

EDEN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



171st COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE
EDEN SEMINARY'S CLASS OF 2021!

MAY 14, 2021
@ 7:30 PM CDT

ONLINE VIA ZOOM
AND FACEBOOK LIVE

REGISTER FOR ZOOM LINK AT:
www.eden.edu/events/commencement/

ORDER OF SERVICE

We are delighted that you could join us for Eden Theological Seminary's 171st commencement. The webinar format of our online ceremony means that you will only see certain people at any given moment. You will get a glimpse of each graduate when their name is called. If you are not able to get on the Zoom call, this service will also be streaming on Facebook live, on the Eden Theological Seminary page.

PRELUDE

*Paul Vasile,
Director of Music*

WELCOME

Deborah Krause, President

OPENING SONG

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

Paul Vasile

Words: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923

Music: FAITHFULNESS,

William Marion Runyan, 1923

Great is thy faithfulness, O God, Creator;
there is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not.
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:

Great is thy faithfulness!

Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning, new mercies I see.

All I have needed thy hand hath provided.

Great is thy faithfulness, God unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Refrain:

Great is thy faithfulness!

Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning, new mercies I see.

All I have needed thy hand hath provided.

Great is thy faithfulness, God unto me!

OPENING PRAYER

Kristen Leslie
Professor of Pastoral Theology and Care

(Please join in reading aloud even while you are muted.)

Holy and Gracious One,
Divine Maker of a thousand faces,
you whose names are called upon in countless languages
across the face of the earth
and are sung in the green glades of heaven,
who are we that you have loved us so well?

As we stand in this doorway
between preparation and service,
between what we have known and what you have for us,
our hearts overflow with gratitude
when we think of all you have done.

Through these years of learning,
as we have stretched to understand
and learned to live with mystery,
as we have struggled and protested,
and practiced how to stand with others pushed aside,
as we have tended the first fruits of the Spirit
so that they might grow in our hearts,
through all this you have blessed us time and again.

When we were uncertain,
you sent us assurance in the form of friends or strangers.
When we lost our way,
you gently pushed and prodded our intentions
back into the contours of your grace.
When we were weighed down with isolation and grief,
or when we threw up our hands,
convinced that the world was torn and spoiled beyond repair,
even then you came like wind and fire,
re-working the tender places in our hearts,
re-forming, hope, courage, vision, resolve.

And so we declare what we have heard,
what we have looked upon and touched with our own hands:
scripture has been fulfilled in our hearing
and your kin-dom of shalom has continued to come near.
We have heard the songs of the captives,
and have seen the dawning smiles of outcasts welcomed home.
We have touched the smooth, fading scars of healing,
and have seen the ministry of Jesus, your anointed,
go forward despite all the forces of death.

Because of all this and more, we offer you our humble thanks,
and the balance of our days to the cause of your compassion,
praying in the name of Jesus
who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lights our way.

Amen.

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

"I Thank You, Jesus" (K. Morris)

Paul Vasile

I thank you Jesus, I thank you Jesus,
I thank you Jesus, my Savior God
for you brought me, yes you brought me
from a mighty, a mighty long way.

I thank you Jesus, I thank you Jesus,
I thank you Jesus, my Savior God,
for you brought me, yes you brought me
from a might, a mighty long way.

You been my father, you been my mother
you been my sister, my brother, too...
for you brought me, yes you brought me
from a mighty, a mighty long way.

You been my father, you been my mother
you been my sister, my brother, too...
for you brought me, yes you brought me
from a mighty, a mighty long way.

SCRIPTURE READING Genesis 11:1-9

Laurel Koepf Taylor
Associate Professor of Old Testament

SCRIPTURE READING Acts 2:1-12

As read by volunteers from the graduating class.

ADDRESS

Damayanthi Niles
Interim Academic Dean and
Professor of Constructive Theology

SUNG RESPONSE

"Draw the Circle Wide"

Paul Vasile

(Words: Gordon Light, Music: Mark Miller)

Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.
Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.
No one stands alone, we'll stand side by side.
Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.

Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, no one stands alone.
Standing side by side.
Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

*Damayanthi Niles
Sonja B. Williams, Dean of Students and
Visiting Professor of Practical Theology*

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

*Deborah Krause, President
Susan Nell Rowe, Chairperson,
Board of Trustees*

CHARGE TO THE GRADUATES

Deborah Krause

SONG OF SENDING

*“The Journey of a Thousand Miles”
(P. Vasile, Loved Into Being Music ©2018)*

Paul Vasile

The journey of thousand miles begins with one step.
The journey of thousand miles begins with one step.
O though we may not know where the road will lead,
we know that Love will always guide our feet.
The journey of thousand miles begins with one step.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deborah Krause

BENEDICTION

Damayanthi Niles

POSTLUDE

Paul Vasile

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Candidates for Honorary Degrees

Doctor of Humane Letters

Stacey Newman

LJ Punch

Doctor of Divinity

Charles Stephen Currie, Jr.

