

SILLIMAN SONG

*Words by Dr. Paul Doltz
Arranged by Peregrino Aledia
Music is based on the song, The Orange and the Black Princeton*

Where the white sands and the coral, kiss the dark blue southern sea.
And the palm trees tall and stately, wave their branches in the breeze,
Stands a college we all honor, in our hearts without a peer,
Silliman our Alma Mater, ever lovely, ever dear.

Chorus

Loyal will we be to Silliman, here's a cheer, boys, three times three:
Silliman our Alma Mater, Silliman beside the sea.

Happy days of school and college, gliding swiftly like a dream,
When the things of life and beauty, are more nearly what they seem,
Winning vic'tries in the classroom, on the court, the track, the field,
Still we work for dear old Silliman, her honor bright to shield.

When we leave the halls of Silliman, roam the world o'er near and far,
Still the faith and truth she gave us, will remain our guiding star;
O'er in high place or in lowly, fortune sends us joy or pain,
To our love for dear old Silliman, loyal shall we e'er remain.

Cover Photo by Silliman University Camera Club

SILLIMAN UNIVERSITY, DUMAGUETE CITY 6200 PHILIPPINES
(+63 35) 422 6002; www.su.edu.ph

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1ST MIDYEAR

UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT

**PREMIERE STREAMING
ON FACEBOOK AND YOUTUBE
9 AM, JULY 25, 2021**



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Dumaguete City

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ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Bishop Melzar Dalman Labuntog
Commencement Speaker

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God in Jesus Christ gave gifts to equip the saints for the work of building up the body of Christ, the Church. To some God gave gifts to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers. It is interesting to note that the Apostle Paul's view of pastors and teachers are more of the same task. Being pastor and teacher describes the ministry of Melzar. More than half of his life has been devoted to developing this gift so that he can contribute to the building up of the body of Christ. More than half of his life has been devoted to the ministry of the Church, 34 years to be exact.

As a Pastor, he was assigned to various churches of the Central Mindanao Annual Conference of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines. From small rural churches to big urban congregations, Melzar was called to take part of the shaping of the lives of the people so that these local congregations will express meaningfully their faith in the service of the people and the community. He was then elected to serve as the Conference Minister of CMAC to serve as the spiritual leader, Pastor of Pastors, an administrative oversight function and the chief implementor of the ministries of the Conference for three full terms. After serving as the Conference Minister, he was elected as Bishop of the Church and assigned to the North West Mindanao Jurisdiction, a judicatory that is composed of seven (7) Conference covering the provinces of Bukidnon, Misamis Oriental, Camiguin, Lanao del Norte and Sur, Zamboanga del Norte, del Sur, Sibugay and the province of Basilan. The task is to serve as Pastor of Pastors of more than 700 Church workers in the Jurisdiction. To ensure that the ministries of the UCCP will be actualised in their respective area. He served in this capacity for eight (8) years.

Given this task and demonstrated spiritual and pastoral leadership as well as executive and administrative ability he was elected as the 13th General Secretary of the UCCP during the 11th General Assembly held in Cagayan de Oro City. As the General Secretary is the spiritual leader, executive officer and the head of all the judicatories of the Church and presides over the meetings of the Council of Bish-

ops. He represents the Church in the wider ecumenical fellowships of Churches around the world.

As a teacher, he taught in UCCP Schools and took care of the chaplaincy program for the students and faculty and staff alike. He had teaching ministry at Gingoog Christian College and Pilgrim Christian College. The UCCP's tradition of educational training lives on the legacy that the missionaries taught us that is to provide quality Christian Education in the community where these institutions are located. As part of this ministry a strong campus ministry has to be organized. During his assignment in the University Christian Church in the Central Mindanao University he strengthened the student ministry that was started decades before by the pioneers of the program. Providing a well equipped student centre for students to meet up during their vacant time. He also revived the Student Christian Movement in the Campus. When he was Conference Minister of CMAC he established the Spiritual Formation Department of Pilgrim Christian College whose ministry extends to all the stakeholders of the school believing that they are all part of the molding of these young people into responsible citizens. The department extends spiritual ministry not only to the Administration, faculty and staff, and students. It even extends to parents, guardians and even canteen personnel to impress upon them that they are part of the ministry of molding young lives.

