

Hamilton College

BACCALAUREATE



CLINTON, NEW YORK

May 23, 2026

Land Acknowledgment

With humility and pride, Hamilton College acknowledges its campus sits on the ancestral homelands of the Oneida Indian Nation. The Oneida, or Onyota'a:ká: in their Indigenous language, means People of the Standing Stone. Emerging in 1793 from a vision by Rev. Samuel Kirkland and Oneida Chief Shenendoah — both now interred side-by-side on our campus — to establish a place where American Indians and settler youth could receive a quality education, Hamilton College's very foundation was built upon Indigenous reciprocity and inclusivity.

We recognize our past failures to implement this vision. Through sharing our community and educational resources, we are committed to building a sustainable partnership with the Oneida Indian Nation and the Haudenosaunee peoples; we embrace that our past and our future are forever tied to the Oneida People.

This Land Acknowledgment was written collaboratively with the Oneida Indian Nation.

ORDER OF SERVICE

PRELUDE

Sar-Shalom Strong
Pianist

STUDENT PROCESSIONAL

Congregation is invited to stand

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & CENTERING SILENCE

Brielle L. Whalen '26

GREETING

The Rev. Dr. Colleen Hallagan Preuninger '06
Dean of Spiritual & Religious Life

SIKH TRADITION READING

Arshdeep Kaur '26

CATHOLIC TRADITION READING

Rebecca J. Felker '26
Madeleine R. Cerone '26

JEWISH TRADITION READING

Jared R. Maidman '26
Remarks co-written with Dana L. Blatte '26

ANTHEM

This is the day

Stanford Scriven (b. 1988)

Hamilton College Choir

Charlotte Botha, Director, Assistant Professor of Music

This is the Day in which God's most excellent favors have been poured out upon men, the Day in which His most mighty grace hath been infused into all created things. It is incumbent upon all the peoples of the world to reconcile their differences, and, with perfect unity and peace, abide beneath the shadow of the Tree of His care and loving-kindness.

— Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah (1935)

ISLAMIC TRADITION READING

Iman A. Rahman '26

CONTEMPLATIVE TRADITION READING

Brielle L. Whalen '26

Ashylia C. Sloane '26

PROTESTANT CHRISTIAN TRADITION READING

Eval-Eniman A. Imoke '26

ANTHEM

Locus Iste

Anton Bruckner (1824-1896)

Hamilton College Choir

Oliver Nathanielsz '26, conductor

This place was made by God,
a priceless sacrament;
it is without reproach.

— Liber Usualis

INTRODUCTION

Steven Tepper
President

THE BACCALAUREATE ADDRESS

Maryam Banikarim
Emmy Award-Winning Storyteller

FOLK-SPIRITUAL

Stand in that River
Moira Smiley (b. 1976)

Hamilton College Choir

Vocal soloists in order of appearance: Owen Wilson '28, Jaiden Knowles '26,
Brigit Cook '27, Sophie Gordon '26, Julia Ramsay '26

Carson Belle-Isle '28, guitar, Catherine Hicks '28, accordion,
Patricia Higgins '26, violin, Macy Carter '28, violin

I went to the river, but my river was dry
The dust rose up to a darkened sky
Tell me, where is hope? Where do the waters run clear?
I do not know my way from here

Come, and stand in that river
Current, gentle and slow
Send your troubles down water
Down on that water flow

When you stand in that river, angels sing in your head
Secrets beyond every worry, dreams beyond every dread
Tell me, sister, brother, where does that river flow?
It flows down to the great water, where soon my people will go

Oh, time passes, it passes on down the stream
Some days are so much sweeter
Some days pass like a dark dream

BLESSING FOR THE JOURNEY

Congregation is invited to stand

The Rev. Dr. Colleen Hallagan Preuninger '06
Dean of Spiritual & Religious Life

RECESSIONAL.

Jim Clough '67, P'07
Mohawk Valley Fraser

Hamilton