

Deputy Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, distinguished guests, staff, fellow graduates, family and friends.

When I began theological study, I didn't quite know what it would involve or where it might take me. As I look back over my degree and the numerous essays, few presentations, translations, liturgy, even a poetry collection, it has been the ability to engage with the deeper questions of life and faith that has been most rewarding. Unlike other study, I have found theology involves my whole self. The ability to intentionally bring my own unique perspective and experiences into conversation with a biblical text and its interpretation is something I have enjoyed and hope is valuable for others.

Early on people told me in their all-so-knowing, I-know-better-than-you way that I was going to be a priest. Until I did biblical Hebrew that is, and fell in love with the languages. Then, suddenly, it was pronounced that I would be a biblical scholar, something that seemed absurd at the time. While I have doubts about the predictive power of those people, I do have work that I began in my capstone project that I would like to pursue. So, as I graduate today, I am still not entirely sure where this theology thing will lead or what it might involve, but I trust that it will be enriching as it has been so far.

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