



Baccalaureate Service

MAY 17, 2023

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Wednesday, May 17, 2023, 5 p.m.

Snidow Chapel

Prelude Two settings of "Be Thou My Vision" Paul Manz, Dale Wood

*Processional Hymn "Be Thou My Vision" #595

Welcome and Invocation Nathan Albert
University Chaplain

Readings Claire King '23
President, Student Government Association

"Interrelationship"
Thich Nhat Hahn

"Mul Mantar"
From the Sikh scripture, the Guru Granth Sahib

Leviticus 19:18b

James 2:8

Musical Selection "Grow" Sarah Quartel
Lynchburg Singers

Introduction of Speaker Alison Morrison-Shetlar
President of the University

Address "Where It All Comes Together" Amy Merrill Willis
Associate Professor of Religious Studies
Chair of Religious Studies Department
Interim Director of General Education

Conferring of 2023 Honorary Degrees Dr. Morrison-Shetlar
assisted by
Allison Jablonski
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

MaryJane Tousignant-Dolan, Doctor of Humane Letters
Norma S. White '90, '94 MEd, Doctor of Humane Letters

Blessing of the Students

Rev. Albert
Jer Bryant '03, '10 MA
Interfaith Chaplain
Director of Wilmer Writing Center

Benediction

Mr. Bryant

Musical Selection "Peace I Leave With You"

Amy Beach
Lynchburg Singers

*Recessional Hymn "Lead On, O Cloud of Presence"

#633

*Postlude "God of Grace"

Setting by Paul Manz

**Please stand as you are able.*

Appreciation is expressed to F. Johnson Scott, III, assistant professor of music and University organist, for providing the prelude, postlude, processional, and recessional music today.

Lynchburg Singers

Soprano

Alyssa Camejo '25
Amanda Garber '23
Willow Martin '26
Lauren Moseley '23
Claire Thornton '26

Mezzo-soprano

Madison Bakalov '24
Kaitlyn Langford '23
Victoria Rogers '24
Alyssa Wilson '24

Alto

Za'lexia Bogan '26
Monica Chisom '23
Raegan Jackson '25
Saniya Richardson '26
Naomi Watkins '24

Speaker



The Rev. Dr. Amy Merrill Willis

The Rev. Dr. Amy Merrill Willis is an associate professor and chair of religious studies at the University of Lynchburg. A member of the faculty since 2010, she teaches courses on the Bible, comparative religion, and death and the afterlife. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Bible/religion and English from Erskine College, a Master of Divinity from Union Theological Seminary, and a PhD in Hebrew Bible from Emory University. The author of "Dissonance and the Drama of Divine Sovereignty in the Book of Daniel," she has contributed to numerous books and commentaries. Merrill Willis is a member of the clergy in the Presbyterian Church (USA).

2022 Honorary Degree Recipients



MaryJane Tousignant-Dolan

Doctor of Humane Letters

MaryJane Tousignant-Dolan was a member of the University of Lynchburg Board of Trustees from 1997 to 2022. A Minnesota native, she moved to Lynchburg, Virginia, in 1978. Here, she founded Colonial Brokerage House, an insurance brokerage firm she led for more than 40 years. In 2016, Tousignant-Dolan was elected to Lynchburg City Council, where she served as vice mayor from 2018 to 2020 and mayor from 2020 to 2022. She also has served on many local boards and committees and has received numerous awards for her service to the community.



Norma White '90, '94 MEd

Doctor of Humane Letters

Norma S. White is a two-time graduate of the University of Lynchburg, earning her bachelor's degree in psychology in 1990 and her Master of Education in Agency Counseling in 1994. In 2000, she founded Couples & Kids, a nonprofit counseling center which has helped hundreds of families, couples, and individuals through play therapy and other techniques. A \$2 million gift to her alma mater in 2021 created two new endowments: the Connie A. Messerschmidt Access Student Scholarship and the Norma S. White Counseling Professorship.