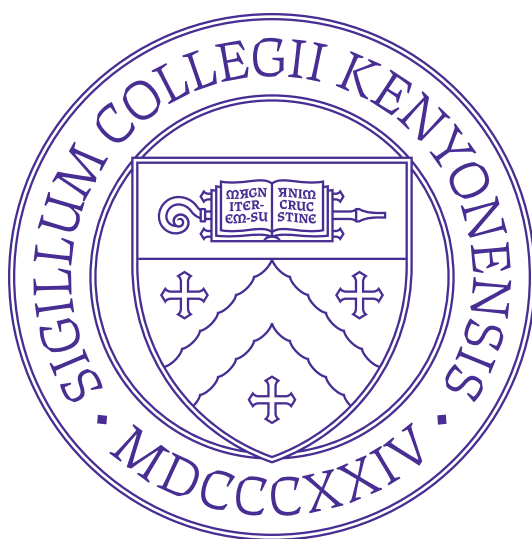


Kenyon College Baccalaureate Service



May 16, 2025
1:30 p.m.
Barrett A. Toan Indoor Track
in the Lowry Center

Program

Processional*

The Scioto Brass Ensemble

The Invocation*

Rev. Rachel C. Kessler
College Chaplain; Co-Director, Spiritual and Religious Life; Rector, Harcourt Parish

Welcome

Julie C. Kornfeld
President

Texts From a Kenyon Education

Fine Arts Division
A passage from *Art on My Mind* by bell hooks
Read by Emma Jin-Ah Kang for the Department of Art

Humanities Division
A passage from *Le Petit Prince* by Antoine De Saint-Exupéry, English translation by Katherine Woods
Read in French by Aaryan Thorin Gustafson Somadder for the Department of French

Natural Sciences Division
A passage from *Elements of Chemistry* by Antoine Lavoisier
Read by Tapiwa Gono Phiri for the Department of Chemistry

Social Sciences Division
A passage from *On Faith, Peace, and Justice: Reflections from a Queer Palestinian Quaker* by Sa'ed Atshan
Read by Kylie Erin Mullaly for the Department of Anthropology

Interdisciplinary Programs
A passage from *The Demon-Haunted World: Science as a Candle in the Dark* by Carl Sagan
Read by Ayman Wadud for the Department of Molecular Biology

Texts From Our Religious Traditions

Buddhist Tradition
A passage from the *Aṅguttara Nikāya*
Read by Isaac Kaylor Owen

Christian Tradition
A passage from *The Meaning of Baptism* by the Rev. Pauli Murray
Read by Elizabeth Angela Redmond

Islamic Tradition
Verses from the Quran and a passage from *A Rational Book for an Intelligent Being* by Nuh Aydin
Read by Fatma Adel Abdeltawab Mahmoud

Jewish Tradition
The opening lines of the *Shema* and an excerpt from *Souls on Fire* by Elie Wiesel
Read by Noah Charles Gerhardt

Anthem

“Eternal Ruler of the Ceaseless Round”
Music: Orlando Gibbons (1583 – 1625)
Words: John White Chadwick (1840 – 1904)
Sung by Benjamin R. Locke, Professor of Music

The Baccalaureate Address

“Being Present with Conviction for Others”
Celestino J. Limas
Vice President Student Affairs

The Benediction*

Marc W. Bragin
College Chaplain; Co-Director, Spiritual and Religious Life; Director, Kenyon Hillel

Recessional*

The Scioto Brass Ensemble

*Audience standing, if able

Texts From a Kenyon Education

Fine Arts Division

A passage from *Art on My Mind*, by bell hooks
Read by Emma Jin-Ah Kang for the Department of Art

Art should be ... a place where boundaries can be transgressed, where visionary insights can be revealed within the context of the every day, the familiar, the mundane. Art is and remains such an uninhibited, unrestrained, cultural terrain only if all artists see their work as inherently challenging to those institutionalized systems of domination ... that seek to limit, coopt, exploit, or shut down possibilities for individual creative self-actualization. Regardless of subject matter, form, or content, whether art is overtly political or not, artistic work that emerges from an unfettered imagination affirms the primacy of art as that space of cultural production where we can find the deepest, most intimate understanding of what it means to be free.

Humanities Division

A passage from *Le Petit Prince* by Antoine De Saint-Exupéry, English translation by Katherine Woods
Read in French by Aaryan Thorin Gustafson
Somadder for the Department of French

You are beautiful, but you are empty, one could not die for you. To be sure, an ordinary passerby would think that my rose looked just like you — the rose that belongs to me. But in herself alone she is more important than all the hundreds of you other roses: because it is she that I have watered; because it is she that I have put under the glass globe; because it is she that I have sheltered behind the screen; because it is for her that I have killed the caterpillars (except the two or three that we saved to become butterflies); because it is she that I have listened to, when she grumbled, or boasted, or even sometimes when she said nothing. Because she is my rose.

