Please join me in a moment of reflection,
Class of 2021, against all odds, changes, and unexpected turns, you made it to this very special
day.
You’re here today with your family and loved ones, those joining us in Spirit, and those who get
to be physically right here with you in such a special day.

As you ready to depart your Bowdoin home for the last time, may you go forth full of pride and
joy for all you accomplished in the last four years.
May you go forth into far lands and near places.
Go knowing that your family and friends are cheering you on at every stop along the way.
Go knowing that no matter where you go, you are home, you are loved, and you are enough.
Go work to end systemic oppressions all over the world.
Go work to bring about peace all around our country.
Go make a difference, in minute ways and through history making ways.
Go search for and serve the common good wherever you might find it.
Continue to look for all the ways in which we share in our humanity and our experiences, and
make every attempt to fight for justice, peace, and unity so we might be closer to becoming
that beloved community we’ve been searching for.

May you go forth with hearts full of compassion and tenderness toward yourself, your
neighbors, and the land you walk on.
Go knowing that all being are interconnected and that our commitment towards all is a
commitment to ourselves and our thriving in this interdependent ecosystem.
Go knowing that grace is all around you, it’s in the yearly harvest, it’s in the seasonal rains, it’s
in the singing of your favorite songs, and the tender eyes of your most cherished friends.
May you find grace and compassion in your new jobs you will soon start, and the new academic
programs you’re about to begin.

When you leave this place and say your final goodbyes go forth without fear, go forth full of
tenacity and courage. Go forth full of all the wisdom and resilience you have built over the last
four years. Know that you take with you all the lessons and the perseverance given to you by
your community. Know that your mothers and grandmothers’ prayers and songs will
accompany you at every step of the way. Go without fear knowing that you have your Bowdoin
friends and community standing right behind you no matter where you go.

Class of 2021, may you go forth with hearts flowing with love, joy and gratitude everyday of
your lives.

May it be so,