

## **BOWDOIN COLLEGE**

Commencement 1991

SARA LAWRENCE LIGHTFOOT, teacher, scholar, writer, pride of Swarthmore, Bank Street, and Harvard, loving mother, cherished daughter and sister, you exemplify the goodness which lies at the heart of your work. Your talk at Bowdoin last year entitled "On Love, Justice, and the Word" stands as an emblem of your vision for schools, families, and communities. Examining the boundaries of race, class, gender, and generation in *The Good High School* and *Balm in Gilead*, you have inspired our moral imagination to transcend them. So, too, as the MacArthur Foundation has acknowledged, your pioneering research methods, your portraits in prose, have transcended the traditional boundaries of academic disciplines and have moved serious study close to the frontiers of art. Your portraiture has framed a human landscape to include new vistas, has heightened values of light and shade, has restored harmonious proportion, and has given us new measures of perspective. You remind us that each student brings to the classroom a special and unique gift. Today Bowdoin honors the gifts which you have so generously proffered to the world of education. President Edwards, I am honored to present to you, SARA LAWRENCE LIGHTFOOT, for the degree of DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS, *honoris causa*.