

Fellow Middlebury graduates,  
families, friends, and colleagues:  
Would you please join with me as we still our hearts,  
opening them to wonder, gratitude, and joy.

Gracious Presence,  
You have surrounded this place and this season  
with the majestic beauty of your creation,  
with the green-gold radiance of springtime.

In your hands are the deep places of the earth  
and the strength of the hills is yours also.<sup>1</sup>

Creator of all,  
you made us in your image,  
in equal human dignity we each uniquely reflect your glory.

You are the hidden source of our hope and strength.  
Your providential care and unfailing love  
have followed us all the days of our lives.  
and from your loving hand  
we have received grace upon grace.

Be with these young people as they go forth from this place:  
fill them with wisdom to meet life's complexities  
lengthen their perspectives,  
deepen their convictions,  
and in every difficult choice grant them vision and courage.

Rest your hand upon them:  
encourage their enthusiasm,  
calm their doubts and anxieties.  
and be their strength in both adversity and prosperity.

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<sup>1</sup> Hints of phrases from Psalm 95, and Robert Frost's line "Nature's first green is gold..."

Giver of Gentleness and Companion on our journey,  
we ask that the bonds of friendship  
forged here at this College  
may prove ever more faithful in the days ahead.

You who have been our dwelling place in all generations,  
grant that the homes from which we come  
and to which we go  
may always be blessed  
with friendship, generosity, and love.

Source of all knowledge and wisdom,  
Send us forward with your blessing  
free from unbounded pride and narrow prejudices  
such that all we claim to know  
and all we undertake may in some small way  
reflect the splendor of your truth and goodness. AMEN.