



The Rev. Michael Spencer
15th Head of School

Wednesday, September 6, 2023 • 8:30 a.m.

Athletic Center • Oregon Episcopal School

Educating students to realize their power for good



MISSION: WHY WE EXIST

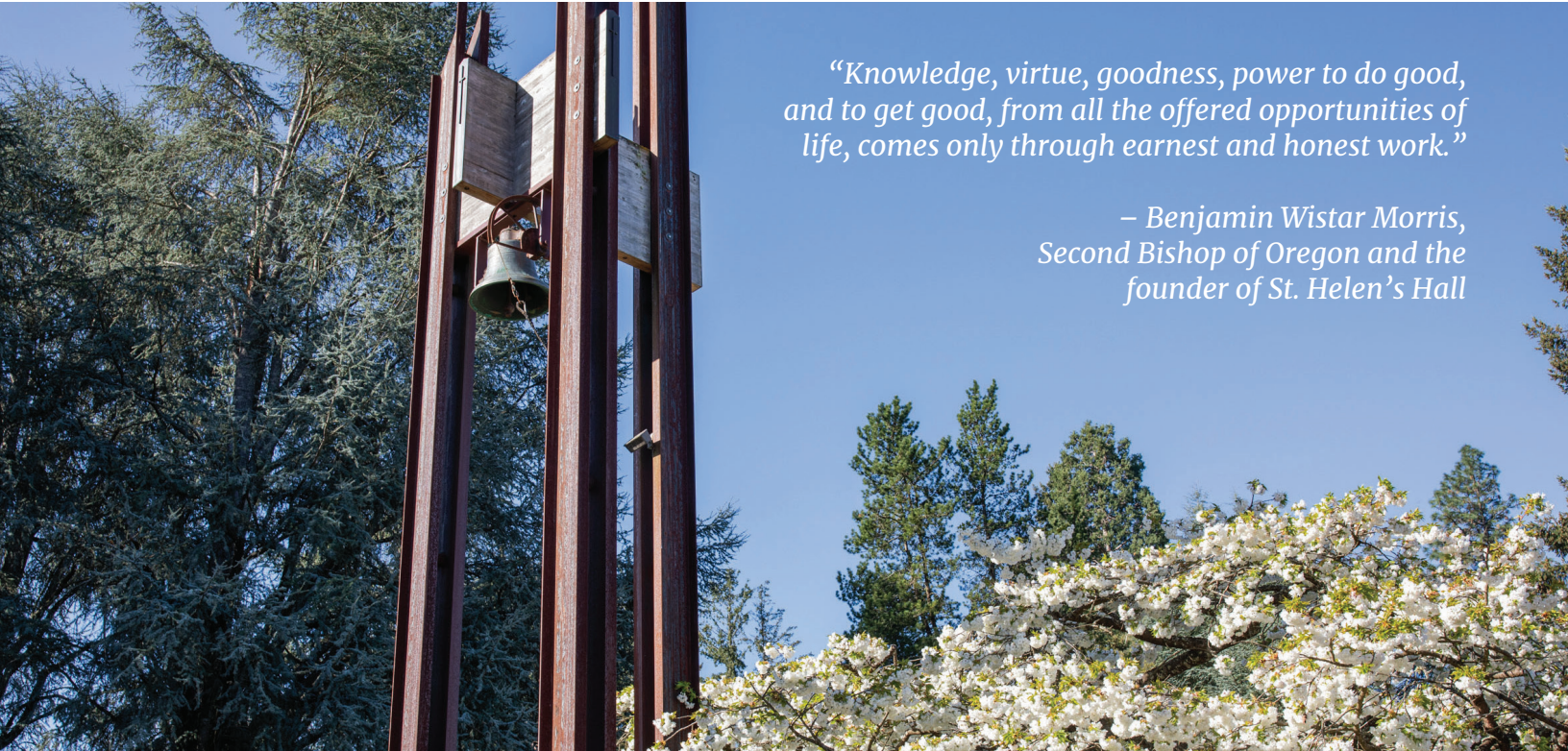
Oregon Episcopal School prepares students for higher education and lifelong learning by inspiring intellectual, physical, social, emotional, artistic, and spiritual growth so that they may realize their power for good as citizens of local and world communities.

