

**Commencement 2019
Invocation**

I invite you to assume a posture of reflection, prayer, or meditation.

Author of Life and Giver of Hope,

We have come here today with deep gratitude for our loved ones— those present and those who couldn't be here today, we are grateful for our friends, we're grateful for our given and chosen families who have supported us each step of the way. We are grateful for their encouragement, their dedication, their wisdom, and their sacrifices made on our behalf. Today, we are also thankful for our peers, friends, roommates, and classmates who have journeyed with us for the last four years. We share in deep gratitude for our professors and mentors who have gifted us with wisdom and knowledge. And we are thankful for each and every person at Bowdoin who has contributed to the success and welfare of this graduating class.

Class of 2019 as you look to the future, may you go forth without fear, without hesitation, without worry;

knowing that you have been prepared to confront any challenges that come your way;

knowing that your friends, family, and community who have supported you throughout your journey will continue to walk alongside you every step of the way.

May you go forth with love. May you find a profound and rich love of your career, of your vocation, of your families, and of yourselves.

May you go forth spreading kindness, generosity, and virtue wherever you go. May you find a centering compassion to ground you deeply when the winds of life get tough.

May you go forth with courage and a joyful expectation of the bright futures which await you outside of this courtyard.

May you go forth to solve the world's pressing problems and work to create more just, sustainable, and equitable societies.

May you be blessed to be awoken to the wonderful and thrilling journey you're about to commence.

**Class of 2019, may you be blessed to find joy, love, and peace,
wherever you go next.**

Amen.