BACCALAUREATE AND COMMENCEMENT
December 11, 2022 • 10:30 a.m. • Wartburg Chapel

Preludial Music
Dr. Karen Black, College Organist, Cantor, and Rudi Inselmann Endowed Professor in Organ

*Procesional Music: Trumpet Tune in D Major....................... David Johnson
Dr. Black

*Welcome
The Rev. Halcyon Bjornstad
Interim Dean of Spiritual Life

*Opening Hymn: Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn
ELW 242
(Words and music on page 10)

*Greeting
Pastor Bjornstad
Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
People: And also with you.

*Prayer of the Day
Pastor Bjornstad

Readings
Isaiah 35:1-10
Rebecca Baird ’18, Pastoral Intern

James 5:7-10
Elizabeth Inselmann ’22

The Holy Gospel — Matthew 11:2-11
Pastor Bjornstad
Response after the Gospel reading: Praise to you, O Christ.

Message
Pastor Bjornstad

*Hymn of the Day: Comfort, Comfort Now My People
ELW 256
(Words and music on page 11)

*Prayers of the People
Rebecca Baird
Each petition ends with:
Pastor: Lord, in your mercy;
People: hear our prayer.

* Congregation stands
Presentation of Wartburg Medals
June Rickhoff Mehlhaus ’61 & Dr. Fred Ribich

Dr. Rebecca Neiduski
President

Presentation of the Candidates for Degrees

Dr. Debora Johnson-Ross
Vice President for Academic Affairs
and Dean of the Faculty

Remarks

President Neiduski

Conferring of Degrees

President Neiduski
Dr. Johnson-Ross

Charge to the Class

President Neiduski

*Hymn: Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers
(Words and music on page 12)

ELW 244

*Benediction

Rebecca Baird

*Recessional/Postlude

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Robert Powell
Dr. Black

*Congregation stands
June Rickhoff Mehlhaus ’61

June Rickhoff Mehlhaus ’61 shared her love of learning with special education students in Northeast Iowa and her passion for Wartburg College with any student in her school or church congregation she thought would flourish at her alma mater.

When her husband, John ’62, died in 2010, June made a leadership gift to establish the Knights Legacy Circle, a program to encourage endowment gifts to strengthen and sustain Wartburg athletics, as well as the John and June Mehlhaus Endowed Scholarship.

She became a member of the President’s Round Table in 2012 and offered her expertise to the college as a participant in the Commission on Mission Summit process. She later served on the Transforming Tomorrow National Campaign Committee. Now, as a resident of Eisenach Village, Mehlhaus continues to engage in the life of the college with a special fondness for the Keep on Learning community education series.

In the community, Mehlhaus has served as the chair of the Mission Board at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church & School and on the social committee at Eisenach Village, where she is very active in the retirement community. Mehlhaus also participates in a quilting group in Dysart and has donated to the EWALU Fall Festival & Quilt Auction.
Dr. Fred Ribich

Dr. Fred Ribich, professor emeritus of psychology and former director of institutional research and assessment, joined the college in 1977. A self-professed lifelong learner, Ribich never shied away from a challenge and held many roles during his Wartburg tenure, most notably his 16 years as the chair of the Department of Social Sciences, the department he is credited with creating. Ribich also served as an assistant dean, interim vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty, college marshal, and as a member of numerous faculty committees.

In addition to his intellectual and professional support of the college, Ribich is also a Heritage Society member and served on the Transforming Tomorrow Campaign Steering Committee.

Following his retirement in 2016, Ribich continued to help where needed, serving in interim roles as the accreditation support associate for Higher Learning Commission reaccreditation, Vogel Library director, and library archivist. Ribich is a volunteer with the Waverly-Shell Rock Area United Way, served as the United Way campaign co-chair in 2015-16, and is a member of the Waverly Public Library Foundation Board.

He also was a longtime member of the Waverly City Council and was council liaison to multiple boards and commissions. Ribich and his wife, Trish, are residents of Eisenach Village and are active members of St. Mary Catholic Church.