IDENTITY: WHO WE ARE

Our Oregon Home Matters: Perched on the Pacific Rim, nestled between the ocean and mountains, bordered by both natural wetlands and urban development, we nurture intrinsic curiosity about complex environments and people of diverse backgrounds, creating intentional connections and collaborative, sustainable solutions.

Our Episcopal Tradition Matters: Rooted in a rhythm of gathering and reflection, we educate toward a larger purpose—toward inclusion and respect, understanding and compassion, service and social justice, toward meaning and commitment beyond ourselves.

Our School Philosophy Matters: Grounded in the belief that the advancement of knowledge flows from open and rigorous inquiry, we cultivate the life of the mind and the whole person by connecting questions with exploration and discovery, theories with scrutiny, expression with art, and self with subject.



“Knowledge, virtue, goodness, power to do good, and to get good, from all the offered opportunities of life, comes only through earnest and honest work.”

*– Benjamin Wistar Morris,
Second Bishop of Oregon and the
founder of St. Helen’s Hall*

ORDER OF SERVICE

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Alexander Matthews '24
Student Body President

COMMUNITY WELCOME AND OPENING SENTENCE

The Rev. VJ Sathyaraj
Head Chaplain

“Love recognizes no barriers. It jumps hurdles,
leaps fences, penetrates walls to arrive at its
destination full of hope.” – Maya Angelou

OPENING SONG ————— “Circle of Love” ————— Led by the Fifth Grade Students Amy Rheingans Lower School Music Teacher

Felicia Sandler

Refrain (First time: Lower School Students • All join after Verse 1)

A cir - cle of love, yes a cir - cle of love; each hand in a hand, a
cir - cle of friends. A cir - cle of love that is o - pen to all; we
o - pen the cir - cle and wel - come each one of you in.

Verses (Verse 1: Lower School Students • Verse 2: All)

1. Each per - son has some - thing to bring a song, a sto - ry,
2. All peo - ple are spe - cial to God: the lost, the lone - ly,
1. a smile, a tear - drop, a dream, and lov - ing to share.
2. the sick, the hun - gry. With God now we wel - come them in.

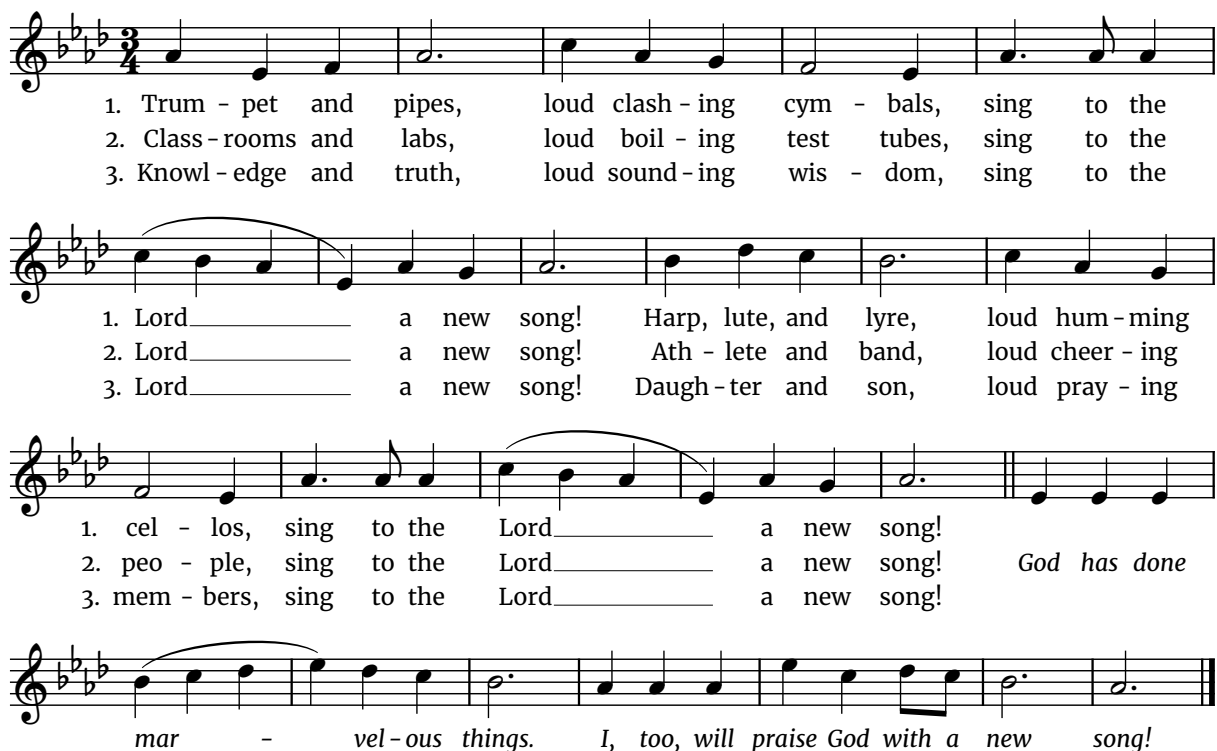
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– PLEASE STAND –

