



COVENANT THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

SEVENTIETH ANNUAL

*Commencement*

*Friday, the fifteenth of May  
two thousand and twenty-six  
four o'clock in the afternoon*

FIRST FREE CHURCH  
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI



COVENANT  
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

## THE PURPOSE OF COVENANT THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

*is to glorify the triune God by training his servants  
to WALK in God's grace, MINISTER God's Word,  
and EQUIP God's people — all for God's MISSION.*

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*Thank you for joining us in celebrating the work of the Lord in the lives of Covenant Theological Seminary's graduates. Today we honor their achievement and give thanks to God, who, through them, is continuing his mission of redeeming lives and restoring the world. Covenant Seminary is grateful to have served as one avenue for that gospel transformation for the past 70 years — and we look forward to doing so for many more as we, by God's grace, continue to equip pastors and leaders for long and fruitful ministries in Christ's church and Kingdom. We ask your prayers for these servants of the Lord as they begin a new chapter in their lives, and we ask God's blessing on this institution as we seek to serve him well in our appointed task for the glory and honor of his name.*

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*Please take pictures from the side aisles only so as not to block the view of others. Graduates will not process alphabetically.  
Please turn off or silence cell phones and electronic devices during the ceremony.*

# ORDER OF SERVICE

PRELUDE		PIANO: Mr. Kai Song Chan
PIPE PROCESSIONAL	<i>Highland Cathedral</i>	MUSIC: Ulrich Roever, Michael Korb, 1982 PIPER: Mr. Matt Pantaleoni
OPENING HYMN	<i>O God Beyond All Praising</i> <i>(Words for all hymns in back of program)</i>	WORDS: Michael Perry © 1982, 1987 The Jubilate Group MUSIC (THAXTED): Gustav Holst, 1921 (P.D.) ARRANGEMENT: Brent Johnson
PRAYER OF INVOCATION		DR. THURMAN L. WILLIAMS <i>Director of Homiletics</i>
WELCOME TO GUESTS AND FAMILIES		DR. THOMAS C. GIBBS <i>President</i> MR. PARKER NEATHERY <i>Student Council President, 2025–2026</i>
HYMNS OF THANKSGIVING	<i>Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing</i>  <i>Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me</i>	WORDS: Robert Robinson, 1758 ALT. Martin Madan, 1760 / TUNE: NETTLETON  WORDS/MUSIC: M. Farren, R. Thompson & J. Robinson / Lyrics © Farren Love and War Publishing, Integrity's Alleluia! Music, CityAlight Music
SCRIPTURE READING	<i>Hebrews 1:1–3</i>	DR. ROBERT W. YARBROUGH <i>Professor of New Testament</i>
INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER		DR. THOMAS C. GIBBS <i>President</i>
COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS	<i>As You Step Into Further Ministry:</i> <i>Embrace Hebrews' Warning, Remedy, and Challenge</i>	REV. JOE NOVENSON <i>Retired PCA Pastor</i>
AFFIRMATION FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES		REV. DR. HUGH BARLETT <i>Chairman, Board of Trustees</i>
PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES AND AWARDING OF DEGREES		DR. THOMAS C. GIBBS <i>President</i> DR. BRADLEY J. MATTHEWS <i>Vice President of Academics</i>
SEMINARY HYMN	<i>All for Jesus</i>	WORDS: Mary D. James, 1899 / MUSIC: John Stainer, 1887
BENEDICTION		DR. ROBERT K. KIM <i>Associate Professor of Applied Theology and Philip and Rebecca Douglass Chair of Church Planting and Christian Formation</i>
DOXOLOGY		WORDS: Thomas Ken / MUSIC: Traditional
RECESSIONAL HYMN	<i>This Is My Father's World</i>	WORDS: Maltbie D. Babcock, 1901 TUNE: TERRA BEATA
POSTLUDE		BAND

# THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2026

## GRADUATE CERTIFICATE

Rebecca Jean Baumeister  
Steven P. Brooks<sup>^</sup>  
Clementine Jie Qi Chng<sup>^</sup>

Lauren Ann Gilbert  
Ethan Douglas Hand<sup>^</sup>  
Morgan Scott Fabel Holland\*

Jerime E. Mason\*  
Richard A. McLean\*  
Jordan Olesen

Nathan P. Raine  
Jo M. Slawski\*  
Lindsay Erin Thomack\*

## MASTER OF ARTS (THEOLOGICAL STUDIES)

Aishatu Kari Allison  
Heather Cox  
Remington Jerald Dyas\*

Ethan Douglas Hand  
Janice Hendrickson  
Jasmine Tamara Lockett

Sean Edward Mervich\*  
Kathy Ann Peel  
Jonathan Christian Pfeil

Elizabeth Anne Pimental\*  
James Louis Rutter

## MASTER OF ARTS (BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL STUDIES)

Barbara Ann Adair  
Joy Benton  
Ryan Gregory Bowles  
Caroline Elizabeth Cotten  
Jeffrey Thomas Cunningham

Michael Ross Durso#  
Sarah Kimberly Evans  
Tristan Daniel Fox  
Timothy Austin Gooch  
Meghan Hopkins

