

The University of the South
Sewanee, Tennessee

The seal of The University of the South is a large, faint watermark in the background. It is an oval-shaped emblem with a shield in the center. The shield is divided into four quadrants by a cross. The top quadrant contains a crown, the bottom a book, the left a cross, and the right a cross. The shield is surrounded by a chain. The text "THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH" is written around the top and sides of the oval, and "SEWANEE TENNESSEE 1858" is written around the bottom. There are small crosses at the top and bottom of the oval.

The Baccalaureate Service
in the
One Hundred Sixty-ninth Year
of
The University of the South

Saturday, May 9, 2026
10 a.m.
All Saints' Chapel

Morning Prayer

At 9:50 a.m. the Mildred and George Bentley Memorial Change Ringing Bells in Breslin Tower ring and the procession leaves Walsh-Ellett Hall. As the procession enters the Chapel, the congregation stands and joins in the singing of this hymn.

Welcome

Hymn at the Procession Engelberg



1 When in our mu - sic God is glo - ri - fied, _____
2 How of - ten, mak - ing mu - sic, we have found _____
3 So has the Church, in lit - ur - gy and song, _____
4 And did not Je - sus sing a psalm that night _____
5 Let ev - ery in - stru - ment be tuned for praise! _____



1 and a - dor - a - tion leaves no room for pride, _____
2 a new di - men - sion in the world of sound, _____
3 in faith and love, through cen - tu - ries of wrong, _____
4 when ut - most e - vil strove a - gainst the Light? _____
5 Let all re - joice who have a voice to raise! _____



1 it is as though the whole cre - a - tion cried _____
2 as wor - ship moved us to a more pro - found _____
3 borne wit - ness to the truth in ev - ery tongue, _____
4 Then let us sing, for whom he won the fight, _____
5 And may God give us faith to sing al - ways _____



— Al - le - lu - ia! — Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

Words: Fred Pratt Green (1903–2000). Copyright © 1972 by Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Music: Engelberg, Charles Villiers Stanford (1852–1924)

Chaplain Send out your light and your truth that they may lead me and bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling.

Chaplain Lord, open our lips.

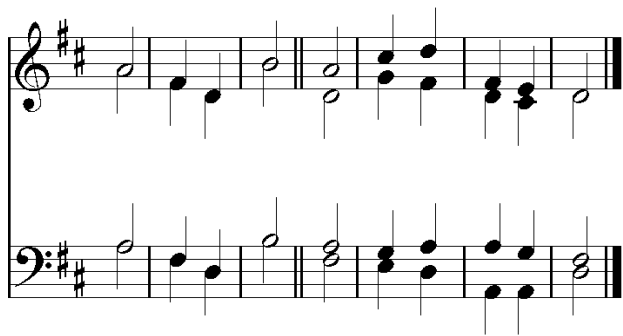
People And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Chaplain and People

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

All sing

Christ our Passover.....*Pascha Nostrum*



- 1 Alleluia, alleluia. *
Alleluia, alleluia.
- 2 Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us; *
therefore let us keep the feast,
- 3 Not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, *
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.
- 4 Alleluia, alleluia. *
Alleluia, alleluia.
- 5 Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; *
death no longer has dominion over him.
- 6 The death that he died, he died to sin, once for all; *
but the life he lives, he lives to God.
- 7 So also consider yourselves dead to sin, *
and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord.
- 8 Alleluia, alleluia. *
Alleluia, alleluia.
- 9 Christ has been raised from the dead, *
the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.
- 10 For since by a man came death, *
by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.
- 11 For as in Adam all die, *
so also in Christ shall all be made alive.
- 12 Alleluia, alleluia. *
Alleluia, alleluia.

Once the congregation is seated, the choir sings

Psalm 133*Ecce quam bonum*Anglican Chant by C. Hylton Stewart (1884–1932)

Behold how good and pleasant it is, when kindred live together in unity!
It is like fine oil upon the head that runs down upon the beard,
Upon the beard of Aaron, and runs down the collar of his robe.
It is like the dew of Hermon that falls upon the hills of Zion.
For there the Lord has ordained the blessing: life forever more.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The Reading.....Matthew 5:1–12

Seeing the multitudes, Jesus went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him:
And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,
Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.
Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.
Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.
Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.
Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you
falsely, for my sake.
Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets
which were before you.

The congregation stands and sings

1 God of our fa - thers, whose al - might - y
 2 Thy love di - vine hath led us in the
 3 From war's a - larms, from dead - ly pes - ti -
 4 Re - fresh thy peo - ple on their toil - some

hand leads forth in beau - ty all the star - ry band
 past, in this free land by thee our lot is cast;
 lence, be thy strong arm our ev - er sure de - fense;
 way, lead us from night to nev - er - end - ing day;

of shin - ing worlds in splen - dor through the skies,
 be thou our ru - ler, guard - ian, guide, and stay
 thy true re - li - gion in our hearts in - crease,
 fill all our lives with love and grace di - vine,

our grate - ful songs be - fore thy throne a - rise.
 thy word our law, thy paths our cho - sen way.
 thy bount - eous good - ness nour - ish us in peace.
 and glo - ry, laud, and praise be ev - er thine.