Candidates for Degrees

Doctor of Ministry

Clyde R Griswold Dennis-Crumpton <i>St. Louis, MO</i>	1976 B.A., University of Missouri – St. Louis 1999 M.DIV, Eden Theological Seminary <u>DMIN Project:</u> <i>Neighborhood Sustainability - Advocating Liberation and Vocation toward Social Economic Development by Engaging Church and Neighbors in Cultural Historical and Biblical Faith Dialogue</i>
John Wesley Huxtable <i>Virden, IL</i>	2004 B.A., Monmouth College 2011 M.DIV, Eden Theological Seminary <u>DMIN Project:</u> <i>Looking through a New Lens, Teaching Postcolonial Lens in the Rural Church</i>
John Sterrett <i>Jasper, IN</i>	1992 B.A., Western Kentucky University 2013 M.DIV, Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary <u>DMIN Project:</u> <i>Palliative Care for Churches</i>

Master of Divinity

Howard Earl Abernathy <i>St. Louis, MO</i>	1981 B.A., Howard University 1995 M.B.A., Strayer University
Harold V. Aldridge <i>Fairview Heights, IL</i>	
Barbara Blunt (Bobbie) <i>St. Louis, MO</i>	2005 B.A., Lindenwood University
Merrimon Ramout Boyd <i>St. Louis, MO</i>	2003 B.A., Missouri Baptist University 2009 M.A., Missouri Baptist University
Carol Brazeale <i>St. Louis, MO</i>	2001 B.A., Missouri Southern State University
Deeneen Evans <i>Godfrey, IL</i>	1969 B.S., Loyola University 1977 M.S., Northwestern State University 1997 Psy.D, Illinois School of Professional Psychology
Amanda Gastreich <i>St. Louis, MO</i>	2008 B.A., University of Evansville 2013 M.P.A., Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville

Candidates for Degrees

Master of Divinity

Annie Girresch <i>St. Louis, MO</i>	2013 B.A., Marian University
Pearl Marie Griffin <i>Edwardsville, IL</i>	2016 B.A., Webster University
Nancy Emmel Gunn <i>St. Louis, MO</i>	1977 B.A., University of Illinois 1978 M.Ed., University of Illinois 1982 J.D., St. Louis University - School of Law
Tracey Lynn Harris <i>Edwardsville, IL</i>	
Breona S. Hawkins* <i>Carbondale, IL</i>	2016 B.S.W., Southern Illinois University-Carbondale
Adam DJ Kaul <i>St. Louis, MO</i>	2018 B.A., McKendree University
Cory Wells Lovell <i>St. Louis, MO</i>	2009 B.A., Burlington College
Zachary David Mullens <i>Chicago Heights, IL</i>	2017 B.S., DeVry University
Jacob Andrew Nault <i>Neenah, WI</i>	2017 B.A., Lakeland University
Erin Kelly Outson <i>Lincoln, NE</i>	2009 B.A., Nebraska Wesleyan University
Karen Jo Pepmeier <i>Westphalia, IN</i>	1983 B.S., Southern Illinois University-Carbondale
Madison Jayne Peterson <i>Lee's Summit, MO</i>	2018 B.S., Missouri State University
Christine Leigh Henke Ratliff <i>Webster Groves, MO</i>	1994 B.S., University of Missouri-Columbia 2003 M.Ed., Northern Arizona University
Dakota Roberts <i>Greenwood, IN</i>	2017 B.S., Indiana University
Jake Schlemper <i>Apache Junction, AZ</i>	2009 B.L.S., Southern Illinois University 2014 M.A., Community of Christ Seminary

Candidates for Degrees

Master of Divinity

Christopher Taylor <i>St. Louis, MO</i>	2018 B.S., Central Methodist University
Amanda Tello <i>St. Louis, MO</i>	2012 B.S.W., University of Missouri-St. Louis
Diane Harris Yanczer <i>St. Louis, MO</i>	1995 B.A., Maryville University