Kyle Joseph Howard\*  
Isaiah Knight  
Sara Midyette Litten\*  
Kaelyn Paige Mislán  
Nathan D. Reddick\*

Ian Gray Ritchie  
Rebekah A. Schmidt  
Elliott James Swoboda  
Luke Stephen Thompson\*  
Eric T. Wu

## MASTER OF ARTS IN MINISTRY

Kathryn Renee Donnell

Sydney Jo Lind#

Evanthia Adele Williams

## MASTER OF ARTS IN COUNSELING

Raven Alade  
Elizabeth Ragan Campbell  
Clementine Jie Qi Chng  
William Gray Cremeens  
Bethany Marie Ekdorn

Daniel Christopher Gardner  
Shannon Wilson Hathaway  
Samuel Quenton Ivey  
Zenny Bokeng-Ntein Jua  
Phillip Jiehoon Lee

Jasmine Tamara Lockett  
Catherine Dru Matejka  
Ashley Moret  
Jennifer Young-Ah Ryu

Nathan Sharpton  
Jennifer Huang Stiller  
Hannah Moon Sung  
Sparkle Denise Lynn Williams

*Conferring of degrees is contingent upon completion of all requirements. Listing in this program does not certify degrees or certificates awarded.*

*\* Degree or certificate awarded in January 2026.*

*† Degree or certificate to be awarded upon completion of requirements.*

*<sup>^</sup> Graduating with multiple certificates.*

*# Graduate Award Recipient.*

# THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2026

## MASTER OF DIVINITY

Caroline Grace Agan  
Joshua Allan Campbell  
Asafe Cristino da Silva  
Jeremy Fritz  
Orel Hinojosa Del Angel#

Samuel Ray Hodge  
Erin Hillary Hurt  
Timothy Jay Keslar  
Mark Thomas McDonnell  
William Richard Kenneth McKee

Kang H. Mun  
Jonathan Saejoon Oh  
Daniel Park  
Samuel Turner Payne  
Sophie Michelle Rooks

Hannah Moon Sung  
Joseph Nathaniel Swenson  
Justin Corey Willis  
David J. Yim†  
Robert Zhang

## MASTER OF THEOLOGY

Emma Elizabeth Ford

Sándor Molnár

## DOCTOR OF MINISTRY

Loren Delmar Bell  
Wade Francis Coleman  
Caleb Davis  
James Stuart Dickson III

Charles Thomas Eldridge  
Leland Jackson Howell  
Russell Tipton Masterson  
Derek Hampton McCollum

Ryanne Molinari  
Jason Park  
Eric Eugene Phillips  
Angus Charles Robinson

William Holladay Savell  
Corrin JoAnna Schlecht\*  
Joel Yoon

## 2026 GRADUATE AWARD RECIPIENTS

THE BIBLICAL EXEGESIS PRIZE:  
Michael Ross Durso (MABTS)

THE BELZ CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AWARD:  
Sydney Jo Lind (MAM)

THE ROBERT G. RAYBURN HOMILETICS AWARD:  
Orel Hinojosa Del Angel (MDiv)

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*^ Graduating with multiple certificates.*

*# Graduate Award Recipient.*

## O GOD BEYOND ALL PRAISING

WORDS: Michael Perry ©1982, 1987 *The Jubilate Group*  
MUSIC (THAXTED): Gustav Holst, 1921 (P.D.)  
ARRANGEMENT: Brent Johnson

<sup>1</sup> O God beyond all praising, we worship you today  
And sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;  
For we can only wonder at every gift you send,  
At blessings without number and mercies  
without end:  
We lift our hearts before you and wait upon  
your word,  
We honor and adore you, our great and mighty  
Lord.

<sup>2</sup> Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love  
we bring,  
That we who know your favor may serve you as  
our king;  
And whether our tomorrows be filled with good  
or ill,  
We'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to  
bless you still:  
To marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,  
And make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.

## COME, THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING

WORDS: Robert Robinson, 1758 / ALT. Martin Madan, 1760  
TUNE: NETTLETON

<sup>1</sup> Come, Thou Fount of every blessing,  
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
Call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet  
Sung by flaming tongues above;  
Praise the Mount, I'm fixed upon it,  
Mount of God's unchanging love.

<sup>2</sup> Here I raise my Ebenezer;  
Hither by Thy help I'm come;  
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,  
Safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
Wand'ring from the fold of God:  
He, to rescue me from danger,  
Interposed His precious blood.

<sup>3</sup> O to grace how great a debtor  
Daily I'm constrained to be;  
Let the grace now, like a fetter,  
Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee.

Prone to wander—Lord, I feel it—  
Prone to leave the God I love:  
Here's my hear, O take and seal it,  
Seal it for Thy courts above.

