



# MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE

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BACCALAUREATE

VOTER LAWN  
MIDDLEBURY, VERMONT  
MAY 28, 2021



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## ORDER OF PROCESSION

### MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE CHOIR

#### ADMINISTRATION

Jeff Cason  
*Provost and Executive Vice President*

Sujata Moorti  
*Vice President for Academic Affairs,  
Dean of Faculty, and  
Charles A. Dana Professor*

Derek Doucet  
*Dean of Students*

Saifa Hussain  
*Associate Chaplain and  
Muslim Advisor*

Danielle A. Stillman  
*Associate Chaplain and Jewish Advisor*

Mark R. Orten  
*Dean of Spiritual and Religious Life and  
Director of the Scott Center*

Laurie L. Patton  
*President*

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## BACCALAUREATE SERVICE

Founded in 1800 with Protestant roots, Middlebury College has always been a nonsectarian institution. This Baccalaureate service pays honor to the full history of the College and its many traditions. One of these is an address to the senior class by the president at the time of Commencement.

The Baccalaureate service intends to welcome people of all faiths and no faith in the spirit of the College's intellectual heritage. We extend warm greetings to all those in attendance, affirming the importance of shared human values that are central to religious traditions and beliefs. We recognize our rich past and celebrate the diversity of beliefs and worldviews represented among the members of this senior class and those in attendance.

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George Matthew Jr., *College Carillonneur*

Jeffrey G. Buettner, *Director of Choral Activities, Organist,  
Christian A. Johnson Professor of Music*

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## THE CEREMONY

**PRELUDE** “Andantino” from Duet in C for Two Cellos  
*F. A. Kummer*  
Ashley Wang '21 and Wheeler Jarvis '21, cellists

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**LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT** Dean Mark R. Orten

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**INVOCATION** Rabbi Danielle Stillman

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**WELCOME** President Laurie L. Patton

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**WORDS ON WISDOM\*\*** The Hebrew Bible, Proverbs 3:13–20  
*Rachel Horowitz-Benoit*

The Bhagavad Gita 4:38–39  
*Laurie Patton*

The New Testament, James 3:13–18  
*Georgia Vasilopoulos*

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**MUSIC** “Andante” from Sonata in G  
*Jean-Baptiste Barriere*  
Ashley Wang '21 and Wheeler Jarvis '21, cellists

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*\*\*Translation of readings on pages 6–10*

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**WORDS ON WISDOM\*\*** The Qur'an 2:267–269  
*Hadjara Gado Alzouma*

Zen Teaching of Master Linji (d. 867)  
*Benjy Renton*

Toni Morrison  
Sarah Lawrence Commencement Address, 1989  
*Chima Dimgba*

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**MUSIC** Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal  
*William Billings, arr. Jeffrey Buettner*  
Middlebury College Choir Graduating Seniors

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**THE BACCALAUREATE ADDRESS** President Laurie L. Patton

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**MUSIC** The Lord Bless You and Keep You  
*Peter C. Lutkin (1858–1931)*  
Middlebury College Choir Graduating Seniors

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**BENEDICTION** Chaplain Saifa Hussain

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**CARILLON RECESSIONAL** George Matthew

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## THE HEBREW BIBLE, PROVERBS 3:13–20

*Translation: Jewish Publication Society (adapted)*

Happy is the one who finds wisdom,  
the one who attains understanding.  
Wisdom's value in trade is better than silver,  
her yield, greater than gold.  
She is more precious than rubies;  
all of your goods cannot equal her.  
In her right hand is length of days;  
in her left, riches and honor.  
Her ways are pleasant ways,  
and all her paths, peaceful.  
She is a tree of life to those who grasp her,  
and whoever holds on to her is happy.  
The LORD founded the earth by wisdom;  
the LORD established the heavens by understanding;  
By the LORD's knowledge the depths burst apart,  
and the skies distilled dew.

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## THE BHAGAVAD GITA 4.38–39

*Translation: Laurie L. Patton*

In this world,  
there is no purifier  
like wisdom;  
in time, one who is  
oneself perfected  
by yoga  
finds that wisdom  
in the self.

With wisdom  
as the highest goal,  
controlling the senses,  
and filled with trust  
one reaches wisdom.  
There, with wisdom reached,  
one goes quickly  
to the highest place.

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### **THE NEW TESTAMENT, JAMES 3:13-18**

*Translation: Luke Timothy Johnson (adapted)*

Who among you are wise and understanding? By their good manner of life let them demonstrate their deeds in wisdom's meekness. But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but one that is earthbound, unspiritual, demonic. For where there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there is disorder and every kind of mean practice. But the wisdom from above is first of all pure, then it is peaceable, gentle, open to persuasion. It is filled with mercy and with good fruits. It is not divided. It is not insincere. But the fruit that is righteousness is sown in peace by the makers of peace.

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### **THE QUR'AN 2:267-269**

*Translation: Abdel Haleem*

You who believe, give charitably from the good things you have acquired and that We have produced for you from the earth. Do not give away the bad things that you yourself would only accept with your eyes closed: remember that God is self-sufficient, worthy of all praise. Satan threatens you with the prospect of poverty and commands you to do foul deeds; God promises you His forgiveness and His abundance: God is limitless and all knowing, and He gives wisdom to whomever He will. Whoever is given wisdom has truly been given much good, but only those with insight bear this in mind.

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## ZEN TEACHING OF MASTER LINJI (D. 867)

*Translation: Burton Watson*

When students today fail to make progress, where's the fault? The fault lies in the fact that they don't have faith in themselves! If you don't have faith in yourself, then you'll be forever in a hurry trying to keep up with everything around you, you'll be twisted and turned by whatever environment you're in and you can never move freely. But if you can just stop this mind that goes rushing around moment by moment looking for something, you'll be no different from the patriarchs and buddhas.

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## TONI MORRISON

*Sarah Lawrence College Commencement Address, 1989*

I want to talk about dreaming. Not the activity of the sleeping brain, but rather the activity of an awake and alert one. Not idle, wishful speculation, but engaged, directed daytime vision. About entrance into another space. Someone else's situation, sphere, projection, if you like. By dreaming, the self permits intimacy with the other without the risk of being the other. And this intimacy that comes from pointed imagining should precede all of our decision making, all of our cause mongering and our action. We are in a mess, you know, and we have to get out. . . . We should visualize, imagine, dream up, and enter the other before we presume to solve their problems or ours. We might as well dream the world as it ought to be.







Middlebury  
College