Words: Daniel Crane Roberts (1841–1907). Music: *National Hymn*, George William Warren (1828–1902).

The congregation remains standing and says together

The Apostles' Creed

I Believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Chaplain The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Chaplain Let us pray.

Chaplain and People

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

The Suffrages

- V. Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;
R. Govern and uphold them, now and always.
V. Day by day we bless you;
R. We praise your Name for ever.
V. Lord, keep us from all sin today;
R. Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.
V. Lord, show us your love and mercy;
R. For we put our trust in you.
V. In you, Lord, is our hope;
R. And we shall never hope in vain.

A Collect for Saturdays

Almighty God, who after the creation of the world rested from all your works and sanctified a day of rest for all your creatures: Grant that we, putting away all earthly anxieties, may be duly prepared for the service of your sanctuary, and that our rest here upon earth may be a preparation for the eternal rest promised to your

people in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Collect for Peace

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assault of our enemies, that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries, through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Prayer for Mission

Almighty and Everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The congregation is seated and remains seated as the choir sings

Anthem..... *Jubilate Deo* Charles Villiers Stanford
(1852–1924)

- 1 O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands :
serve the Lord with gladness,
and come before his presence with a song.
- 2 Be ye sure that the Lord he is God :
it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
- 3 O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving,
and into his courts with praise :
be thankful unto him, and speak good of his Name.
- 4 For the Lord is gracious, his mercy is everlasting :
and his truth endureth from generation to generation.

Psalm 100

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son :
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :
world without end. Amen.

The congregation remains seated during the Conferring of Honorary Degrees and the Baccalaureate Address.

THE CONFERRING OF HONORARY DEGREES

Doctor of Humane Letters

Dr. Joel L. Cunningham

Dr. Trudy B. Cunningham

PROCANCELLARIUS: Cancellarie reverendissime, exornare honoribus bene meritos meritasque est proprium munus huius Universitatis. Gratissimum igitur mihi est tibi praesentare hos homines ab Universitatis Meridianae Regentibus et Senatu doctores honoris causa creatos qui ad illum gradum proferantur atque quibus diplomata pro huius rei testimonium dentur.

CANCELLARIUS: Auctoritate huius Universitatis mihi commissa, admitto te ad gradum Doctoris in Humanis Litteris honoris causa, et omnia dona, jura, privilegia, honores, dignitates, et potestates quae aut hic aut alibi ad istum gradum quocumque modo pertinent, do et concedo.

In nomine Patris, et Filii, et Spiritus Sancti. Amen.

PROCANCELLARIUS: Huius rei hoc diploma testimonium sit.

VICE-CHANCELLOR: Most reverend Chancellor, a proper function of this University is to adorn with honors those who are well deserving. It is, therefore, most pleasing to me to present to you these persons, who have been created honorary doctors by the Board of Regents and the Senate of the University of the South, who are to be advanced to this degree and to whom a diploma is to be given as evidence of this act.

CHANCELLOR: By the authority of this University vested in me, I admit you to the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters and give and grant all of the gifts, rights, privileges, honors, dignities, and powers which here or elsewhere pertain in any way to that degree.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

VICE-CHANCELLOR: Let this diploma be witness to this act.

THE BACCALAUREATE ADDRESS

Jon Meacham

Following the address, all stand as the Chaplain says

Let us pray.

The General Thanksgiving

Chaplain and People

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

The congregation remains standing as the Chancellor says

Closing Prayers

The University Prayer

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we thy servants implore thy blessing upon this University. Give the spirit of Wisdom to all those to whom Thou hast given the authority of teaching and of government. Let the students grow in grace day by day; enlighten their minds, purify their hearts, and sanctify their wills. Bless all who have contributed to this institution; and raise up to the University, we humbly pray Thee, a never-failing succession of benefactors; through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

The Blessing

Hymn at the Retiring Procession.....*Hyfrydol*

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to
2 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy
3 Fi - nish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less

earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - way bless - ing,
ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707–1788). Music: *Hyfrydol*, Rowland Hugh Prichard (1811–1887).

Voluntary “Carillon” from *24 Pièces en style libre*..... Louis Vierne (1870–1937)

The Bells of the University Carillon



Photographs should not be taken during the Baccalaureate and Commencement services.



If you need assistance, please ask an angel or proctor; these individuals, who are wearing academic gowns, have white ribbons attached to their name tags.

Assisted listening amplifiers are available for the hearing impaired. Accessible alternative format bulletins are also available. Please see the staff at the table near the large video screen.

Any lost and found articles may be claimed at the Sewanee Police Department.

Medical assistance is available under the tent adjacent to Convocation Hall.