## YET NOT I BUT THROUGH CHRIST IN ME

WORDS / MUSIC: M. Farren, R. Thompson, J. Robinson  
Lyrics © Farren Love and War Publishing, Integrity's Alleluia! Music,  
CityAlight Music

<sup>1</sup> What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer.  
There is no more for heaven now to give.  
He is my joy, my righteousness, and freedom,  
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.  
To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus,  
For my life is wholly bound to His.  
Oh how strange and divine, I can sing, "All is  
mine,"  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

<sup>2</sup> The night is dark but I am not forsaken,  
For by my side, the Savior He will stay.  
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing,  
For in my need, His power is displayed.  
To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me,  
Through the deepest valley He will lead.  
Oh the night has been won, and I shall  
overcome,  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

<sup>3</sup> No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven,  
The future sure, the price it has been paid.  
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon,  
And He was raised to overthrow the grave.  
To this I hold, my sin has been defeated.  
Jesus now and ever is my plea.  
Oh the chains are released, I can sing, "I am free,"  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

<sup>4</sup> With every breath I long to follow Jesus,  
For He has said that He will bring me home,  
And day by day I know He will renew me  
Until I stand with joy before the throne.  
To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus,  
All the glory evermore to Him.  
When the race is complete, still my lips shall  
repeat  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

## ALL FOR JESUS!

WORDS: Mary D. James, 1899 / MUSIC: John Stainer  
We will sing the verses in their original order.

<sup>1</sup> All for Jesus! All for Jesus!  
All my being's ransomed pow'rs,  
All my thoughts and words and doings,  
All my days and all my hours.

<sup>2</sup> Let my hands perform his bidding,  
Let my feet run in his ways;  
Let my eyes see Jesus only,  
Let my lips speak forth his praise.

<sup>3</sup> Since my eyes were fixed on Jesus,  
I've lost sight of all beside;  
So enchained my spirit's vision,  
Looking at the Crucified.

<sup>4</sup> Oh, what wonder! How amazing!  
Jesus, glorious King of kings,  
Deigns to call me his beloved,  
Lets me rest beneath his wings.

## THIS IS MY FATHER'S WORLD

AUTHOR: Maltbie D. Babcock, 1901  
TUNE: TERRA BEATA

<sup>1</sup> This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears  
All nature sings, and round me rings the music of  
the spheres.  
This is my Father's world: I rest me in the thought  
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas—His hand  
the wonders wrought.

<sup>2</sup> This is my Father's world: the birds their carols raise,  
The morning light, the lily white, declare their  
Maker's praise.  
This is my Father's world: He shines in all that's  
fair;  
In the rustling grass I hear Him pass, He speaks to  
me everywhere.

<sup>3</sup> This is my Father's world: O let me ne'er forget  
That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is  
the Ruler yet.  
This is my Father's world: the battle is not done.  
Jesus who died shall be satisfied, and earth and  
heav'n be one.

## MUSICIANS

*Bagpipes:* Mr. Matt Pantaleoni  
*Bass:* Mr. Thaddeus Perkins

*Cajon:* Mr. Parker Neathery  
*Guitar & Vocals:* Mr. Will Nabholz

*Piano:* Mr. Kai Song Chan  
*Vocals:* Ms. Bekah Marsh

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## AN EXPLANATION OF THE INSTITUTIONAL REGALIA

*The style of clothing worn in academic ceremonies designates the ranks and roles of members of the academic world. This tradition originated in Europe during the Middle Ages. Initially, scholars chose dress similar to that of clerics and monks. The style of academic regalia worn today includes three elements: the gown, the hood, and the hat.*

*The gowns, also called robes, serve to indicate the level of studies completed. Master's degree and doctoral degree gowns are distinguished by different silhouettes, colors, and special markings on the sleeves.*

*The scarlet velvet on the outside of the hoods indicates theological studies. The inside of the hoods display our blue and green tartan, which is that of the traditional Scottish clergy. Master of Arts and Master of Divinity graduates receive smaller hoods, whereas Master of Theology graduates receive slightly larger hoods. Doctoral hoods are the largest.*

*The style of hats may vary by institution and degree. Simple mortar board hats with black tassels are worn at the master's level, and doctoral-level scholars typically wear octagonal velvet hats or more ornate bonnets with gold tassels.*

*Distinctive of Covenant Seminary's academic ceremonies is the bronze medallion worn by the president, which is cast with the seal of the institution. A burning bush and an open Bible radiate into the cross of Jesus Christ in the seal, signifying the immutability of the sovereign God of the covenant. The burning bush has historically been used as a symbol of the suffering church in Scottish Presbyterianism, and the Bible emphasizes the authority of Scripture. The cross reveals the redemption accomplished through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ alone.*

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## THE COVENANT THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY COAT OF ARMS



*The crest is comprised of several elements representing Covenant Seminary's rich heritage of faith. The double-edged sword stands for the Word of God. Entwined around the sword is a thistle, honoring the seventeenth-century Scottish Covenanters who were martyred for their faith and from whom the Seminary's Presbyterian forebears derived. The central cross represents the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and its crossed arms the two thieves who were crucified with him. The ancient blue and green tartan is that of the Scottish clergy. The Seminary motto in Latin reads, "That in everything he might be preeminent" (from Colossians 1:18).*

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*“You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem  
and in all Judea and Samaria,  
and to the ends of the earth.”  
ACTS 1:8b (ESV)*



*Presbyterian Church in America*

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*[www.covenantseminary.edu](http://www.covenantseminary.edu)*