Melzar is married to Agape Manigsaca, a Bachelor of Music, Major in Piano graduate from Silliman University and are blessed with a son Mikhail Aleksandri, a Medical Technology graduate of Silliman University and who is now a Medical Doctor.

SILLIMAN UNIVERSITY
1st MidYear University Commencement

Silliman University Church
July 25, 2021, 9:00AM

The Order of Worship

PRELUDE *"All Glory, Laud and Honor"* Paxton

+ PROCESSIONAL HYMN

University ROTC Colors

“God of Our Life” [H #45]

God of our life through all the circling years, we trust in thee
In all the past through all our hopes and fears thy hand we see
With each new day, when morning lifts the veil
We own thy mercies Lord, which never fail.

God of our past, our times are in thy hand, with us abide
Lead us by faith to hope's true Promised Land, be thou our guide
With thee to bless, the darkness shines as light
And faith's fair vision changes into sight

God of the coming years, through paths unknown, we follow thee
When we are strong, Lord, leave us not alone, our refuge be
Be thou for us in life our Daily Bread
Our hearts true Home when all our years have sped. Amen.

GREETINGS AND WORDS OF WELCOME **Rev. Leny I. Jovita**
Silliman Church

Engr. Emmanuel D. Abellanos
Member, Board of Trustees

INTRODUCTION OF THE GUEST SPEAKER **Dr. Earl Jude Paul L. Cleope**
Vice President for Academic Affairs

SOFT MUSIC "Assurance" *Ness Beck*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader : God is the True Vine and we are the branches. Connected to God; connected to bear fruit! Connected to God; or we wither away. Connected to God; or useless! We come to worship God, who is the True Vine.

People : God, teach us how to remain connected so that we might bear good fruit!

Leader : We are branches, rooted in the vine of Christ. The branches that remain in the vine bear much fruit. If we abide in Christ, then Christ's words will abide in us.

People : We come because we seek to abide in Christ. We come because we long to be spiritually vibrant, alive, productive. We come because we strive to be faithful disciples.

Leader : We gather for worship now to the glory of the One God: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer. We gather now before the presence of God, the vine our sustainer and celebrate the fruits of our labor.

People : Lord we gather before You in this time of worship, offering the fruits of our labor and all that You have done for all Your people.

† HYMN OF PRAISE *“Praise to the Living God”* [TNCH #8]
(Stanzas 1, 3 & 4 only)

Praise to the living God, the God of love and light,
Whose word brought forth the myriad suns and set the worlds in flight;
Whose infinite design, which we but dimly see,
Pervades all nature, making all a cosmic unity.

Praise to the living God, who knows our joy and pain,
Who shares with us our common life, the sacred and profane.
God toils where'er we toil, in home and mart and mill;
And deep within the human heart God leads us forward still.

Praise to the living God, around, within, above,
Beyond the grasp of human mind but, whom we know as love.
In these tumultuous days, so full of hope and strife,
May we bear witness to the Way, O Source and Goal of life.

+ INVOCATION

Lord our God, we realize every action of ours no matter how small or how secular, enables us to be in touch with You. Shape our minds to think of Your created things, to desire Your plan and will for our lives. Touch us Lord, to pursue You and the interest of Your Kingdom here on earth, as we seek to encounter You in this hour of worship and praise. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI [Gloria Patri, H #18]

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, World without end. Amen. Amen.*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Christ is the true Vine, and we rejoice of Christ's victory on the cross for, we, now are free and restored to God. We rejoice that by grace we have been grafted in Christ our Savior, to be branches on a vine which bears the loveliest of all the fruits of earth. Yet we know and have done things, speak and desire things not in accordance with the Word of God. Not all is well with the way we live. We have never been faithful branches to God's Word and Love. We do not bear the fruits God desire for us to be. So let us come before Him in confession of our sins...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and loving God, forgive us for the occasions when we have been the ones to introduce disease into the vine, preferring its contamination to the vigor of health. Forgive us for neglecting to draw deeply on the sap of Life; for our tendency to wander instead of growing on the framework You provide; for being content, and sometimes even proud of, a few sparse or undersized fruits, for the apathy which lets us to go through some seasons without bearing any fruit. Have mercy on us. Forgive us, heal our diseases, discipline and train our wandering tendrils, prune our unfruitful branches and cut away our diseased ones; the branches that cause death to our faith and belief in Christ. May we remain in Christ and He in us, through all the changing seasons of life. Let us delight in bearing the fruits of love which are our true purpose and joy. For your Name's sake. Amen!

