



Baccalaureate Service

May 14, 2022 | 4:00 PM

Heidelberg University
GUNDLACH THEATRE



Recessional Hymn: *Sent Forth By God's Blessing

*Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
The people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The service is ended, O now be extended
the fruits of our worship in all who believe.
The seed of the teaching, receptive hearts reaching,
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.
God's grace did invite us, and love shall unite us
to work for God's realm and to answer God's call.
With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,
The tasks of our everyday life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
Embracing God's children each tribe and race.
With your grace you feed us, with your light now lead us,
Unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
Give honor to Christ and that name which we bear.*

Postlude: *Rejoice the Lord is King

Tune: Darwall, by John Darwall, 1770, Arranged by Cindy Berry
Gregory Ramsdell, D.M.A., Director of Choral Activities, Professor of Choral Music
Education, Pianist

Heidelberg was established in 1850 by the German Reformed Church, now United Church of Christ.

The Baccalaureate Service is an interfaith service of thanksgiving. The first baccalaureate service dates back to 1432 at Oxford University, England.

The Heidelberg seal was adopted by the trustees on December 19, 1950. The lamp of learning rests on two books representing the Old and New Testaments. The cloud and the rays of light emanating from it symbolize the idea of light from the heavens and the Supreme Being.

*“Religion and Education are the Safeguards of the Nation”
Heidelberg Motto, 1887*

Student Speaker

Kaitlyn Ferrario, Class of 2022

Sacred Text: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Seth Eisenhower, Class of 2022

Introduction of Speaker

Bryan Smith, Ph.D., Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

Sermon: “Your Precious Ligamental Life”

Rev. David Long-Higgins, M.Div., Conference Minister, Heartland Conference, United Church of Christ

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Daniel Busch, M.Div.

Northwest Ohio Association Minister, United Church of Christ

Special Music: *Gaelic Blessing*

Heidelberg University Concert Choir

John Rutter (b. 1945)

Deep peace of the running wave to you.

Deep peace of the flowing air to you.

Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.

Deep peace of the shining stars to you.

Deep peace of the gentle night to you.

Moon and stars pour their healing light on you.

Deep peace of Christ, of Christ the light of the world to you.

Deep peace of Christ to you.

*Benediction

Paul Sittason Stark, M.Div., Chaplain and Director of Religious Life, Civic Engagement, and Church Relations



Rev. David Long-Higgins, Conference Minister Heartland Conference, United Church of Christ

Baccalaureate Speaker

Rev. David Long-Higgins serves as the Conference Minister for the Heartland Conference of the United Church of Christ serving the 323 UCC congregations in Ohio, Northern Kentucky and West Virginia. In that role, Rev. Long-Higgins has a particular call and passion to strengthen the covenantal collaboration between congregations, associations, institutions of higher education (including Heidelberg University), health and human service

ministries, ecumenical and interfaith engagements, as well as partnerships local and global. Rev. Long-Higgins’ passion is to see individuals and churches grow in their sense of the alive presence of God and all that this calls forth to be signs of Christ-love in the world, so that all may flourish.

It is out of this commitment toward the full flourishing of every human being and the whole creation, that Rev. Long-Higgins feels called to the work of weaving personal commitments with public engagements. Toward that end he believes God calls us to a movement toward the margins so that those normally overlooked or discounted can find themselves welcomed, placed at the center, and given space to thrive.

Rev. Long-Higgins has served in a wide variety of capacities throughout the United Church of Christ including service on the Wider Church Ministries Board, the Common Global Ministries Board of the United Church of Christ and Christian Church, Disciples of Christ. In those capacities he has represented the Board for its partnerships in Latin America, Europe, the Middle East and Southern Asia. He also served on the former Executive Council of the United Church of Christ. Rev. Long-Higgins currently serves on the Cabinet of the Council of Conference Ministers of the United Church of Christ, the Board of Directors of United Church Homes, the Board of Trustees of United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, and as Chair of the Governing Board of the Ohio Council of Churches, an ecumenical partnership of 17 denominations throughout Ohio.

