

**Opening Convocation
Firestone Fieldhouse
January 11, 2006
Prayer, led by D'Esta Love, University Chaplain**

O Lord, our God, how majestic is your name in all the earth. How marvelous are the works of your hands and how bountiful are your gifts to us. It is with gratitude that we come before you in prayer. We come with grateful hearts and thanksgiving on our lips for this glorious day that bespeaks your radiance and your splendor and we express gratitude for a new year and a new semester – a new beginning.

We are grateful, O Lord, for your loving care toward us – for the gifts of family and friends and memory and celebrations that marked our holiday season. And we give thanks for the rest and renewal that comes when we break from our labor and our study and find peace in Sabbath rest.

As we anticipate this new semester we ask a special blessing on our students and upon our faculty. Grant them your wisdom, sustain them by your grace, and fill their hours and days with blessings from above. May they find joy in learning and serving together and may they know your presence and see your glory as each day of this semester unfolds. Lead us all to still places that we might know you and hear your voice. Give us grateful and generous hearts that we might be your instruments of love and peace in our world.

We offer this prayer of thanksgiving and praise in the name of your beloved son, Jesus our Lord. amen.