

LITANY OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

Gracious God, hear our gratitude this day for the gifts you have showered upon us. Let us continue to use them for the sake of the world you have so loved.

For your church universal, for the body of Christ of which we are part,
we give you thanks, O God.

For your presence whenever two or three have gathered together in your name;
for making us your children by your abundant grace,
and feeding us day by day with the Bread of Life;
for your Word to us, and the grace to live by it;
for hearing our prayers and supplying our needs;
for pardoning our sins and restoring us to the fellowship of believers;
we give you thanks.

For the foundation on which we have built;
for the faith of a great cloud of witnesses who have gone before us,
who have dreamed dreams and seen visions,
who have heard your voice and responded with courage and perseverance;
for all those who have given,
according to their means and beyond their means,
of their lives and resources,
we give you thanks, O God.

Merciful God, we are grateful for your holy Word proclaimed here in truth, and for all those who have gone forth to live out the Good News;
for those who have been baptized in these waters and empowered by your Holy Spirit;
for those who have gathered for communion at this table, by your generous invitation, and have been filled with a living hope and peace beyond their understanding;
for the young children who have learned the old story in these halls;
for all the choirs and musicians who have made a joyful noise to the Lord;
for those who have married and made vows of commitment;
for those who have grieved and been sent from this place with your divine benediction.
Here may the faithful continue to find salvation, the doubting find faith, and the anxious be encouraged.
Here may the tempted continue to find help, the sorrowful be comforted, the weary find rest, and the strong be renewed.
Here may the aged continue to find consolation; and the young be inspired.
Here may we continue to celebrate your goodness, O God; for we pray in the name of Christ our Lord.

THEODORE J. WARDLAW

President and Professor of Homiletics
Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary

- S.T.M.** Yale University Divinity School, New Haven, Connecticut, 1979. (Magna Cum Laude)
- D.Min.** Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, Virginia, 1978. (awarded the Charles D. Larus Graduate Fellowship).
- B.A.** Presbyterian College, Clinton, South Carolina, 1974. *Major:* English.

Theodore J. Wardlaw became the ninth president of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in the fall of 2002, having come to the Seminary from the position of Pastor of Atlanta's Central Presbyterian Church, a historic downtown congregation directly across the street from the Georgia Capitol. He led Austin Seminary through the conclusion of its \$25 million Centennial Campaign, the largest in the Seminary's history, and under his leadership the first in a new generation of student housing, the Anderson House apartment building, was built in 2009.

In addition to serving Central Presbyterian Church in Atlanta for twelve years, he has also served Germantown Presbyterian Church in Germantown, Tennessee, Grand Avenue Presbyterian Church in Sherman, Texas, and Setauket Presbyterian Church in Setauket, Long Island, New York. Wardlaw received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Presbyterian College in Clinton, South Carolina, his divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia, and his Master of Sacred Theology degree (American Church History) from Yale University Divinity School. In the spring of 2007, he was awarded the honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree by his alma mater, Presbyterian College. He has served as a Board Member of the Atlanta Boy Choir, as a member of the Board of Visitors of Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary, as a member of the Board of Trustees of Union Theological Seminary in Virginia, as an adjunct professor of homiletics at both Columbia Theological Seminary in Georgia and Union Theological Seminary in Virginia, and in a variety of presbytery and denominational roles. He has contributed numerous articles to such periodicals as *The Christian Century*, *The Presbyterian Outlook*, *Journal for Preachers*, *Journal of Reformed Liturgy and Music*, and *Call to Worship*.

President Wardlaw is married to Dr. Kay Bryant, a clinical psychologist, and they have two daughters.