Today we celebrate the Baptism of Jesus. In the Gospel of Mark, John the Baptist proclaims a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins and announces the coming of Christ, who will baptize with the Holy Spirit. In an act of humble obedience, Jesus, the sinless one, is baptized by John. As Jesus rises up from the water, the heavens are opened and the Spirit descends on him as a voice from heaven declares, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” This public proclamation of Christ’s identity is an epiphany—like the adoration of the magi after Jesus’s birth—through which God’s glory is revealed to the world. We also give thanks today for the gift of our own baptisms, by which we are cleansed of sin, claimed as God's beloved children, and made siblings in Christ.
Gathering
Opening Voluntary

Christ unser Herr zum Jordan kam
Johann Pachelbel
(1653–1706)

Greeting and Call to Worship

*Opening Hymn | See hymns at the back of the worship guide.

When Jesus Came to Jordan
KING’S LYNN

*Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance | The minister offers words of confession in three biddings to which the congregation responds as follows:

Minister: Lord have mercy.
People: Lord have mercy.
Minister: Christ have mercy.
People: Christ have mercy.
Minister: Lord have mercy.
People: Lord have mercy.

The minister speaks words of assurance.

*Greeting of Peace | All exchange signs and words of God’s peace.

Minister: The Peace of Christ be with you.
People: And also with you.

Proclamation
Prayer for Illumination

Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters.
Immerse us in your grace and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Old Testament Lesson

Genesis 1:1–5

Psalm 29 | The psalm is chanted by the cantor.

Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.
The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

*All rise as able
The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.
The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.
He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.
The voice of the LORD splits the flames of fire; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forest bare.
And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, “Glory!”
The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.
The LORD shall give strength to his people; the LORD shall give his people the blessing of peace.

*Gospel Lesson
Mark 1:4–11

Sermon
Who Is God?

Response
Anthem (Virtual)
The Spirit of the Lord Zebulon M. Highben

Now John baptized with water, but the Lord baptizes with the Holy Spirit.

May the Spirit of the LORD rest upon you; the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who alone has done wondrous things.

Text: Acts 1:5, Isaiah 11:2, Psalm 72:18

*Thanksgiving for Baptism | The minister leads this litany of remembrance and thanksgiving.

Blessed are you, O God, maker and ruler of all things.

…By the baptism of his death and resurrection, your Son Jesus has carried us to safety and freedom.

The floods shall not overwhelm us, and the deep shall not swallow us up, for Christ has brought us over to the land of promise.

He sends us to make disciples, baptizing in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Pour out your Holy Spirit; wash away sin in this cleansing water; clothe the baptized with Christ; and claim your daughters and sons, no longer slave and free, no longer male and female, but one with all the baptized in Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Call to Prayer

Minister: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Minister: Let us pray.

Prayers of the People | The congregation responds to each petition:

People: Hear our prayer.

Offertory

*Doxology

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

Thanksgiving

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

*The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Sending Forth

*Benediction
*Closing Hymn | See hymns at the back of the worship guide.

Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized

LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN

Closing Voluntary

Lobt Gott, ihr Christen allzugleich, BuxWV 202

Dietrich Buxtehude (1637–1707)

TODAY IN WORSHIP

PRESIDING MINISTER
The Rev. Kathryn Lester-Bacon...Director of Religious Life, Duke University Chapel

PREACHER
The Rev. Dr. Will Willimon...Professor of the Practice of Christian Ministry, Duke Divinity School

LECTOR
Dr. Margot Wuebbens...Member of the Duke Chapel Choir

MUSICIANS
Duke Chapel Choir...Virtual Choir
Dr. Zebulon Highben...Director of Chapel Music, Duke University Chapel
Mr. Christopher Jacobson...Chapel Organist, Duke University Chapel
Mr. Tom Gurin...Chapel Carillonneur, Duke University Chapel

ONLINE MINISTER
The Rev. Bruce Puckett...Assistant Dean, Duke University Chapel

TODAY'S GUEST PREACHER | A bishop in the United Methodist Church, Professor Willimon served as the dean of Duke Chapel and professor of Christian ministry at Duke University for twenty years. He returned to Duke after serving as the bishop of the North Alabama Conference from 2004 to 2012. Willimon is the author of seventy books. His Worship as Pastoral Care was selected as one of the ten most useful books for pastors in 1979 by the Academy of Parish Clergy. More than a million copies of his books have been sold. His most recent book Preachers Dare: Speaking for God incorporates some of his preaching at Duke Chapel.

