



CARROLL UNIVERSITY
BACCALAUREATE



FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2026

BACCALAUREATE

Blessing of the Graduates

Baccalaureate is a service of worship on the occasion of graduation. Today we reflect with the Class of 2026, giving thanks for their journey at Carroll University and offering prayers for their future. The service includes a special prayer of blessing for our graduates.

Baccalaureate draws on Carroll University's Christian tradition and Presbyterian heritage, as well as the diverse religious and cultural traditions of our graduates. The banners display Carroll's crest and the cross of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Christian denomination with which Carroll is affiliated.

Graduates, their families and all members of the Carroll community are invited to participate today in ways that best honor their own faith traditions and spiritual practices. All are welcome.

Baccalaureate

Friday, May 1, 2026 | 5 p.m.

Auditorium, Shattuck Music Center

Please silence all electronic devices during the Baccalaureate ceremony.

BACCALAUREATE

Prelude

*Fanfare and Fugue from Partita on "When in Our Music"John A. Behnke
Rhonda Kwiecien, lead collaborator pianist/organist*

Please rise as you are able.

Processional

Procession led by Camille Socol, student senate president elect

Greeting and Call to Worship

Dr. Jim Grimshaw, professor of religious studies

Please be seated

Land Acknowledgment

Dr. Jim Grimshaw

We humbly recognize all tribal elders, both past and present, and respectfully honor them by acknowledging their stewardship through time immemorial on these ancestral homelands on which Carroll University resides.

Carroll University was created in 1846 and is located within the traditional homelands of the Ho-Chunk and Menominee Nations, as acknowledged by their creation stories.

The University recognizes that the land on which we gather is territory ceded in the September 26, 1833, Treaty of Chicago and is the ancestral homelands of the Chippewa, Ottawa and Potawatomi Indians.

This land was a crossroads for many Tribal Nations and their people to access cultural resources, and many of their ancestors remain on this land.

We recognize the 11 sovereign Tribal Nations who reside in what is now known as the State of

Wisconsin. These Nations are:

- Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa*
- Ho-Chunk Nation*
- Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa*
- Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa*
- Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin*
- Oneida Nation*
- Forest County Potawatomi*
- Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa*
- St. Croix Chippewa*
- Sokaogon Chippewa (Mole Lake), and the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians*

Carroll University will strive to honor its duty to care for this land and to share in stewardship with all sovereign Tribal Nations who recognize this land as theirs.

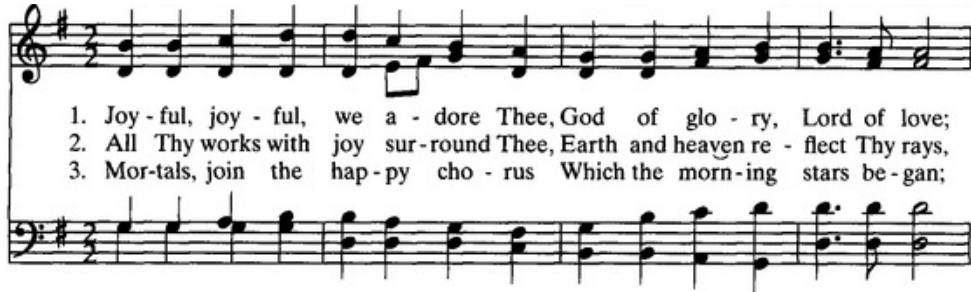
President's Welcome

Dr. Cindy Gnadinger, president Carroll University

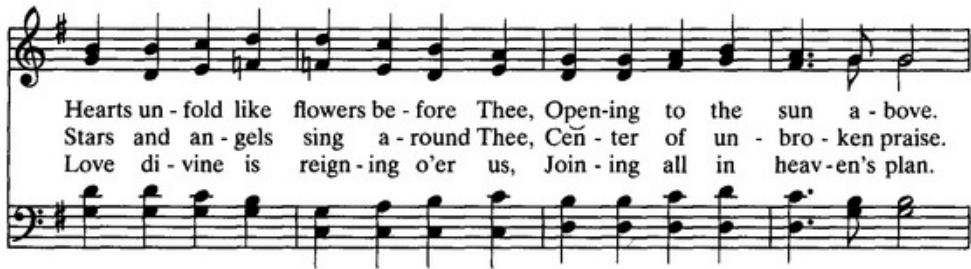
Please rise as you are able

Hymn Of Praise


“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”Ludvig von Beethoven



1. Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
2. All Thy works with joy sur - round Thee, Earth and heaven re - flect Thy rays,
3. Mor - tals, join the hap - py cho - rus Which the morn - ing stars be - gan;



Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore Thee, Open - ing to the sun a - bove.
Stars and an - gels sing a - round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
Love di - vine is reign - ing o'er us, Join - ing all in heav - en's plan.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness; Drive the gloom of doubt a - way;
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, Flower - y mea - dow, flash - ing sea,
Ev - er sing - ing, march we on - ward, Vic - tors in the midst of strife,



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, Fill us with the light of day.
Chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, Call us to re - joi - ce in Thee.
Joy - ful mu - sic leads us sun - ward In the tri - umph song of life.

