers and sisters of the faith,
Whate'er your race may be;
Who serves my Father as His child
Is surely kin to me.

Text: John Oxenham, 1852–1941, sts. 1, 4–5, alt; Mark A. Jeske, b. 1952, st. 2;
Michael A. Perry, 1942–96, st. 3

Music: African American spiritual; adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1866–1949

Text (sts. 1, 4–5) and music: Public domain; (st. 2) © 1993 Mark A. Jeske

Text (st. 3): © 1982 Jubilate Hymns Ltd.; admin. Hope Publishing Co.

Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-704570

MCKEE
CM

FIRST READING

John 8:31-36

- ³¹ Jesus then said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples,
³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”
³³ They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will be made free?’”
³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin.
³⁵ The slave does not continue in the house for ever; the son continues for ever.
³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed. (RSV)

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

- ¹⁶ From now on, then, we do not know anyone from a worldly perspective. Even if we have known Christ from a worldly perspective, yet now we no longer know him in this way.
¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come!
¹⁸ Everything is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.
¹⁹ That is, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and he has committed the message of reconciliation to us.
²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us. We plead on Christ’s behalf, “Be reconciled to God.”
²¹ He made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (CSB)

HOMILY

Rev. Kris Whitby

UNIVERSITY HYMN

O God Our Father, Source and Destination
(We join the choir on stanzas 1 and 3)

Text: David Rogner BA '82
Music: Carl Schalk HS '47, BS '52



1 O God our Fa - ther, source and des - ti - na - tion,
2 O Christ our Sav - ior, light of ev - 'ry na - tion,
3 O Ho - ly Spir - it, fin - ish your cre - a - tion,

Our ev - er - last - ing hope and con - stant stay,
We praise you for the saints who la - bored here
By grant - ing pow'r and wis - dom from a - bove

Your migh - ty arm has won for us sal - va - tion,
To build a house up - on your sure foun - da - tion,
That we may glad - ly serve in our vo - ca - tion

Your gra - cious hand has led us on the way.
And bear your light through ev - 'ry pass - ing year.
As true dis - ci - ples, quick - ened by your love.

Pre - serve us now and grant that we
Help us pro - claim, as they have done,
And give us thank - ful hearts to raise

Hold fast the truth that makes us free
The truth of our re - demp - tion won
A nev - er - end - ing song of praise

As we con - tin - ue in your Word.
As we con - tin - ue in your Word.
As we con - tin - ue in your Word.

RECOGNITION OF VOCATION FOR ALL GRADUATES

University President: Dear members of the class of 2020, the mission of Concordia University Chicago underscores the idea of vocation—that all Christians are called in baptism by our Lord to serve faithfully, whatever their station in life. Whether in the home, in an occupation, in the institutions of society or in the Church, we are all to regard our undertakings as callings from God—vocations done to the best of our ability in service to others, in response to His love and for His glory.

Rev. Anderson: Hear the words of St. Paul, from Philippians 4:8-9: “Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.”

University President: These graduates are pleased to present themselves, collectively and individually, to the Church.

Rev. Anderson: On behalf of the Church, I accept with joy these members of the class of 2020—gifts of God’s grace. I now ask you to affirm your intention to serve God and His people.

All Graduates: **We desire to serve God and His people as servants of Christ, and as extensions of His love to a world in need. We ask the Lord to use us and our talents in the Church and the world according to His will and for His glory. We seek the Lord’s blessings on our work and service, all in the name of Christ.**

Rev. Anderson: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

All Graduates: **Thanks be to God!**

RECOGNITION OF THOSE COMPLETING CHURCH PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS

University President: Some of you have come together to affirm your intention to serve in the commissioned ministries of the Church. Others of you may be continuing your vocational development in seminary education. As you do so, let me remind you that your work in the called ministries of the Church is but a special opportunity to live out your baptismal vocations from God.

Therefore, I ask you now to affirm your intention to serve God and His people in the specific called ministries of the Church, giving glory to God in word and deed through your service.

Church-Professional Graduates: **We do so intend, with the help of God.**

ANTHEM

Christ Is With Me

Gerald Patrick Coleman

We were buried with him into death,
That as he was raised by God's glory,
We might walk in life made new by grace.
Having died with Christ, we shall live with him.

*Christ is with me everywhere I go,
Never to leave me, this I know.*

I have now been grafted to the vine,
Drawing life from roots, rich in mercy,
Bearing fruit as I abide in him:
Fruit forever fresh, glorifying God.

*Christ is with me everywhere I go,
Never to leave me, this I know.*

I have now been crucified with Christ,
I no longer live, Christ lives in me.
Now I live by faith in God's own Son,
One who loved me so – gave himself for me.

*Christ is with me everywhere I go,
Never to leave me, this I know.*

—Gerald Patrick Coleman,
passages from John 15, Romans 6 and Galatians 2

PRAYERS

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ☩ give you peace.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song

Les Petite Soeurs de Jesus and L'Arche Community
setting, Jonathan Kohrs

Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey;
I'll tell ev'rybody about you wherever I go:
You alone are our life and our peace and our love.
Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey.

Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.
May all of my joy be a faithful reflection of you.
May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.
Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.

As long as I live, Jesus make me your servant,
To carry your cross and to share all your burdens and tears.
For you saved me by giving your body and blood.
As long as I live, Jesus make me your servant.

I fear in the dark and the doubt of my journey;
But courage will come with the sound of your steps by my side.
And with all of the family you saved by your love,
We'll sing to the dawn at the end of our journey.

POSTLUDE

In Christ There Is No East or West

Dale Wood

CHURCH PROFESSIONAL CANDIDATES

Lutheran Teacher Education (LTE)

Stephanie Lamberty
Abigail Schaffer
Shelby Spitz
Amanda Wilson

Completing Pre-Seminary Requirements and Recommended to Seminary

Nicholas Sinatra

Recommended to Seminary

Benjamin Heinz

SOLI DEO GLORIA

PREACHER

Kris Whitby
Assistant to the President, Northern Illinois District, Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

OFFICIANTS

Russell Dawn, DPhil
President, Concordia University Chicago
Jeffrey Leininger, PhD
University Pastor and Pre-Seminary Program Director
Steven J. Anderson
East Region Vice-President, Northern Illinois District, Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

LECTOR

Jared Stiek MA '15
Lutheran Teacher Education Program

MUSICIANS

Jonathan Kohrs BA '85, MCM '93, MFA
Music Department Chair
Kapelle, Charles P. Brown, DMA, directing
Karla Wente BA '10, DPT
Laura Zimmer BA '83, MCM '06
Steven Wente BA '75, MCM '76, DMus
Organist to the Chapel of Our Lord
In Christ There Is No East or West and *O God Our Father, Source and Destination*:
recorded by Kapelle, October 12, 2020, Charles Brown directing
Christ Is with Me: recorded May 4, 2019, Jonathan Kohrs directing
Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song: recorded May 6, 2020, Jonathan Kohrs directing

PROGRAM DIRECTORS

Jared Stiek MA '15, Lutheran Teacher Education Program
Jeffrey Leininger, PhD, Pre-Seminary Program



Truth ~ Freedom ~ Vocation

*“If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples,
and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”*

–John 8:31-32