TODAY'S OFFERING | Today’s offerings will be given to the Chapel’s Development Fund for Mission and Ministry. You are invited to give online at gifts.duke.edu/chapel. Please send checks to: Duke University Chapel, Box 90974, Durham, NC 27708-0974.

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**HUMANITARIAN SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS** | The Chapel is recognizing two community leaders this year with its Humanitarian Service Award: the Rev. Annette Currie Love and Susan McSwain. Rev. Love founded and leads the Faith Based Service Network ministry, which educates, encourages, and supports people who have suffered abuse. McSwain is the executive director of Reality Ministries, a Christian community organization that creates opportunities for adults with and without developmental disabilities to experience belonging and kinship. McSwain and Rev. Love will be presented their awards during a virtual ceremony, open to the public, on Sunday, January 24, at 2:00 p.m. Join the event online via this Zoom link.

**GRADUATE STUDENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS** | University graduate students, other young adults, and their partners are invited to a virtual Bible study on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month. The next gatherings will be January 11 and 25 at 6:30 p.m. All questions and perspectives are welcome. Please contact matthew.r.wright@duke.edu for the Zoom link and additional information.

**ONLINE EPIPHANY SERVICE** | This week we offered an online Epiphany worship service. This prerecorded service included prayers and scripture readings for the day as well as anthems and hymns from past services. Watch it here.

**CHAPEL SCHOLARS APPLICATIONS OPEN** | Chapel Scholars are undergraduates who intentionally engage in Chapel-based programming that nurtures the intellectual, ethical and spiritual life of students. As a Chapel Scholar, undergraduates will have the opportunity to engage with a number of initiatives and events sponsored by the Chapel. Applications are now open on a rolling basis. Learn more and apply here.

**BOOK GROUP STARTS WEDNESDAY** | Two book groups will focus on Richard Rohr’s book *Everything Belongs: The Gift of Contemplative Prayer*. In this book, prolific author and Franciscan priest Richard Rohr encourages the practice of contemplative prayer for greater intimacy with God. The book groups will meet at 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. for four weeks starting Wednesday, January 13. For more information and the Zoom link, please contact congregation@duke.edu.

**PATHWAYS FELLOWSHIP FOR GRADUATING SENIORS** | Graduating Duke seniors, and recent graduates, are invited to apply to become a PathWays Fellow. The fellowship gives participants the tools they need to discern their vocational and spiritual direction as well as opportunities for exploration, leadership, mentorship, service, and formation deeply rooted in the local community and their Christian traditions. Learn more at chapel.duke.edu/pathways.

**STUDENT PREACHER APPLICATIONS** | On Sunday, March 21, 2021, we will continue the Chapel tradition of a student preacher for our 11:00 a.m. worship service. Maybe you are a student, or know a student, who has never thought about preaching at the Chapel, but you feel strangely compelled to give voice to what the Spirit of God is stirring in you? Perhaps you have considered what it would be like to preach in the pulpit at Duke Chapel? Or maybe you are just curious what it feels like to write a sermon? Regardless of what motivates you to consider this opportunity, we hope you will consider applying to be the student preacher for this year. Learn more and apply here.