Please be seated

The Scriptures: Colossians 3:12-17 and Prayer of Gratitude

Ms. Isabella Ehler, class of 2026

Choral Anthem

“When the Earth Stands Still”.....Don McDonald

The Scriptures: Psalm 46 and Prayers for Guidance

Ms. Ashley Lubkeman, class of 2026 read in English

Mr. Jesus Ortiz, class of 2026 read in Spanish

Please rise as you are able

The Carroll University Hymn

“Oh God, Our Help in Ages Past”Isaac Watts

1 Our God, our help in a - ges past, our
 hope for years to come, our shel - ter from the
 storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:

2. Before the hills in order stood, or earth received its frame,
 from everlasting Thou art God, to endless years the same.

3. A thousand ages in Thy sight are like an evening gone,
 short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.

4. Our God, our Help in ages past, our Hope for years to come,
 be Thou our Guide while life shall last, and our eternal Home!

Please be seated

Reading

“Remember”.....Joy Harjo, Native American

(Muscogee Creek Nation) US Poet Laureate from 2019-2022

Read by Ms. Caroline Vanevenhoven, university event planner

Pastoral Reflection

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Block '74

Anthem

“The Lord Bless You and Keep You”John Rutter

Blessing of the Graduates

The Rev. Dr. Block

Mr. Nate Dehne, vice president for student life

Charge to the Graduates and Benediction

The Rev. Dr. Block

Choral Benediction

Peace I Leave With YouAmy Beach

Please rise as you are able and remain standing through the recessional

Recessional

“Fiat Lux” Theodore Dubois

The Platform Party and Graduates will recess first. Please meet your graduate in the lobby after the recessional



2026 CONCERT CHOIR PERSONNEL

Jason Becker	'26	Marianna Leventhal	'27
Amelia Braatz	'26	Jason Martin	'29
Layton Carls	'26	Kelly Parker	'27
Maisie Cleveland	'27	Anna Schumacher	'26
Miranda Cogan	'26	Lake Schwartz	'27
Brady Dunnum	'26	Lucia Stempniewski	'28
Aaron Haas	'28	Noah Welhouse	'29
Trinity Kohls	'28	Sophia Wiegel	'28
Jamie Krause	'26		

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special thanks to The Rev. Dr. Deborah Block '74, who has volunteered with the Carroll Office of Spiritual Life and Service this year as our interim chaplain, the members of the Class of 2026, the Carroll University Choirs, faculty, staff, administrators and volunteers who brought this year's Baccalaureate to life, including Caroline Vanevenhoven, university event planner, and the many university teams working behind the scenes.

We are grateful for the musical leadership of Dr. Jeremiah Cawley, director of choral music, along with the Carroll University Choirs and Ms. Rhonda Kwiecien, lead collaborative pianist/organist.

Thank you to Jenn Youngblood, Class of 2003, for developing Carroll University's Land Acknowledgement.

The Carroll University Office of Spiritual Life is overseen by the Rev. Elizabeth McCord, chaplain and director of spiritual life, in collaboration with our chaplain residents and student ministry team. We are especially grateful for the leadership of current chaplain resident the Rev. Elias Henry and the Rev. Anna Langholz, as well as the 2024-25 student ministry team.

Carroll University is affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) through our covenant with the Synod of the Lakes and Prairies, and we are grateful for the many forms of support provided by the Presbytery of Milwaukee and its congregations.

CARROLL UNIVERSITY ETHOS

At Carroll University, we are partners in creating a community that embraces respect, integrity and stewardship. The quality of our life together is central to our mission of excellence in teaching, learning and service.

Respect

We will honor the dignity and worth of each member of our diverse community by building relationships of trust. We will be civil and kind as we engage one another in our work.

Integrity

We will offer our best selves and trust that others will do the same through honesty, fairness and strength of character.

Stewardship

We will cultivate and care for our human, natural and material resources with gratitude, responsibility and accountability.



