

A Litany of Thanksgiving and Commemoration 2018

Dean Powery—Almighty and eternal God, in whom our mothers and fathers have trusted, we their children, at this time of remembrance, offer to You our prayers of thanksgiving:

Congregation—Hear us, O Lord.

President Price—For the members of the Duke family—father, daughter, sons and their spouses, grandchildren, and all others in continuing generations until this very day — who, with concern and compassion, devotion and dedication, and by their generosity, built on a solid foundation, continued a worthy school, and provided for education and service beyond even their dreams and expectations:

Congregation—We give You thanks and praise.

Family Representative—For the pioneering and persevering men and women connected with this University—Methodists and Quakers, farmers and merchants, teachers and administrators—who, in days gone by, believed in education and made their beliefs prevail:

Congregation—We give You thanks and praise.

Dean Powery—For the embodiment of their dreams—from private school to academy to college to great university and founded in hope, continued with sacrifice, growing in outreach, and serving with commitment:

Congregation—We give You thanks and praise.

President Price—For faculty and staff whose vision was bolstered by their courage, whose patience was tested and found true, and whose idealism was implanted in the hearts and minds of others:

Congregation—We give You thanks and praise.

Family Representative—For the ongoing presence of noble ideas—the blessing of eruditio et religio; the freedom for responsible academic research and teaching; the ongoing respect for both the body and the spirit; the pursuit of knowledge in the sciences and the humanities; and the realization that the old order changes and new times bring new opportunities:

Congregation—We give You thanks and praise.

Dean Powery—For the future of Duke University, established for Your glory and for the enlightenment of the human mind and spirit; for consecration to learning by the young; for the best use of the wisdom of those in later years; for the commitment to growth and enhancement of all persons; for a sense of humor, a spirit of cooperation, and a desire for understanding among all within our community and the world:

Congregation—We give You thanks and praise. And to You, O God, we will ascribe, as is most due, all praise and glory, world without end. Amen.

LEARNING THE LITURGY: CONFESSION, PARDON, AND PEACE | We make mistakes. We fail in our responsibilities. We do not live as God would have us live. In other words, we are sinful people. And from our earliest days, we are separated from God and in need of reconciliation. But our sins do not need to hold us in bondage or keep us from God, because in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ we find forgiveness and new life. The realities of our sinfulness and forgiveness are articulated in our prayer of confession and words of assurance. Our confession demonstrates our dependence on God and constant need for grace in order to become like Jesus. In the prayer of confession, we tell the truth about ourselves; in the words of assurance, we hear the greatest truth of God's love and mercy. This truth-telling is followed by peace, which is symbolized in our greeting one another with the phrase "The peace of Christ be with you."