OPENING HYMN ————— “Earth and All Stars” ————— All

Herbert F. Brokering

David N. Johnson



1. Trum - pet and pipes, loud clash - ing cym - bals, sing to the
 2. Class - rooms and labs, loud boil - ing test tubes, sing to the
 3. Knowl - edge and truth, loud sound - ing wis - dom, sing to the

1. Lord a new song! Harp, lute, and lyre, loud hum - ming
 2. Lord a new song! Ath - lete and band, loud cheer - ing
 3. Lord a new song! Daugh - ter and son, loud pray - ing

1. cel - los, sing to the Lord a new song!
 2. peo - ple, sing to the Lord a new song! God has done
 3. mem - bers, sing to the Lord a new song!

mar - vel - ous things. I, too, will praise God with a new song!

Text: Herbert F. Brokering. © 1968, Augsburg Publishing House. All rights reserved.
 Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS; David N. Johnson. © 1968, Augsburg Publishing House. All rights reserved.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

The Rev. VJ Sathyaraj

Blessed are you, O God of many names, Creator of the universe, and giver of unexpected joys. We remember your love and mercy, and this morning, with grateful hearts, we invite the presence of your Spirit in this new beginning. We give thanks for the life you have given us and the world in which we live; for the work we are enabled to do, and the truth we are invited to learn; and for all the hopes and aspirations that inspire us. Help us to Be Here Now, to be present, to be together. Through the in-breaking of your spirit, break us open with joy; break us open with gratitude for students, families, employees, alumni, friends, for this special and beloved community of Oregon Episcopal School . . .

All: Amen.

– PLEASE BE SEATED –

OPENING REMARKS

Amy Richards
 Friend and Former
 St. Paul's School Colleague

PRESENTATION

Paul Ehrlich
*President of the Board of Trustees
and Chair of the Head of School Search Committee*

Board President: Michael, you are entrusted with the oversight of preparing the students of Oregon Episcopal School for higher education and lifelong learning by inspiring intellectual, physical, social, emotional, artistic, and spiritual growth so that they may realize their power for good as citizens of local and world communities. Will you accept this responsibility?

Head of School: I will, with God's help.

Board President: Will you solemnly promise to work with the employees of OES and its Board of trustees to strive to fulfill this responsibility to the best of your abilities?

Head of School: I will, with God's help.

Board President: Members of the OES community, will you solemnly promise to support Michael's leadership and vision in fulfilling the mission of Oregon Episcopal School?

All: We will.

PRAYER OF INSTALLATION

The Rt. Rev. Diana Akiyama
*Chair of the Board of Trustees
Bishop of the Episcopal Church in Western Oregon*

O God, you are the lover of souls in whom we live and move and have our being. Look kindly on Oregon Episcopal School and its fellowship with Episcopal schools across this nation. In the presence of this assembled congregation, today we celebrate the ministry and vocation of Michael Spencer, whom you have called to be Head of School and whom we now commission in this endeavor. As he begins this role of leadership through service, strengthen him with patience and understanding, that he might lead Oregon Episcopal School with joy, love, and care for this community. Guide and comfort and protect Michael and his family, draw them closer to each other, to this community, and to you. In his work, help him to join together with the faculty, staff, administration and trustees to nurture the growth and development of students, the care of this community, and the noble purpose to help all who come here realize their power for good. In this collective work, help them to make this school a beloved community: a place of open doors, open minds, and open hearts where all are welcome. We ask all in the name of the One who reconciles us with love. In peace we pray . . .

All: Amen.