Rev. Long-Higgins is a 1984 graduate of Heidelberg (College) University with a Bachelor of Arts in psychology and music (violin performance). His Master of Divinity degree was earned at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities in St. Paul, Minnesota. He is also a graduate of the Wellstreams Spiritual Direction Training Program of the Spirituality Network of Columbus (Ohio). Prior to beginning his role with the Conference, Rev. Long-Higgins was a local parish pastor for over 30 years. Together with his wife, Beth, a 1984 Heidelberg alumna who is also an ordained UCC clergy person and a member of the Heidelberg University Board of Trustees, Rev. Long-Higgins has served two local congregations: Bethany UCC, in Louisville, Kentucky, and David’s United Church of Christ in Canal Winchester, Ohio.

They are the parents of two adult children, Andrew and Hannah, who are also graduates of Heidelberg University. When not on the ministry trail, Rev. Long-Higgins enjoys movies, playing violin and guitar, bicycling, travel, writing poetry/prayers, and photography.

Prelude: How Firm a Foundation

Tune: Foundation, *The Sacred Harp*, 1844, Arranged by Cindy Berry
Gregory Ramsdell, D.M.A., Director of Choral Activities, Professor of Choral Music
Education, Pianist

***Processional Hymn: To You, O God, All Creatures Sing**

St. Francis of Assisi, Adapt. Miriam Therese Winter

*To you, O God, all creatures sing; and all creation, everything;
Sings your praises, alleluia!
Your burning sun with golden beam; your silver moon with softer gleam;
Sing your praises, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Your wind that blows the tempest by; your clouds that sail across the sky;
Sing your praises, alleluia!
Your morning rises with a song; and lights of evening sing along;
Sing your praises, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Your flowing waters, crystal clear; make melodies for you to hear;
Sing your praises, alleluia!
Your fire, bountiful and bright; remembering your warmth and light;
Sings your praises, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
To you, O God, day after day; your planet earth in every way;
Sings your praises, alleluia,
As savory fruit and fragrant flower; show forth your glory and your power;
Singing praises, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

© 1993 used with permission

***Call to Worship: Psalm 67**

Kathleen Brady, Class of 2022

*Leader: May God be gracious to us and bless us and make God’s face to
shine upon us. That your way be known upon earth, your saving
power among all nations.*

People: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

*Leader: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the
peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.*

People: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

*Leader: The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us.
May God continue to bless us, let all the ends of the earth revere God.*

People: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

Greeting

Robert Huntington, Ed.D., President

Sacred Text: The Holy Quran

Saefelislam Forгани, Class of 2023

Student Speaker

Sarah Toppin, Class of 2022

Special Music: Witness

Heidelberg University Concert Choir

**Traditional Spiritual/Arr. Jack Halloran
(1916–1997)**

*Who’ll be a witness for my Lord?
Oh, I’ll be a witness for my Lord.*

*There was a man of the Pharisees,
His name was Nicodemus and he didn’t believe.
The same came to Christ by night,
Wanted to be taught out of human sight.
Nicodemus was a man who desired to know
How a man can be born when he is old.
Christ told Nicodemus as a friend,
“Man you must be born again.
(He said) Marvel not, man, if you want to be wise,
Repent, believe, and be baptized,”
Then you’ll be a witness for my Lord.*

*You read about Samson, from his birth
He was the strongest man that ever lived on earth.
Way back yonder in ancient times
He killed ten thousand of the Philistines.
Then old Samson went a-wand’rin’ about.
Samson’s strength was never found out.
‘Til his wife sat upon his knee.
She said, “Tell me where your strength lies, if you please!”
Well, old Samson’s wife she talk so fair
Samson said, “Cut off a-my hair! Cut it off!
Shave my head just as clean as your hand,
and my strength will come like a natural man,”
Samson was a witness for my Lord.
Soul is a witness for my Lord.
There’s another witness,
My soul is a witness for my Lord!*