Restrooms are located in Carnegie Hall (accessed via under the archway or door at rear of building), Guerry Auditorium, Biehl Commons, and in Spencer Hall and Woods Labs.

The Holy Eucharist will be celebrated at 7:30 a.m. tomorrow in St. Augustine's Chapel. All students, faculty, staff, and visitors are invited.

The Convocation of the University for the Conferring of Degrees from the College of Arts and Sciences will be at 10 a.m. tomorrow. For viewing locations and severe weather instructions, please visit commencement.sewanee.edu.



Doctor of Humane Letters

Joel L. Cunningham

Joel Cunningham has been entangled in American higher education for the last 65 years. He was a mathematics faculty member for 50 of those years, including his 26 as a university president. He grew up in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, was an undergraduate at the University of Chattanooga, and earned a doctorate from the University of Oregon. Over the years he has answered to several titles: professor, dean, provost, president, vice-chancellor, and now emeritus this and that. He served in turn at the University of Kentucky, the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, Susquehanna University, and Sewanee. Along the way he was a leader in higher education nationally, serving on many boards and committees and as one of the founders of Campus Compact and the Network for Vocation in Higher Education. He is an active member of the Episcopal Church, for which he has served on several vestries and national church committees. He chaired the Association of Episcopal Colleges and is the longtime treasurer of the Colleges and Universities of the Anglican Communion. He's a life member of Sigma Chi Fraternity and was once its international president. Trudy and Joel married 61 years ago, shortly after graduating together from college. Their daughters, Nancy and Susan, and their grandchildren, Ruth, Anna, Ellen, and Adam, are their greatest joys.

Trudy B. Cunningham

On the first day of first grade, Trudy Bender learned that her given name was Mary, and she remains open to surprises that change plans. Expecting marriage soon after high school, she adjusted to the challenges of leaving the suburbs of New York City for the University of Chattanooga to major in mathematics and psychology and help lead her Chi Omega sorority and student government. Trudy married Joel Cunningham and moved to Oregon to teach math and support his doctoral adventure, but his department chair insisted that Trudy enroll in graduate courses and earn an M.A. in teaching mathematics while doing it at Lincoln Junior High School and Sheldon High School. Trudy's job in Kentucky, teaching the high school students at Midway Junior College, expanded when the college math teacher was drafted. The pattern of surprise continued when on leave from teaching eighth grade math at The Baylor School in Chattanooga and, unable to find a one-year job in Knoxville, she became a math graduate assistant at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, while completing courses for an Ed.D. Two years later, when no secondary school jobs were readily available in rural Pennsylvania, Trudy accepted a one-year position at Bucknell University and stayed 21 years, teaching mathematics and serving as acting dean of arts and sciences and then associate dean of engineering. At Sewanee, Trudy mentored the first Posse class, advised students, team-taught calculus with Joel, and welcomed students, parents, staff, and alumni to Chen Hall. Throughout these surprises Trudy has photographed her students, daughters, and grandchildren as they planned their life and prepared for it to be more interesting than the plan.

Baccalaureate Speaker

Jon Meacham

Jon Meacham is a Pulitzer Prize–winning biographer. The author of the *New York Times* bestsellers *And There Was Light: Abraham Lincoln and the American Struggle*; *The Soul of America: The Battle for Our Better Angels*; *Thomas Jefferson: The Art of Power*; *American Lion: Andrew Jackson in the White House*; *Franklin and Winston: An Intimate Portrait of an Epic Friendship*; *Destiny and Power: The American Odyssey of George Herbert Walker Bush*; *His Truth Is Marching On: John Lewis and the Power of Hope*; and *The Hope of Glory: Reflections on the Last Words of Jesus from the Cross*. Meacham is the Canon Historian of Washington National Cathedral and has served on the vestries of St. Thomas Church Fifth Avenue and Trinity Church Wall Street. A recipient of the National Humanities Medal, he holds the Carolyn T. and Robert M. Rogers Chair at Vanderbilt University and is a fellow of the Society of American Historians.



The Rt. Rev. Jacob W. Owensby, B.A., M.A., M.Div., Ph.D.
Chancellor

Robert W. Pearigen, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.
Vice-Chancellor and President

Scott H. Wilson, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.
Provost

Jennifer J. Cooley, B.A., B.A., M.A., Ph.D.
Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Dean of the College

The Very Rev. James F. Turrell, B.A., M.A., M.Div., Ph.D.
Vice Provost and Dean of the School of Theology

The Very Rev. Christopher L. Epperson, B.S., M.Div.
Dean of All Saints' Chapel and University Chaplain

The Rev. Leigh C. Preston, A.B., B.S., M.Div.
Interim Associate University Chaplain

Geoffrey H. Ward, B.Mus., B.Ed., A.R.C.T., M.Mus., A.R.C.C.O., D.M.A.
University Organist and Choirmaster

David H. W. Shipps Sr., B.A., M.B.A.
University Marshal



ECCE QUAM BONUM