



# COMMENCEMENT

CHICAGO THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

*Friday, the fourteenth of May  
two thousand and twenty-one*

NOON, CENTRAL TIME ZONE

LIVE STREAMED VIA ZOOM

GUEST SPEAKER: REV. DR. JOHN C. DORHAUER

# Order of Service

GATHERING MUSIC .....	Selected Artists
GRAND PROCESSION .....	Jon Batiste
<i>We Are</i>	
WELCOME & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT .....	Mark Winters
CALL TO WORSHIP .....	Susan Steinmiller Trevor Johnson
GREETINGS .....	Stephen G. Ray Jr., Brian Clarke
ACADEMIC NOTICES .....	Stephanie Buckhanon Crowder
INVOCATION.....	Jeff Lisa Simpson Rachel Mikva Sultan-Diego LeBlond
READING .....	Vanessa Gomez Brake
<i>From "We All Breathe" by Gretta Vosper</i>	
SPECIAL MUSIC .....	The Soul Children of Chicago
<i>Holy, Holy, Holy</i>	
INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER .....	Stephen G. Ray Jr.
ADDRESS .....	John Dorhauer
• <i>For Just Such a Time</i> •	
CONFERRING OF HONORARY DEGREE .....	presented by Stephen G. Ray Jr., Brian Clarke & Tina Shelton to John Dorhauer
VIDEO: THROUGH THE FIRE .....	introduced by Robert Knuepfer
<i>Glory by John Legend &amp; Common</i>	
CONFERRING OF DEGREES .....	Stephen G. Ray Jr., Stephanie Buckhanon Crowder, Brian Clarke, & Tina Shelton
INTRODUCTION OF FACULTY SPEAKER .....	Mark Winters
CHARGE TO THE GRADUATES.....	Julia Speller
RESPONSE FROM THE GRADUATES .....	Donnell McLachlan & Ju'Quan Stewart
SPECIAL MUSIC .....	The Soul Children of Chicago
<i>Put a Little Love in Your Heart</i>	
PASTORAL PRAYER .....	Mark Winters
WORDS OF GRATITUDE .....	The Graduates
BENEDICTION .....	Gayle Tabor
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GRADUATES .....	Mark Winters
<i>Please unmute your devices and cheer loudly!</i>	
POSTLUDE .....	Selected Artists



# *The Graduating Class of 2021*

## **THE CERTIFICATE OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES**

*Jennifer Byxbee*

*Tommie Means*

*Maaria Mozaffar*

*Caleb White*

*Michael Young*



## **THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

*Sarah Anne Bowen*

*Michael Jacob Kimpan*

*Donnell Anthony McLachlan*

*Olivia Kamil Smarr*

*Ju'Quan LuShard Stewart*

*Christina Wilson*



## **THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SACRED THEOLOGY**

*Marvis Hardy*

*Kathryn Laura Morse*

*Kwame Lynn Pitts*



## THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF DIVINITY

<i>Adella Barrett</i>	<i>Gary Lee Matthews</i>
<i>Vanessa Gomez Brake</i>	<i>Gina L McKinney</i>
<i>Sara Henchey Brosnan</i>	<i>Kelsey Ann Plummer</i>
<i>Eric Anthony Carlson</i>	<i>Susan Lynne Pray</i>
<i>Arlicia Corley</i>	<i>Irene Bobette Prince</i>
<i>Mark Dewey</i>	<i>Annabeth Roeschley</i>
<i>Darrell Fielder</i>	<i>Jeff Lisa (JL) Simpson</i>
<i>Forrest Benjamin Genthner</i>	<i>Marilyn Sponzo</i>
<i>Katherine Kenyon Henderson</i>	<i>Susan S Steinmiller</i>
<i>Ruth Benita Jefferies</i>	<i>D Gayle Tabor</i>
<i>Trevor Garet Johnson</i>	<i>Derek Waldron</i>
<i>Elizabeth Anne Lippke-Ganzel</i>	



## THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF MINISTRY IN PREACHING

*Charity Fisher*  
*Robert Claude Knuepfer, Jr.*  
*Melvin Wofford*



## THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

*Eric Biddy*  
*Seok Beom Hyun*  
*Zachary Selby*  
*Richard Shea Watts*

# STATEMENT OF MISSION & COMMITMENTS

Chicago Theological Seminary, a seminary affiliated with the United Church of Christ, serves God, Christ's Church, multiple faith communities, and the larger world by educating persons theologically and cultivating the intellectual, pastoral, and spiritual capacities of lay and ordained religious leaders, scholars, and activists who contribute to the increase of justice and mercy.

Inspired by the ministry of Jesus, guided by the Spirit of the Divine, and nurtured by faith and culture, we strive to create a sacred learning community that educates for public ministry, based upon the following interwoven commitments:

- We are committed to a life of mutual teaching and learning, to academic excellence, to open inquiry, and to critical engagement of texts, contexts, and practices in all of our educational programs;
- We are committed, in a world suffering from spiritual impoverishment, which is characterized by meaninglessness, lovelessness, and hopelessness, to proclaim a message of divine purpose, compassion, and promise;
- We are committed, in a society structured by white supremacy and racism, to challenge white privilege, to combat the forces of racial division and domination, and to equip leaders who embrace and celebrate racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity;
- We are committed, in a global context of religious conflicts and a society structured by Christian privilege, to joyous embrace of religious diversity, expanding our ground-breaking work in Jewish, Christian, and Islamic Studies to advance understanding and collaboration among the rich multiplicity of spiritual traditions and lifestances;
- We are committed, in a world governed by sex and gender binaries, to advocate gender justice, to nurture movements for women's equality, and to liberate humanity from restrictive gender norms;
- We are committed, in a world governed by the presumption of heterosexual expression, to challenge homophobia, to celebrate lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and other individuals within the spectrum of human sex and sexuality, and to develop leadership to encourage faith communities to become more open and affirming;
- We are committed, in a world stratified by economic and social class, to challenge the structures that sustain poverty and economic disenfranchisement, and to join the struggle, as companions with the poor, for liberation of all from want, homelessness, hunger, and disease;
- We are committed, on a fragile planet threatened by pollution and exploitation, to interrogate ecological policies, theologies, and practices, and to challenge materialism and the devaluation of creation; and,
- We are committed, in recognition that social divisions are local, national, and global, to international collaboration among individuals and institutions with similar commitments to our own.

In all these ways, we embrace not only the rhetoric but the reality of diversity, and recognize the vital intersectionality of our commitments, working together to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God. We invite others to join us.