Natural Sciences Division

A passage from *Elements of Chemistry* by Antoine Lavoisier
Read by Tapiwa Gono Phiri for the Department of Chemistry

The impossibility of separating the nomenclature of a science from the science itself, is owing to this, that every branch of physical science must consist of three things; the series of facts which are the objects of the science, the ideas which represent these facts, and the words by which these ideas are expressed. Like three impressions of the same seal, the word ought to produce the idea, and the idea to be a picture of the fact; as ideas are preserved and communicated by means of words, it necessarily follows that we cannot improve the language of any science without at the same time improving the science itself; neither can we, on the other hand, improve a science, without improving the language or nomenclature which belongs to it.

Social Sciences Division

A passage from *On Faith, Peace, and Justice: Reflections from a Queer Palestinian Quaker* by Sa'ed Atshan
Read by Kylie Erin Mullaly for the Department of Anthropology

Ten ways we can remain hopeful in the midst of all the destruction erupting around us:

1. Be true to ourselves and our values while maintaining more consistency in our values surrounding peace and justice.
2. Lead a life of meaning and purpose.
3. Count your blessings: do not take anything for granted.
4. Refusing to look away and bearing witness to suffering.
5. Praxis in being action oriented in the world: If you see injustice you must change it with your hands, if you cannot you must change it with your tongue, if not then with your heart.
6. Seek out our chosen and given families while cultivating community support.
7. Build sanctuaries.
8. Cultivate spiritual practice.
9. Connect with your ancestors.
10. Give yourself permission to dance.

Interdisciplinary Programs

A passage from *The Demon-Haunted World: Science as a Candle in the Dark* by Carl Sagan
Read by Ayman Wadud for the Department of Molecular Biology

The scientific way of thinking is at once imaginative and disciplined. This is central to its success. Science invites us to let the facts in, even when they don't conform to our preconceptions. It counsels us to carry alternative hypotheses in our heads and see which best fit the facts. It urges on us a delicate balance between no-holds-barred openness to new ideas, however heretical, and the most rigorous sceptical scrutiny of everything — new ideas and established wisdom. This kind of thinking is also an essential tool for a democracy in an age of change.



Closed Captioning
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Texts from Our Religious Traditions

Buddhist Tradition

A passage from the *Aṅguttara Nikāya*

Read by Isaac Kaylor Owen

A single act of kindness creates ripples that spread in all directions, just as a stone dropped into a lake sends waves outward. One who gives without expecting, who forgives without hesitation, and who loves without boundaries will never lack peace. Hatred can never end hatred — only love can do that. A heart filled with kindness is the greatest treasure, and those who carry it bring light to the world.

Christian Tradition

A passage from *The Meaning of Baptism*

by the Rev. Pauli Murray

Read by Elizabeth Angela Redmond

In baptism, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we become brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ, sons and daughters of God, and inheritors of the Kingdom of Heaven. Following his example, we are anointed — we might even say “ordained” — into the general ministry of the church shared by all its members, the ministry of reconciliation. We are commissioned to labor for justice and peace, to work for the alleviation of suffering ... We are called upon to walk in faith, ... however gloomy the outlook, serene in our basic trust that the outcome of every struggle belongs to God.

Islamic Tradition

Verses from the Quran and a passage from

A Rational Book for an Intelligent Being

by Nuh Aydin

Read by Fatma Adel Abdeltawab Mahmoud

﴿مَلْعٌ عِبَّ كَلَّ سَيِّلْ أَمْ فُتِّتَ الْوُ﴾

Do not follow what you have no “sure”
knowledge of. 17:36

أَمْ نَزَّلْنَا الْوُحْيَ عَلَى نَبِيِّكَ أَوْ نَزَّلْنَا عَلَى مَنُومَلْغِي نَبِيِّكَ أَوْ نَزَّلْنَا عَلَى مَنُومَلْغِي نَبِيِّكَ أَوْ نَزَّلْنَا عَلَى مَنُومَلْغِي نَبِيِّكَ

Say, “Are those who know and those who do not know alike?” None will be mindful except people of reason.

To many, the degree of emphasis on rationality in the Quran might be surprising due to the common misunderstanding that religions are anti-rational and religious beliefs are based on accepting faith without questioning. The Quran makes it abundantly clear that God gave human beings intellectual capabilities, and He demands (them) to use their intellect to seek the truth.

Jewish Tradition

The opening lines of the Shema and an excerpt from *Souls on Fire* by Elie Wiesel

Read by Noah Charles Gerhardt

דְּחָא יְהוָה וְיְהוָה אֶחָד יְהוָה לֹא רַשִׁי עַמִּשׁ

Rebbe Shmelke told the following: “Basing myself on the Talmudic saying that if all men repented, the Messiah would come, I decided to do something about it. I was convinced I would be successful. But where was I to start? The world is so vast. I shall start with the country I know best, my own. But my country is so very large. I had better start with my town. But my town, too, is large. I had best start with my street. No: my home. No: my family. Never mind, I shall start with myself.”

