

PASTOR RICHIE L. BUTLER '93

Richie Butler '93 is a leader in both the faith and business communities of the greater Dallas area. Butler currently serves as senior pastor at St. Luke "Community" United Methodist Church. He previously founded Union Cathedral, an independent interdenominational church, which he successfully merged with the historic St. Paul United Methodist Church in downtown Dallas in 2014.

In addition to his role as a senior pastor at St. Luke's, Butler has been responsible for nearly \$1 billion in real estate investment activity throughout the United States as a private equity real estate fund manager with Prescott Group and CityView.

As a civic leader, Butler launched Project Unity in 2017 to help heal race relationships between law enforcement and the Dallas community. During the pandemic, the organization has also been devoted to improving access to COVID-19 testing and vaccinations in minority communities.

Butler is the recipient of the 2021 *Dallas Business Journal's* Leaders in Diversity Award and the 2021 Collin County Business Alliance Leadership Award. He previously received the SMU Distinguished Alumni Emerging Leader Award in 2008 and the Dallas Bar Association 2017 Martin Luther King, Jr. Justice Award. He was also named a 2018 Minority Business Leader award honoree by the *Dallas Business Journal* and a 2018 SMU Silver Anniversary Mustang (SAM) recipient.

Butler played football for SMU from 1989 to 1993. He holds two bachelor's degrees from SMU and a master's in theology from Harvard University. He has also done extended studies in urban planning at MIT and was the recipient of a Ford Foundation Fellowship to study art history and political science in Europe.

Butler resides in Dallas with his wife, Neisha, who is a 1993 graduate of SMU, and their two children, Emily and Ford.

THE SMU MCKENZIE BIBLE

The McKenzie Bible was printed in 1856 and once was the property of J.W.P. McKenzie, a pioneer in Methodist education in Texas. It was used continually by McKenzie, who established McKenzie College at Clarksville, once the largest institution of higher learning in Texas. This historic Bible was presented to SMU in 1916 by Mrs. Milton Ragsdale of Dallas, a niece of McKenzie.

The McKenzie Bible was first used at SMU's 1916 Commencement Convocation, and the University is proud to use it at tonight's Baccalaureate Service.



MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

Presiding: R. Gerald Turner, President of the University
Speaking: Pastor Richie L. Butler '93, Senior Pastor at St. Luke "Community" United Methodist Church
Liturgist: Elisabeth A. Garvin, Chaplain and Minister to the University
Readers: Eliana M. Abraham, Candidate for the degree of Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences
Derek M. Younkens, Candidate for the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Political Science
Musicians: Imperial Brass

Meadows School of the Arts Vocal Performance Graduates:
Emmie E. Arduino, Candidate for the degree of Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance
Alyssa K. Longoria, Candidate for the degree of Bachelor of Music in Music Education
Karl A. Martin, Candidate for the degree of Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance
Gracie Nunnely, Candidate for the degree of Bachelor of Music in Music Therapy
Kealey M. Poole, Candidate for the degree of Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance
Amy K. Tippin, Candidate for the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Music

GUILD OF MARSHALS

Jodi Cooley, Chief Marshal
Bradley Kent Carter, Chief Marshal *Emeritus*
Thomas B. Fomby, Chief Marshal *Emeritus*
Thomas Osang, Procession Marshal
Karen Baker-Fletcher, Platform Marshal

BACCALAUREATE MARSHALS

Nathan S. Balke
Jing Cao
Ruben L. F. Habito
Maribeth Kuenzi
Rebekah Miles
Brian Molanphy
David Sedman

SMU

For more information about tomorrow's Commencement activities, please refer to smu.edu/maycommencement.

BACCALAUREATE SERVICE



SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY

*The Thirteenth of May
Two Thousand and Twenty-Two
Five O'Clock in the Evening
McFarlin Memorial Auditorium*

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

CARILLON CONCERT Quarter Past Four in the Afternoon
Adam Neal, Carillonneur
Fondren Science Tower

PRELUDIAL CONCERT Imperial Brass

PROCESSIONAL Imperial Brass
The congregation rises when the procession reaches the doors of the auditorium.

WORDS OF WELCOME R. Gerald Turner
President of the University

THE CALL TO WORSHIP Elisabeth A. Garvin
Chaplain and Minister to the University

BASED ON PSALM 100

We gather to celebrate and joyfully sing to God!
Together, let us share our praises and thankfulness.
Come, let us enter into this sacred space with praise.