FIRST READING

"Shoulders"
by Naomi Shihab Nye

Jia Bhardwaj '28

A man crosses the street in rain,
stepping gently, looking two times north and south,
because his son is asleep on his shoulder.

No car must splash him.
No car drive too near to his shadow.

This man carries the world's most sensitive cargo
but he's not marked.
Nowhere does his jacket say FRAGILE,
HANDLE WITH CARE.

His ear fills up with breathing.
He hears the hum of a boy's dream
deep inside him.

We're not going to be able
to live in this world
if we're not willing to do what he's doing
with one another.

The road will only be wide.
The rain will never stop falling.

SECOND READING

The Parable of the Good Samaritan
Luke 10:25-37

Stephen Pyle
*Front Desk and Upper School
Administrative Assistant*

An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.' Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

HOMILY

The Rt. Rev. Diana Akiyama

MUSICAL OFFERING

Double Violin Concerto in D Minor, BWV 1043
I. Vivace
J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Gong Trio
Macy Gong '24
Piano
Michael Gong '28
Clarinet
Maxwell Gong '29
Violin

– PLEASE STAND –

PRAYERS FROM THE COMMUNITY

The Rev. VJ Sathyaraj

Let us join in prayer for Oregon Episcopal School and for our new Head of School, Michael Spencer, as he prepares to live into this ministry and vocation. In peace we pray . . .

All: Amen.

Parent: Krystal Ngene, Parent of Third Grade Student

O God of many names, known universally through the way of Love, we pray that this school may continue to be a place where our families thrive and learn and grow in love together. May this be a safe haven, a welcoming community, and a stable home. In peace we pray . . .

ALL: Amen.

Lower School Student: West Jacobson '31

We give thanks for the forests and fields, the playgrounds and wetlands, places to discover and explore. May we always find time to be joyful, to play, and to remember that we are all children of God. In peace we pray . . .

ALL: Amen.

Employee: Lyn Zenisek, Lower School Senior Administrative Asst. and Parent of Alumnus

We pray for those who teach and those who learn. May this school, entrusted to our care, be a lively center for sound learning, creative inquiry, new discovery, and the pursuit of wisdom. In peace we pray . . .

ALL: Amen.

Middle School Student: Evan Goldstein '28

We pray for those who have been called into the student fellowship of this school. As we grow through our time at OES, grant us the desire for a sound mind in a sound body, the love of truth and the courage to stand for it. In peace we pray . . .

ALL: Amen.

Alumnus: John Van Ballegooijen '95

We give thanks for the community of alumni who have learned and grown in this special place. Help us to live the OES mission as engaged citizens of the world, respecting the dignity of every human being and seeking the welfare of others. In peace we pray . . .

ALL: Amen.

Upper School Student: Lou Buonincontro '24

As we continue our journey, may we be blessed with creativity, imagination, and insight. Grant us the gift of joy and wonder in the beauty of creation, the blessing of enduring friendships, the strength to serve our companions in love, and steadfast commitment to all that is worthy in this school. In peace we pray . . .

All: Amen.

Trustee: Ryan Finley, Parent of Fourth & Sixth Grade Students

We give thanks for the love and labor of many who have built a strong foundation over 154 years. Mindful of our past, thankful for the blessings of our present, and hopeful for the promise of our future, may we and all who follow after us continue to help this community live into its mission with compassion, care, and kindness. In peace we pray . . .

All: Amen.

– PLEASE BE SEATED –

PRESENTATION OF COMMUNITY GIFTS

Chelsea Lamb
Director of After School Programs
Ed Cecere
Upper School Technology Coordinator, Adjunct Dorm Parent

Rain Boots for Wetlands

Lower School

Andrew Li '31 and Amelia Leslie-Hurd '31

OES Paddle Featuring Aardy

Middle School

Aya Greeney '28

Pacific Northwest Book Bundle

Upper School

Etti Teherani Ami '24

**Reserved Seat at Wednesday
Family Dinners**

Residential Life

Gigi Chen '24

Oregon Rose Bush

Faculty and Staff

Tom Handel, Experiential Education Director

Pendelton Blanket

Parent Community

Kristin Deshmukh, All School Parent Partnership Chair

**Historic Cross in Silver
Crystal Globe Paperweight**

Alumni Community

Katherine Karafotias '66

Clergy Stole

Episcopal Parish of St. John the Baptist

The Rev. Marianne Allison, Interim Rector

Keys to the Campus

Board of Trustees

Paul Ehrlich, President, OES Board of Trustees

HEAD OF SCHOOL REMARKS

The Rev. Michael Spencer

MUSICAL OFFERING

————— “The Light on the Hill” —————

Scot Crandal, Conductor

Ashley McCullar, Piano

Kari Burgess, Soprano

Lindsey Rae Johnson, Alto

Michael McDonald, Tenor

Zachary Lenox, Baritone

Singers from the Episcopal Parish of St. John the Baptist

Will Keene '25, Tenor

Kaitlyn O'Neill '24, Soprano

Rebecca Oswald

All join in singing the final verse:



6. This is a place where love has al-ways been the way, and al-ways will; with o-pen



6. arms we bid you wel-come to the light, to the light, to the light on the hill.

Text: Irregular meter. Music: WALNUT LANE. Text and music © 2004, 2018, Rebecca Oswald (BMI).
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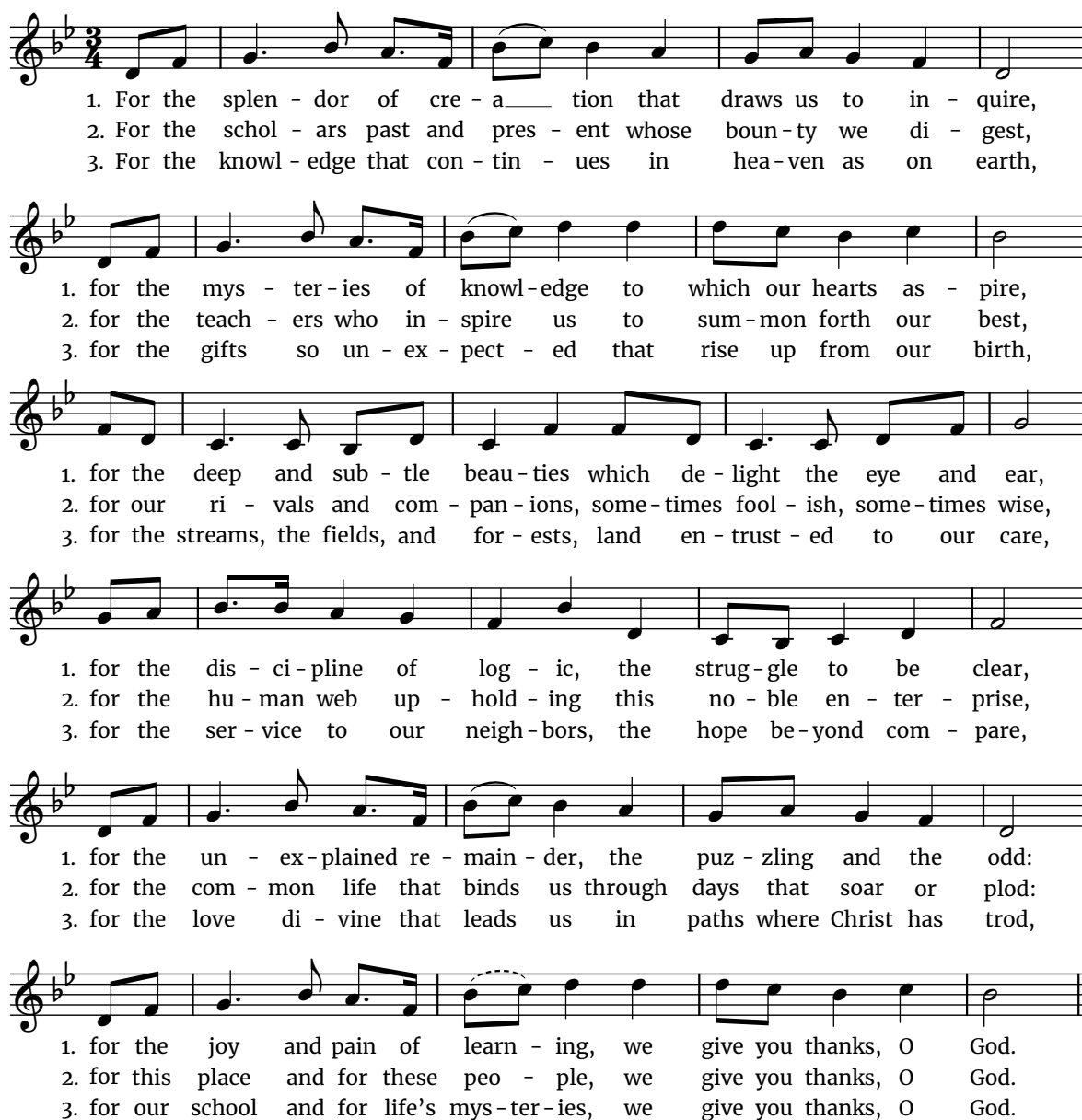
FINAL PRAYER AND BLESSING