A list of past Wartburg Medal recipients can be found at www.wartburg.edu/president.
Class of 2022

Bachelor of Music Education

Cam Mears  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Regents Scholar  
Music Education  
  Vocal  
West Des Moines, Iowa

Bachelor of Arts

Trinity Lynn Borland  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Regents Scholar  
Mathematics  
  Secondary Education  
Bettendorf, Iowa

Callum Theodore Monroe Brittain  
Business Administration  
  Sport Management  
  Marketing  
White River Junction, Vermont

Cody Steven Christoffersen  
Psychology  
Business Administration  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Addie Carolee D. Dean  
*Summa Cum Laude*  
Regents Scholar  
Accounting  
Business Administration  
Hampton, Iowa

Andrew D. Ellison  
Business Administration  
Moline, Illinois

Vanja Glisic  
Computer Science  
Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Austin David Griffin  
Accounting  
Business Administration  
  Finance  
Winona, Minnesota

Micah Paul Harber  
Accounting  
Rochester, Minnesota

Anna L. Hertz  
*Summa Cum Laude*  
Regents Scholar  
Spanish  
Business Administration  
  Marketing  
Cedar Falls, Iowa  
In Absentia
Nathan Phillip Hill  
Business Administration  
Marketing  
Waverly, Iowa

Rebecca Lynn Hoffman  
Cum Laude  
Psychology  
Business Administration  
Ionia, Iowa

Alec Rosmon Ille  
Journalism and Communication  
Digital Cinema and Production  
Organizational and Public Relations  
Sports Media  
Blooming Prairie, Minnesota

Elizabeth Grace Inselman  
Magna Cum Laude  
Elementary Education  
Dayton, Minnesota

Marissa Jazmín Lopez  
Regents Scholar  
Biology  
Spanish  
Ankeny, Iowa

Dalton Edward James Martin  
Physical Education  
Rock Island, Illinois

Brandon James Merritt  
Summa Cum Laude  
Regents Scholar  
Biochemistry  
Johnston, Iowa

Grant Reginald Meth  
Magna Cum Laude  
Regents Scholar  
Physical Education  
Marion, Iowa

Alanna Naimmah Muhammad  
Neuroscience  
Waterloo, Iowa

Darcie Rose Pilon  
Cum Laude  
Regents Scholar  
Elementary Education  
East Moline, Illinois

Samuel James Reyes  
Summa Cum Laude  
Regents Scholar  
Biochemistry  
Davenport, Iowa

Kelsey Claire Ryan  
Journalism and Communication  
Organizational and Public Relations  
Knoxville, Iowa

Antonio Daniel Santillan  
Business Administration  
Management  
Marketing  
Davenport, Iowa

Jetti Hope Schmudlach  
Cum Laude  
Psychology  
Tripoli, Iowa

Allison K Smith  
Psychology  
Davenport, Iowa
Joy Feay Smith
Elementary Education
Polk City, Iowa

Chloe Elizabeth Swanson
*Summa Cum Laude*
Regents Scholar
Business Administration
Management
Supply Chain Management
Maquoketa, Iowa

Nicholas James Thompson
Journalism and Communication
Organizational and Public Relations
Sports Media
Blooming Prairie, Minnesota

Jaden Reese Van Roekel
Health and Fitness Studies
Coaching
Oskaloosa, Iowa
In Absentia

*Cum Laude* (3.50-3.69 GPA) | *Magna Cum Laude* (3.70-3.84 GPA) | *Summa Cum Laude* (3.85-4.00 GPA)

Students awarded Summa Cum Laude academic honors received gold cords.

Regents Scholar signifies students who have received Regents Scholarships all four years.

Regents and Presidential Scholars received medals in recognition of this honor.

*As final action cannot always be taken by the time this program is printed, the list of degree and award recipients is tentative; the college reserves the right to withdraw or add names and make other necessary changes.*
Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

1 Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn, for

2 To us, to all in sorrow and fear, Em-

3 In darkest night his coming shall be, when

4 Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night, though

angels herald its dawning. Sing out your joy, for

manuel comes aspiring, his humble song is

all the world is despairing, as morning light so

dark the winter and cheerless, the rising sun shall

soon he is born, behold! the Child of our longing.

quiet and near, yet fills the earth with its ringing;

quiet and free, so warm and gentle and caring.

crown you with light, be strong and loving and fearless.

Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts to-

music to heal the broken soul and hymns of longing.

Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in

Love be our song and love our prayer and love our endless

gatherer, he opens wide the heav’nly door and

kindness, the thunder of his anthems roll to

wonder, the weak be raised above the strong, and

story; may God fill ev’ry day we share and

lives now inside us forever.

shatter all hatred and blindness.

weapons be broken a

sunder.

bring us at last into glory.
Comfort, Comfort Now My People

1 “Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!” So says our God.
2 For the herald’s voice is crying in the desert far and near,
3 Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain.

Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow’s load,
calling us to true repentance, since the reign of God is here.
Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God’s holy reign.

To God’s people now proclaim that God’s pardon waits for them!
Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way.
For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad,

Tell them that their war is over; God will reign in peace forever.
Valleys, rise to greet the Savior; hills, bow down in humble favor.
and all flesh shall see the token that God’s word is never broken.
Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660-1722; Sarah B. Findlater, 1823-1907.
Music: Swedish folk tune. Used by permission with licensure.

1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear;
2 The watch-ers on the moun-tain pro-claim the bride-groom near;
3 The saints, who here in pa-tience their cross and suf-frings bore,
4 Our hope and ex-pec-ta-tion, O Je-sus, now ap-pear;

The evening is ad-vanc-ing, and dark-er night is near.
Go forth as he ap-proaches with al-le-lu-ias clear.
Shall live and reign for-ev-er when sor-row is no more.
A-rise, O Sun so longed for, o’er this be-night-ed sphere.

The bride-groom is a-ris-ing and soon is draw-ing nigh.
The mar-riage feast is wait-ing; the gates wide o-pen stand.
A-round the throne of glo-ry the Lamb they shall be-hold;
With hearts and hands up-lift-ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

Up, pray and watch and wres-tle; at mid-night comes the cry.
A-rise, O heirs of glo-ry; the bride-groom is at hand.
in tri-umph cast be-fore him their di-a-dems of gold.
the day of earth’s re-demp-tion that sets your peo-ple free!

ELW 242 Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn Text and music: Marty Haugen, 1950. Used by permission with licensure.
The Academic Regalia

The pageantry and dress of Commencement have been inherited from the medieval universities of the 11th and 12th centuries.

Academic life as we know it today began in the Middle Ages, first in the church, then in the guilds. The teaching guild was the Guild of the Master of Arts, where the Bachelor was the apprentice of the Master and the dress was the outward sign of privilege and responsibility.

Principal features of academic dress are the gown, the cap, and the hood. It became necessary for universities to set rules to preserve the dignity and meaning of the academic dress. Since the 15th century, both Cambridge and Oxford have made academic dress a matter of university control, even in its minor details, and have repeatedly published revised regulations. American universities agreed on a definite system in 1895. In 1932, the American Council of Education presented a revised code, which, for the most part, governs the style of academic dress today.

The Gown: The flowing gown comes from the 12th century. While it originally was worn as protection against the cold of unheated buildings, today it has become symbolic of the democracy of scholarship, for it covers any dress of rank or social standing underneath. It is black for all degrees, with pointed sleeves for the bachelor’s degree, long closed sleeves with a slit at the arm or wrist for the master’s degree, and full bell-double sleeves for the doctor’s degree. Bachelor’s and master’s gowns have no trimming. For the doctor’s degree, the gown is faced down the front with velvet and has three bars of velvet across the sleeves in the color distinctive of the faculty or discipline to which the degree pertains.

The Cap: When Roman law freed slaves, they won the privilege of wearing a cap. Thus, the academic cap is a sign of freedom of scholarship and the responsibility and dignity with which scholarship endows the wearer. Old poetry records the cap of scholarship as square to symbolize the book. The color of the tassel denotes the discipline.

The Hood: The hood is trimmed with one or more chevrons of a secondary color on the ground of the primary color of the college. The color of the hood facing denotes the discipline represented by the degree; the color of the lining designates the university or college from which the degree was granted.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations and God’s lifelong blessings to this morning’s graduates. A warm Wartburg welcome to all family and friends of our graduates who worship with us today. You are invited to a reception in honor of our graduates immediately following the ceremony in the Bachman Fine Arts Center lobby.

Many thanks to the Rev. Halcyon Bjornstad, interim dean of spiritual life, for sharing her message with us today.

Thanks to all who lead us in worship this morning:

Musicians: Dr. Karen Black, college organist and cantor
Readers: Rebecca Baird ’18, pastoral intern, and Elizabeth Inselmann ’22
Sound: Kathryn Christy ’25
Ushers: Kari Kitchen ’26 and Jenna Krogulski ’24
Worship Leaders: Pastor Bjornstad and Rebecca Baird
Mace Bearer: Micah Harber ’22

A Blessed Holiday Season to All!
Wartburg College is dedicated to challenging and nurturing students for lives of leadership and service as a spirited expression of their faith and learning.