You O God, are the Holy God always and forever!
You are the Eternal One from whom all things come.
Come, let us enter into this sacred space with thanks.

O God, We are your children
created by and with your love.
Come, let us enter this sacred space with joy and delight. Amen.

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HYMN *Come All Who Love Learning*
Imperial Brass
Meadows Vocal Performance Graduates

Come all who love learning, whose hearts still are yearning
To know more the Source and the End of our days.
All slumber and sadness cast off, and with gladness
Praise God, who has lighted our paths in all ways.
Through struggle and trial, against all denial,
The truth will at least lead us forth out of night.
God’s fire goes before us, God’s voice leads our chorus
And beckons as we follow light into light.

Divine song ever rising in descants surprising
Rings forth through the ages and into all lands.
It calls out and molds us, sustains and enfolds us
As we strive to do what creation demands.
Our hope unabating, we too are creating
With God, who seeks most lives of love, souls of mirth.
So let us be faithful, our hearts always grateful,
Our eyes fastened on a new heav’n, a new earth.

Tune: ASH GROVE
Words: Gary Hauk

READING FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE Derek M. Younkens
Micah 6:6-8 Candidate for the degree of
Bachelor of Arts in Political Science

INTRODUCTION OF THE SPEAKER President Turner

THE BACCALAUREATE SERMON Pastor Richie L. Butler ’93
Senior Pastor
St. Luke “Community” United Methodist Church

MEDITATION ON WISDOM AND LEARNING * Eliana M. Abraham
Candidate for the degree of
Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences
**Jonah Rank*

HYMN “Forth in Thy Name, O Lord”
Imperial Brass
Meadows Vocal Performance Graduates

Forth in Thy name, O Lord, I go,
My daily labor to pursue;
Thee, only Thee, resolved to know
in all I think or speak or do.

The task Thy wisdom hath assigned,
O let me cheerfully fulfill;
in all my words Thy presence find,
and prove Thy good and perfect will.

Thee may I set at my right hand,
Whose eyes mine in most substance see,
and labor on at Thy command,
and offer all my works to Thee.

For Thee delightfully employ
whate’er Thy bounteous grace hath given;
and run my course with even joy,
and closely walk with Thee to heaven.

THE BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH Reverend Garvin

May God bless us with discomfort
At easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships
So that we may live deep within our hearts.

May God bless us with anger
At injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people
So that we may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless us with tears to shed
For those who suffer from pain, injustice, starvation, and war,
**So that we may reach out our hands to comfort them and to turn their
pain into joy.**

And may God bless us with enough foolishness to believe
We can make a difference in the world,
So that we can do what others claim cannot be done.

Go forth in peace to be world changers!
Be of good courage. Think big. Do good.
So that those to whom love is a stranger find in you generous friends.
AMEN!

Please stay in place for the Rotunda Recessional, which follows immediately.

THE ROTUNDA RECESSIONAL

One of the University’s most symbolic traditions is Rotunda Passage, which includes both a processional and a recessional. Many of tonight’s candidates for graduation began their lives at SMU by processing through the Rotunda of Dallas Hall to Opening Convocation in this auditorium, symbolizing their entrance to SMU. Tonight, all candidates will recess through the Rotunda as a symbolic departure from campus and out into their future as the newest members of the SMU alumni family. Alumni who are parents of graduating seniors are serving as marshals for tonight’s recessional. They will help line the path between McFarlin Memorial Auditorium and Dallas Hall for the recessional participants.

REMARKS Austin T. Hickle ’22
Student Body President

Following remarks, the president of the Student Body passes the lantern that signifies continuity to the Class of 2023, represented by Sydney P. Castle.

Kristin W. Henderson ’82
Chair of the SMU Alumni Board

CALL TO THE RECESSIONAL Jodi Cooley
Chief Marshal

ALMA MATER *Varsity*
Imperial Brass
Meadows Vocal Performance Graduates

Oh we see the Varsity,
Varsity, Varsity,
As she towers o’er the hill
Over there.
And our hearts are filled with joy,
SMU, SMU,
Alma Mater, we’ll be true
Forever!

Following Varsity, all candidates will remain standing. As soon as the Platform Party is organized in a central aisle, ushers will help guests assemble on both sides of the walk to Dallas Hall. As guests fill the walkways, the Platform Party will lead the Rotunda Recessional. Marshals will organize the candidates’ march.

THE RECESSIONAL Imperial Brass