**MDiv/MSW Joint Degree with the Brown School of Social Work, Washington University in St. Louis*

Master of Theological Studies

Edith Chemorion <i>Eldoret, Kenya</i>	2002 B.A., St. Paul's University 2008 P.D.Theol, Stellenbosch University, South Africa 2009 M.Th., Stellenbosch University, South Africa MTS Thesis: <i>Collaborative instead of unilateral and patriarchal leadership: Towards a biblical model for RCEA women's leadership in Kenya through the biblical character of Phoebe in Romans 16:1-2</i>
Jacqueline Ann Jones <i>St. Louis, MO</i>	2016 B.S., University of Missouri-St. Louis MTS Thesis: <i>What are the Main Doctrinal Disputes that Caused Division in Early Pentecostalism?</i>
Michael Nchimbi <i>Dodoma, Tanzania</i>	2009 B.A., St. Paul's University, Limuru, Kenya MTS Thesis: <i>Post-Colonial Biblical Understanding of Work and The Contemporary Concept of Work in Africa (Case study Tanzania) - Focus text: Genesis 2:15</i>

Master of Arts in Professional Studies

Duana C. Russell-Thomas <i>St. Louis, MO</i>	1992 B.A., Washington University 1997 M.S., Washington University School of Medicine 2016 O.T.D., Washington University School of Medicine
Mark Waight <i>Swansea, IL</i>	1985 B.S., New York Institute of Technology 2011 M.B.A., Grand Canyon University

AWARDS

The Honor Graduate Fellowship

This award recognizes the graduating Masters-level student who, in the judgment of the faculty, has the greatest academic promise and potential for further graduate study in theology.

The recipients:

**DUANA RUSSELL-THOMAS
JACOB NAULT**

The Gerhard and Marie Grauer Award

Awarded each year by the Faculty to the graduate who holds special promise for pastoral ministry. Academic accomplishment, preaching and pastoral care skills, and promise to fulfill the broad range of pastoral responsibilities are considered in making this award. The award honors Mrs. Grauer and Dr. Grauer, a graduate of Eden and long-time pastor of St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Chicago.

The recipient:

DEE EVANS

The Senior Preacher

Selected by the Faculty for excellence in preaching. The student ordinarily preaches at the Brueggemann and Kulenkamp Lectures/ Annual Spring Convocation.

The Senior Preacher:

CORY LOVELL

Edith and Robert T. Fauth Book Award

The Edith and Robert T. Fauth Book Award recognizes the importance of an educated and learned clergy, the importance of books and learning resources and the need for an adequate personal library of the pastor, and is given to the Master of Divinity student having the highest academic ranking at the end of the first year of study.

The recipient:

MARKSCHMITT

Kenneth M. Cooper Book Award

The Kenneth M. Cooper Book Award is given to any deserving student pursuing preparation for parish minister with priority consideration to a student of the Kentuckiana Association of the Indiana-Kentucky Conference of the UCC.

The recipient:

DAKOTA ROBERTS

AWARDS

Kniker Family Book Award

The Kniker Family Book Award celebrates the call of Charles Kniker as the twelfth President of Eden Theological Seminary and is given to a UCC student selected by the administration.

The recipient:

MERRIMON BOYD

Warren H. Seyfert Memorial Book Award

The Warren H. Seyfert Memorial Book Award is given to a student in loving memory and appreciation of the life and ministry of Warren H. Seyfert, a graduate of Eden Seminary in 1946. It represents his belief that religion should take hold of people's lives during the week as well as on Sunday and that the pastor's life should be an example of participation and leadership in wider community, particularly around the issues of social justice, mental health and ecumenism.

The recipients:

ADAM KAUL

KAREN PEPMEIER

Robert L. Tiemann Book Award

The Robert L. Tiemann Book Award is given in recognition of outstanding achievement of a student deemed to excel in business acumen, whose skills will be transferable and useful in the student's ministry.

The recipient:

MARK WAIGHT

Milton and Jesse Hoffman Book Award

This award recognizes the importance of books and learning resources and the need for an adequate personal library of the pastor. The Award is given to a Master of Divinity degree student with preference to a student with preference to a student from Hope United Church of Christ, St. Louis, or a student serving that congregation.

The recipient:

DEE DEE YANCZER

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Osagyefo Sekou
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Enoch Olgesby
Martha Robertson

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A. Hale Schroer
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Mission Statement

Eden Theological Seminary

is called to strengthen
the life of the church by
educating women and men
for ministry,
enlivening critical
reflection on faith,
and supporting bold
Christian
discipleship.



Congratulations Graduates!

Class of 2021

Eden
THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY

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