The Rt. Rev. Diana Akiyama

RECESSIONAL HYMN ————— “For the Splendor of Creation” ————— All

Verses 1, 2 by Carl P. Daw
Verse 3 by Michael Spencer

Gustav Holst (1874–1934)



1. For the splen - dor of cre - a - tion that draws us to in - quire,
2. For the schol - ars past and pres - ent whose boun - ty we di - gest,
3. For the knowl - edge that con - tin - ues in hea - ven as on earth,

1. for the mys - ter - ies of knowl - edge to which our hearts as - pire,
2. for the teach - ers who in - spire us to sum - mon forth our best,
3. for the gifts so un - ex - pect - ed that rise up from our birth,

1. for the deep and sub - tle beau - ties which de - light the eye and ear,
2. for our ri - vals and com - pan - ions, some - times fool - ish, some - times wise,
3. for the streams, the fields, and for - ests, land en - trust - ed to our care,

1. for the dis - ci - pline of log - ic, the strug - gle to be clear,
2. for the hu - man web up - hold - ing this no - ble en - ter - prise,
3. for the ser - vice to our neigh - bors, the hope be - yond com - pare,

1. for the un - ex - plained re - main - der, the puz - zling and the odd:
2. for the com - mon life that binds us through days that soar or plod:
3. for the love di - vine that leads us in paths where Christ has trod,

1. for the joy and pain of learn - ing, we give you thanks, O God.
2. for this place and for these peo - ple, we give you thanks, O God.
3. for our school and for life's mys - ter - ies, we give you thanks, O God.

Text: Verses 1, 2: Carl P. Daw, © 1989; Verse 3: Michael Spencer, © 2008. All rights reserved.
Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst. From The Planets, adapt. by Gustav Holst (1874–1934).

Participants

Listed in order of appearance

Alexander Matthews '24	Ed Cecere
The Rev. VJ Sathyaraj	Andrew Li '31
Amy Rheingans	Amelia Leslie-Hurd '31
OES Fifth Grade Students	Aya Greeney '28
Amy Richards	Etti Teherani Ami '24
Paul Ehrlich	Gigi Chen '24
The Rt. Rev. Diana Akiyama	Tom Handel
Jia Bhardwaj '28	Kristin Deshmukh
Stephen Pyle	Katherine Karafotias '66
Macy Gong '24	The Rev. Marianne Allison
Michael Gong '28	The Rev. Michael Spencer
Maxwell Gong '29	Scot Crandal
Krystal Ngene	Ashley McCullar
West Jacobson '31	Kari Burgess
Lyn Zenisek	Lindsey Rae Johnson
Evan Goldstein '28	Michael McDonald
John Van Ballegooijen '95	Zachary Lenox
Lou Buonincontro '24	Will Keene '25
Ryan Finley	Kaitlyn O'Neill '24
Chelsea Lamb	

Special thanks to Alexis Borges-Silva, Wendy Rutis, Zachary Lenox, the Athletics Department, the Facilities Department, and the Visual, Performing, and Musical Arts Department.

Head of School Installation Committee:

Andrew Asato, Chair
The Rev. Marianne Allison
Esther Al-Wetaid
Karen Crandal
Kristin Deshmukh
Cameron Jack
Chelsea Lamb
Madeline Pruett
Amy Richards
The Rev. VJ Sathyaraj
Gisela Walitzki

*Thank you for attending
the Installation of
The Rev. Michael Spencer.*

*Please join us at the
reception following the program.*



*“A good school shows the world what goodness is. It is more than cheering at a ballgame.
It has a holy purpose for truth, for honesty, for helping people.”*

– John Dallas, 4th bishop of New Hampshire



*“The eyes of the future are looking back at us
and they are praying for us to see beyond our own time.”*

– Terry Tempest Williams



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