

McCormick Theological Seminary

*Opening Convocation of the 193rd Academic Year*



The Opening Convocation  
of the 193rd Academic Year  
of  
McCormick Theological Seminary

Tuesday, September 6, 2022

5:00 p.m.

live streaming at

[https://www.facebook.com/  
McCormickSeminary/live/](https://www.facebook.com/McCormickSeminary/live/)

In person attendance  
at the Quadrangle  
5460 South University Avenue

**Gathering Music & Procession**

Ozzie Smith

**Call to Worship**

Cynthiya Varghese

Let us gather in the Quad and in cyberspace  
to worship the one who calls us into the journey,  
the Giver of Faith, the One we can Trust.

Let us worship the Divine  
who call us into a living hope  
on the lands first settled by the Potawatomi peoples.

As a community of staff, students, and faculty,  
Let us praise together our God, our Caller,  
our Companion on the road,  
our conversation partner,  
and our Guide through the journey.  
And let the people of God say,

*All: Amén!*

**Gathering Prayer**

Leslie Diaz-Perez

**Salutation and Welcome**

David Crawford

**Prayer of Illumination**

Anne Smith

**Reading 1 – Isaiah 42:1-4**

Anne Smith

But here is my servant, the one I uphold;  
my chosen, who brings me delight.  
I've put my spirit upon him;  
he will bring justice to the nations.  
<sup>2</sup> He won't cry out or shout aloud  
or make his voice heard in public.  
<sup>3</sup> He won't break a bruised reed;  
he won't extinguish a faint wick,  
but he will surely bring justice.  
<sup>4</sup> He won't be extinguished or broken  
until he has established justice in the land.  
The coastlands await his teaching.

**Introduction of Speaker** Steed Davidson

**Address** Reggie Williams

*Thinking About Sacrifices*

**Special Music** *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me* Ozzie Smith

**Song** *We Shall Overcome* Antonia Coleman  
Public Domain

We shall overcome,  
We shall overcome,  
We shall overcome, some day.  
Oh, deep in my heart,  
I do believe  
We shall overcome, some day.

**Prayers of the People** Seyo Oh (Korean), Stephen Apollo (Swahili)  
and Doralice Gardner (English)

**One:** Gracious God, in your steadfast love and faithfulness,

**All:** *We trust in living hope that you receive our prayers.*

**Song** *We Shall Overcome* Antonia Coleman  
Public Domain

We shall overcome,  
We shall overcome,  
We shall overcome, some day.  
Oh, deep in my heart,  
I do believe  
We shall overcome, some day.

**Matriculation of New Students** Steed Davidson

Dean: Today you formally begin your journey in this community of McCormick Theological Seminary, a community of teaching, learning, and service. Do you commit yourself to building this community and supporting its mission? Will you dedicate yourself to learning and growing so that you can be a vital participant in God's work in the world? Are you prepared, with God's help, to commit your hearts and minds to work, study, and serve as part of the McCormick community today?

**New Students:** *Yes, with God's help, we willingly and with purpose,  
join the McCormick community and will work, study, and serve to sustain its  
mission.*

Dean: To those returning to this McCormick community will you join with our  
new students in dedicating yourselves to participate in learning and growing in  
knowledge, and re-dedicate yourselves to serve our mission and the wider  
community?

**Returning Students:** *Yes, we will, and we rejoice with those who join  
us today.*

**Academic Announcements**

David Crawford

**Benediction**

Reggie Williams

**Closing Hymn**

*God of Grace & God of Glory*

Public Domain

Antonia Coleman

Ozzie Smith

God of grace and God of glory,  
On thy people pour thy power;  
Crown thine ancient church's story;  
Bring its bud to glorious flower.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
For the facing of this hour,  
For the facing of this hour.

Lo! The hosts of evil round us  
Scorn thy Christ, assail thy ways!  
From the fears that long have bound us  
Free our hearts to faith and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
For the living of these days,  
For the living of these days.

Set our feet on lofty places;  
Gird our lives that they may be  
Armored with all Christ-like graces,  
Pledged to set all captives free.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
That we fail not them nor thee,  
That we fail not them nor thee.

**Dr. Reggie Williams** is Professor of Christian Ethics at McCormick Theological Seminary. Williams' book *Bonhoeffer's Black Jesus: Harlem Renaissance Theology and an Ethic of Resistance*, published by Baylor University Press, was named a choice outstanding title in 2014. The book examines the impact of exposure to Christianity in Harlem during the Harlem Renaissance on the German pastor and theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who was killed by the Nazis in 1945 for his activism against them.

Dr. Williams' current work continues to focus on the intersection of religion and identity within the field of theological studies, most notably in a project that he began during sabbatical that highlights the problem of the human as a problem for Christian Ethics.

Before coming to McCormick in July of 2012, Dr. Williams taught Christian Ethics at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. He is also a senior research fellow for the International Baptist Theological Study Center in Amsterdam; he is on the board of directors for the Society for the Study of Black Religion, and the International Dietrich Bonhoeffer Society, English language section; and he is a former board member of the Society for Christian Ethics. He and his wife Stacy Williams are the parents of a son, Darion, and a daughter, Simone.