

**Opening Convocation, Fall 2003**  
**Firestone Fieldhouse**

Our father, we acknowledge you as creator and Lord. We worship you with our hymns of praise and the meditations of our hearts and the fruit of our hands each day. We honor you with our lives. We place our trust in you for you are the hope of the world. You are our refuge in times of trouble and our strong and mighty tower—our sure defense. We place our trust in you!

We are grateful for your love that you extend to us each day and for your mercies that are new every morning. Today, O God, we are thankful for life and promise and the hope that a new school year brings. You are the one who makes all things new. We are thankful for the students who have come and for their families from whom they are separated

We ask now that you bless our year O God. Bless us we pray, according to your grace and your riches in Christ Jesus. May we learn of you that we might have knowledge from above. May we seek justice and mercy. May we have compassion on those who are in need and may we reflect your face to others as we extend your love to a troubled world. Show us, O God, how to love as you have loved us.

Be our guide as we seek knowledge, as we give ourselves to the service of others, and as we grow in maturity. Help us find deeper places where our compassion, our joy—may reflect you and your love.

We are grateful this day for all who are here: for our students, our faculty, our staff and our administration. May our lives be enriched as we learn from and serve each other. We ask these things in the name of Jesus, who taught us to love and serve one another, Amen.

D'Esta Love  
University Chaplain