

Dear Friends,

This past week was one of my favorite weeks of the semester. Why? Because we officially kicked off the wonderful season of Christmas at NU! One of the ways we did that was with the annual Christmas Traditions concert at Benaroya Hall in downtown Seattle. It is a fantastic event with superb music, beautifully performed by members of our concert choir under the direction of Professor Bill Owen. As I reflected on the event, President Castleberry's introduction of Professor Owen stood out to me. It was an honoring tribute, especially when Dr. Castleberry spoke of how Professor Owen was created to make great music flowing from deep within him. This wonderful phrase made me think of the famous statement, "The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why". Have you ever asked why you are on this planet and what purpose you serve? I know I have. For Professor Owen, he has found significant purpose in producing great music, and I hope you find a purpose like that as well. But for all of us, there is an even greater purpose for which we were created.

We were created to be in relationship with God through the incarnate son of God, Jesus. Our belief in his salvation places us in a wonderful parent-child relationship with him (1 John 5:1-5). Our life's deeper purpose flows out of that intimate relationship with Jesus. Perhaps you are currently wondering what you were created for. As you journey through this Christmas season, I encourage you to focus on a meaningful and deep relationship with Jesus first. Out of that, you will find a greater purpose in doing anything that shines the light of Christ's hope on those around you, whether it be through great music, or a kind smile as you go about your day.

Father, I pray this Christmas season will serve as a reminder to us that our purpose starts in relationship with you, and everything else flows forth from that foundational posture. For those who are finding it hard to believe, I pray that your incarnation at Christmas-time will fill them with renewed trust and joy, as the Holy Spirit guides them closer to you. Amen.

Merry Christmas!

COMING UP THIS WEEK

Mon, Dec 10 | Chapel: Parables of Jesus | Butterfield Chapel Balcony, 10 & 11:20am

There is no Pursuit or Wednesday/Friday chapel due to Finals Week

Phil Rasmussen DMin.

Vice President – Campus Ministry and Church Relations

425.889.5308 (office)

phil.rasmussen@northwestu.edu / northwestu.edu

Instagram @pramussen

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