

Platform Guest

REV. DR. ROBERT L. POLK '52

The Rev. Dr. Robert L. Polk was born in 1928, the youngest of six children who lived with their parents on the South Side of Chicago. In 1952 he graduated from Doane College, becoming the first Black student to do so. He later received his Master of Divinity degree from Hartford Theological Seminary.

His ministry has been wide and diverse. He served an all-white rural parish in North Dakota, worked as a YMCA youth director, Minister to Youth at Riverside Church, Dean of Chapel and Dean of Students at Dillard University in New Orleans, directed a Child Welfare agency and worked in areas of civil rights, prison ministry, HIV-Aids and community service. He has served on a number of boards and committees throughout his career with an emphasis on race and social justice.

Polk has authored three books: *Crossing Barriers and Building Bridges*, *Tight Little Island* and *Fly in the Buttermilk: One Black Man's Odyssey Out on the Prairie*.



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Baccalaureate and Robert L. Polk Open Air Theatre Naming Ceremony

Friday, May 17, 2024 • 4:30 P.M.

*Open Air Theatre on the south side of
C. Donald Brodie Hall*

Order of Service

Processional◇ “Crown Imperial March”
by William Walton

Welcome Susan M. Goodrich
Honored guest

Speakers Roger A. Hughes '82, Ph.D.
President
Luis F. Sotelo
Vice President, Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Grand Unveiling Robert L. Polk Open Air Theatre

Call to Celebration * Blair R. Soucek '24

Hymn * “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”
Doane Choir, conducted by Dr. Kurt S. Runestad
with William H. Carpenter, collaborative pianist

(Audience joins for both verses)

Joyful, joyful we adore thee; God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee, Opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sing and sadness, Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day.

(Verse 2)

All thy works with joy surround thee, Earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around thee, Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, Flowery meadow, flashing sea.
Chanting bird and flowing fountain, Call us to rejoice in thee.

Student Reflections Gabrielle K. Porter-Loving '21L, '24A
Blair Soucek
Sabrina Renderos Bonilla '24

Choral Anthem Doane Choir
“The Times They Are A Changing”
Bob Dylan, arr. Adam Podd

Scripture Reading Gabrielle Porter-Loving
Matthew 5:1-11

Introduction of
Baccalaureate Speaker Dr. Marilyn A. Johnson-Farr
Dwight E. Porter Professor of Education
and Polk Lectureship Committee chair

“That They May All Be One” Rev. Dr. Robert L. Polk '52
Honoree

President's Remarks Roger Hughes

Hymn◇ “O Beautiful For Spacious Skies”
Boston Pops Orchestra

Benediction * Rev. Dr. Karla J. Cooper

Closing Hymn * “Go, My Children”
Doane Choir

(Choir only)

Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.

(Audience and Choir together)

Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you, here my tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.

Recessional and
Presentation of Senior Gifts◇ * “Crown Imperial March”
by William Walton

* Congregation please stand if able. ◇ Recorded music.

Special thanks to the following student members of Cardinal Key, a national honor society and service organization to Doane University and the community, for acting as Junior Marshals in today's ceremony. Ally N. Stalzer '26, Omaha, NE, and Anna M. Prauner '25, Fremont, NE.