

Chicago Theological Seminary

CONVOCATION

FALL 2023

**“That Which Is Before Us”
by Rev. Dr. Kamilah Hall Sharp**

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

ABOUT THE SPEAKER



Kamilah Hall Sharp is a native of St. Louis, Missouri. She most recently resided in DeSoto, Texas, with her husband Nakia and daughter Anaya. After practicing law for ten years, she accepted her call to ministry to preach, teach, and engage in social activism in the streets. Her scholarship focuses on the intersection of race, gender,

and class within biblical texts and contemporary culture, womanist leadership, and community building.

Dr. Hall Sharp is a co-author of *The Gathering, A Womanist Church: Origins, Stories, Sermons, and Litanies*; and a contributor to *Bitter the Chastening Rod: Africana Biblical Interpretation after Stony the Road We Trod in the Age of BLM, #SayHerName, and #MeToo* and *Slavery's Long Shadow: Race and Reconciliation in American Christianity*. Additionally, she is an ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). She currently serves as co-pastor of The Gathering, A Womanist Church in Dallas, Texas; an interfaith member of the clergy advisory board for Faith in Action; and a Girl Scout Troop Leader. Dr. Hall Sharp holds a B.S. in Business Economics from Florida A&M University, an M.Div. from Memphis Theological Seminary, a J.D. from Indiana University-Bloomington, and a Ph.D. in Biblical Interpretation - Hebrew Bible from Brite Divinity School at Texas Christian University.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Prelude.....Edwin Simunye

Opening Litany.....Deneen Collins

Greetings

from the President.....Brad Braxton

from the Academic Dean.....Emily Vogt

from the Student

and Alumni Communities...Nolan Shaw and Haley Hudler

Gathering Us As Community.....Rachel Mikva

Song

“Stay on the Battlefield”led by Brad Braxton

Reading of Scripture and Sacred Text

Exodus 2:1-10.....Kamilah Hall Sharp

Luke 4:18-19.....Jaime Fluker

Surah 4, Ayat 135.....Aisha Subhan

TBA.....Lisa Zook

Interlude.....Edwin Simunye

Convocation Address

“That Which is Before Us”Kamilah Hall Sharp

Community Sharing.....Rachel Payden

Closing Song

“I Need You to Survive”Edwin Simunye

Benediction.....Kamilah Hall Sharp

OPENING LITANY

ONE: Come, let us come together, people of various faiths, beliefs, and traditions, we who believe in the possibility of a better world.

ALL: Together we celebrate the start of a new year together, encouraging one another to keep our faith, our courage, and our creativity strong, steady, and growing.

ONE: In this place we find a community within which we can endure struggles and sufferings, fears and frustrations. We stand together with courage, strength, and love.

ALL: In community with one another and with all who suffer, we work to end abuses and injustices. We move forward together to fulfill CTS's mission and commitments, to increase justice and mercy in our world.

ONE: We draw the power we need from sources that we call by many names, power to support our call to build up justice and take down every wall that divides us.

ALL: The desires of our hearts with the belief and power of this community gives us what we need to make our dreams reality.

ONE: So, let us claim and proclaim our big dreams, moving forward with steadfast courage and creativity.

ALL: We envision a world of loving kindness, justice, peace, and equity, a world where people of all races, genders, and cultures are free to become all we are created to be. Even when our vision seems delayed, we will hold fast; we will keep pressing forward.

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