**CHAPEL MUSIC FEATURED AT ONLINE NATIONAL CONFERENCE** | The Chapel Music program was featured in the online National Conference for Sacred Music this past week. The conference included an online Epiphany service from the Chapel with previous recordings of music from all three Chapel choirs as well as Chapel Organist Christopher Jacobson, FRCO, and University
Organist Dr. Robert Parkins. Chapel Music Director Dr. Zebulon Highben was a speaker in a pre-conference discussion of the service. Also at the conference, anthems in the Music from Duke Chapel publication series were featured in reading sessions of new choral music. Watch recordings of the service and discussion on the conference website at morningstarmusic.com/ncsm.

**CARILLON LIVESTREAM** | You are invited to participate virtually in an ongoing campus tradition. Listen live online to the playing of the Duke Chapel carillon bells weekdays at 5:00 p.m. on the Duke Chapel Facebook page at facebook.com/dukechapel.

**SACRED ON SATURDAY RECORDINGS** | Last semester the Chapel’s Dr. Philip Cave, associate conductor for Chapel Music, gave a series of three online presentations on notable pieces of sacred music by theme. Each session included musical examples with commentary. Watch recordings of Sacred on Saturday here.

**SATURDAY RETREAT** | The Congregation is sponsoring a half-day New Year’s retreat on the topic of “Practicing Trust in Time of Transition” on Saturday, January 23 from 9:00 a.m. to 12-noon. Author and teacher Dr. Marilyn McEntyre will lead the retreat. Please register online or contact congregation@duke.edu for more information.

**VIRTUAL BACK PEW COLLECTION** | Urban Ministries of Durham, a homeless shelter, welcomes donations of supplies to aid their work. Their wish list enables donors to have supplies sent directly to Urban Ministries. Donors may also shop locally using the wish list as a guide and drop off supplies at 410 Liberty St., Durham during weekday business hours.

**CHAPEL CONTRIBUTES TO NATIONAL ONLINE WORSHIP CONFERENCE** | Chapel Dean Luke A. Powery, Assistant Dean Bruce Puckett, and Music Director Zebulon Highben are contributors this month to the Online Calvin Symposium on Worship 2021. Hosted by the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, the conference is offering free registration. Learn more at worship.calvin.edu/symposium.

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SCHEDULE** | The Congregation provides weekly Sunday morning Christian education from 9:45–10:45 a.m. for all ages. Classes, which are held virtually, are open to the public and new participants are welcome at any time.

- **Wee Praise:** Music and movement for children ages 0–3 with parents or caregivers
- **Godly Play:** Spiritual formation for children ages 4 through 5th grade
- **Youth Confirmation Class:** An exploration of Christian faith for students in 6th-12th grades
- **Adult Forum:** Amy Whisenand, ThD candidate in New Testament Studies, Duke Divinity School will present “Colossians: Themes and Threads”.

ENGAGE
Opening Hymn

When Jesus Came to Jordan

1 When Jesus came to Jordan to be baptized by John,
2 He came to share temptation, our utmost woe and loss,
3 Come, Holy Spirit, aid us to keep the vows we make;

He did not come for pardon but as the Sinless One.
for us and our salvation to die upon the cross.
this very day invade us, and every bondage break.

He came to share repentance with all who mourn their sins,
So when the dove descended on him, the Son of Man,
Come, give our lives direction, the gift we covet most:

to speak the vital sentence with which good news begins.
the hidden years had ended, the age of grace began.
to share the resurrection that leads to Pentecost.
Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized

LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN

1 Christ, when for us you were baptized, God’s Spirit on you came, as peaceful as a dove, and yet as urgent as a flame, as urgent as a flame.

2 God called you, “My beloved Son”; you are God’s servant true, sent to proclaim the reign of heav’n, God’s holy will to do, God’s holy will to do.

3 Straight-way and steadfast until death you then obeyed the call to serve with free and willing heart, to give your life for all, to give your life for all.

4 Baptize us with your Spirit, Lord; your cross on us be signed, that likewise in God’s service we may perfect freedom find, may perfect freedom find.

Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman, 1480–1561
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