
VALEDICTORY ADDRESS | Friday 30 May 2025

Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, Archbishop Jeremy, distinguished guests, colleagues, graduates, families and friends.

Just as Martin Luther valued music highly as a means of sharing the gospel, I have been blessed by and value music in my spiritual life. I have seen God's gift of music speak into the lives of many people around me, and we have all experienced sacred music in this service today.

As part of my studies, I undertook the process of expressing theology meaningfully in the context of contemporary Lutheran schools. I chose to share the love and grace of God in the form of a song, in the hope that with the help of the Holy Spirit, the gospel message would shine through the lyrics and into the hearts of those who hear it used in school worship.

The following lyrics are just one way of exploring and sharing God's love:

What kind of love is this?

A shepherd who'd leave ninety-nine,

What kind of love is this?

Born as a child, yet fully divine.

With thorns for your crown, you died in our place

Lifted our burdens, a free gift of grace,

Breaking our chains to set us free

You're that kind of love.

Perfect love.

Thank you to the University of Divinity and Australian Lutheran College for the opportunity to study the relationship between education and theology, which I find highly relevant in my current role working in Christian education. It has been a pleasure reflecting on God's word and responding creatively to it.

Today I invite you to consider the myriad of ways that the gospel can be shared in our communities. I pray that you will find ways to share the love and grace of God with those around you, just as God freely loves us.

Thank you.

Andrea Blakely, Master of Education and Theology 2025