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Jesus said: "If you reside in me, and my words reside in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you." Friends, we have asked for forgiveness and restoration. It has been truly done for us. It is being done for us. And it will be done for us. Let us praise and thank God for this precious gift so lovingly given to us in the name of our Savior, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Community Response **"Amazing Grace"** (1st Stanza only) [H#178]

*Amazing grace! How sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, Was blind but now I see.*

CHURCH IN PRAYER

Community Response [Prayer Response, H #10]

*Hear our prayer, O Lord; Hear our prayer, O Lord;
Incline thine ear to us, And grant us Thy peace. Amen.*

✠ **SCRIPTURE READING** **John 15: 1 – 8**

ANTHEM **"We Are Called"** by David Haas arr by Mark Hayes
Covenant Choir

MESSAGE **"I Am"** **Bishop Melzar D. Labuntog**
Former, Board of Trustees
General Secretary
United Church of Christ in the Philippines

✠ **GRADUATION LITANY**

Minister : We give thanks to our God, for gathering us His people, to celebrate even in a virtual manner. We give thanks to God for despite the challenges, we come to witness accomplishments despite the hurdles along the way. We give thanks to God, for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to His purpose.

People : Lord, we give thanks for all our success done in Your name. We give thanks for You are faithful and have provided for all that we need. Thank You for making us grow in the knowledge of Your Word, so we can bear much fruit even, in season and out of season.

Minister : We give our praises to God for the good He has done. For making our lives bear fruit even in times of drought and moments of despair. The fruit of stronger faith, the fruit of commitment and dedication, and the fruit of patience. We praise the God who never ceases to welcome us, provide for us, and guide us in all our days.

People : Lord, giver of all things, we give You praise, for enabling us, for gathering us, for teaching us and leading us. We thank You for the goodness and mercy that draws us closer even to You. Teach us, O Lord, to see the fruits of Your labor in our life; reveal to us the fruits we receive from You and continue to abide in You in all our days.

Minister : For the glory of God, we offer this litany of prayer, to God who hears and sees all that we do and speak. Let us continue doing good and remain in the vine, as we press forward, let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, the Via, Veritas, Vita. Amen.

CALL TO OFFERING

In our Gospel lesson, we heard Jesus teaching his disciples a new song: a love song about Jesus' love for his disciples and for the world and how he wants us to bear fruit. He challenges us to remain in the vine, to listen to Him for He is the Vine. God is faithful, we bear fruits even in times of crises, there are fruits sprouting anew in our life. So let us share these fruits, let us gather them today and give thanks to God through our offering.

OFFERTORY **"Spirit of God, Descend Upon my Heart"** Hays

✠ **DOXOLOGY** [Doxology, H #17]

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Pour your Spirit upon these gifts, O God. Send them into the world as a sign and song of your joyous work of love. Use them to call and welcome into your house of love all who are your friends and our brothers and sisters. Amen.

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF HOPE

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Conferral of Degrees **Dr. Betty C. McCann**
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President, Silliman Alumni Association, Inc.

✠HYMN OF CHALLENGE **“O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee”** [H #229]

O Master, let me walk with Thee In lowly paths of service free;
Tell me Thy secret: help me bear The strain of toil, the fret of care.

Help me the slow of heart to move By some clear, winning word of love;
Teach me the wayward feet to stay, And guide them in the homeward way.

Teach me Thy patience; still with Thee In closer, dearer company,
In work that keeps faith sweet and strong, In trust that triumphs over wrong;

In hope that sends a shining ray Far down the future's broadening way;
In peace that only Thou canst give, With Thee, O Master, let me live. Amen.

✠CLOSING PRAYER AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Marlen F. Villafior
Conference Minister, NDC

Choral Response **“Threefold Amen”**

SILLIMAN SONG *Lyrics by Dr. Paul Doltz (1918)*

Where the white sands and the coral
Kiss the dark blue Southern Seas;
And the palm trees tall and stately
Wave their branches in the breeze;
Stands a college we all honor,
In our hearts without a peer;
Silliman, our Alma Mater,
Ever lovely, ever dear.

Chorus:

Loyal will we be to Silliman,
Here's a cheer, boys, three times three;
Silliman our Alma Mater,
Silliman beside the sea.

Happy days of school and college
Gliding swiftly like a dream;
When the things of life and beauty

Are more nearly what they seem;
Winning vict'ries in the classroom,
On the court, the track, the field;
Still we work for dear old Silliman,
Her honor bright to shield.

When we leave the halls of Silliman,
Roam the world o'er near and far;
Still the faith and truth she gave us
Will remain our guiding star;
O'er in high place or in lowly,
Fortune sends us joy or pain;
To our love for dear old Silliman,
Loyal shall we e'er remain.

POSTLUDE **“Celebration”** *Mansfield*

RECESSIONAL **University ROTC Colors**

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China

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Adviser: Dr. Elve O. Nasvik

Major in Guidance & Counseling

JESSA F. ENDOSO
Sibulan, Negros Oriental

Thesis: Effects of Distance Learning During COVID-19 on Public Senior High School Dumaguete City
Adviser: Dr. Batchiba R. Lacdo-o

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Major in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)

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Thesis: Relationship Between Summary Writing Strategies, Summary Writing Performance, Sex of Grade 11 Students
Adviser: Asst. Prof. Myla June T. Patron

Master in Business Administration

LINETH T. AVANZADO

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Thesis: Pag-ibig Fund Services and Loan Products Availled by Members in
Negros Oriental during the Pandemic
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Dumaguete City

Thesis: The Influence of Consumer Demographics and Social Media
Platforms on Consumer Online Buying Behavior in Dumaguete City
Adviser: Dr. Gloria G. Futalan

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Major in Nutrition

ROSALIE L. ROLA

Valencia, Negros Oriental

Thesis: Physical Properties and Acceptability of a Potential Emergency
Food Product: A Public Health Intervention
Adviser: Dr. Michele A. Naranjo

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Thesis: Lived Experience of Women who have Experienced Intimate
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Limasawa, Southern Leyte

Thesis: The Spiritual Care Program of UCWO (United Church Workers
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UCCP (Negros District Conference-United Church of Christ in the
Philippines) Ordained Ministers
Adviser: Dr. Lucio B. Mutia & Dr. Victor R. Aguilan

Doctor of Philosophy in Education

Major in Research and Evaluation

ILDEFONSO T. TOLEDO

Barotac Nuevo, Iloilo

Dissertation: Social Impact of Farmers' Field School Using Palay Key Check
System On Rice Production in the Province of Iloilo
Adviser: Dr. Pablito A. dela Rama

VERONICA P. TOLEDO

Barotac Nuevo, Iloilo

Dissertation: Socio Demographic Profile and Level of Performance of Faculty
on Instruction, Research, Extension and Production: An
Administrative Intervention Program.
Adviser: Dr. Pablito A. dela Rama

Doctor of Theology

Major in Mission Studies

AMRAN SIMANGUNSONG

Indonesia

Dissertation: Evangelism in Religious Pluralistic Content as A Challenge to
the Indonesian Christian Church (HKI)
Adviser: Dr. Josephat Rweyemamu

THE PLEDGE

*With a solemn sense of my responsibility
I pledge myself
to hold my diploma as a sacred trust,
an emblem of my obligation to serve;
to hold it with untarnished Honor to myself
in generous loyalty to my Alma Mater;
and with Fidelity to my Country
my fellowmen, and my God.*

Congratulations to the Graduates!

from



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SILLIMAN UNIVERSITY

*Congratulates
the Graduates of
First MidYear 2021*

*From the Silliman University Administration,
Faculty and Staff*