This morning’s scripture lessons emphasize the importance of faith in God even in the midst of great hardship or despair. In the Book of Numbers, the Israelites are weary and complaining about their travels in the wilderness, and then poisonous snakes come into their midst and many Israelites die. But God tells Moses to make a poisonous snake and put it on a pole so that everyone who had been bitten might see it and live. In John’s Gospel, a comparison is made between Jesus and Moses’s snake—all who see him lifted up will know eternal life. The scriptures compel us to look and live. Look on the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Christ to see the light of God inviting us into relationship.
Gathering
Opening Voluntary

Sonata in A minor
Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach
(1714–1788)

I. Poco adagio

Greeting and Call to Worship

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

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

*Prayer of Confession | In unison.

God of mercy, you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We are misled by pride, for we see ourselves pure when we are stained, and great when we are small. We have failed in love, neglected justice, and ignored your truth. Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin. Return us to paths of righteousness; through Jesus Christ, our Savior, Amen.

*Kyrie | The congregation responds to the cantor's bids.

\[\begin{align*}
\text{In peace, let us pray to the Lord.} \\
\text{Lord, have mercy.} \\
\text{For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.} \\
\text{Lord, have mercy.} \\
\text{For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,} \\
\text{and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.}
\end{align*}\]

*All rise as able
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

Merciful Lord, you know our struggle to serve you when sin spoils our lives and overshadows our hearts; as we hear your word today, come among us and turn us back to you again; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson

Numbers 21:4–9

*Gospel Lesson

John 3:14–21
Sermon

Looking Toward Light and Life During Lent

Response

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

There Is a Balm in Gilead

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 with the above refrain.

Mission of the Month (Virtual)

Music at the Offertory

Sonata in A minor                                                                                                     C. P. E. Bach

II. Allegro

III. Allegro

*Doxology

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

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.

What Wondrous Love Is This

Closing Voluntary

Introduction and Passacaglia in D Minor

Max Reger
(1873–1916)

TODAY IN WORSHIP

PRESIDING MINISTERS
The Rev. Dr. Carol Gregg..........................................................Pastor, Congregation at Duke Chapel
The Rev. Bruce Puckett..........................................................Assistant Dean, Duke University Chapel

PREACHER
The Rev. Dr. David Emmanuel Goatley..........................Professor of Theology and Black Church Studies
Duke Divinity School

LECTOR
Mr. Spencer Reeves.........................................................Duke Kunshan University ’22

MUSICIANS
Dr. Philip Cave..........................................................Associate Conductor for Chapel Music, Duke University Chapel
Dr. Robert Parkins..........................................................University Organist, Duke University
Mr. Christopher Jacobson................................................Chapel Organist, Duke University Chapel
Mr. Tom Gurin..........................................................Chapel Carillonneur, Duke University Chapel
Mr. Caleb Woo..........................................................Saxophonist, Trinity ’22

MISSION OF THE MONTH
Ms. Beth Leigh..........................................................Village Miner, Village of Wisdom

ONLINE MINISTER
The Rev. Kathryn Lester-Bacon........................................Director of Religious Life, Duke University Chapel
TODAY'S FLOWERS | The greens for the worship service today are given by the Nancy Hanks Fund.

MISSION OF THE MONTH | All of today’s offerings will be used to support the Chapel’s Mission of the Month. Village of Wisdom is an equity-focused organization partnering with the communities of Durham and the Greater Triangle Area. Village of Wisdom develops strategies for helping their children cope with the racial trauma often experienced in schools by providing healing and culturally affirming tools to students, parents, teachers, and administrators. Village of Wisdom also supports a few local schools and nonprofits in their efforts to provide spaces that are emotionally and racially safe for children. You are invited to give online at gifts.duke.edu/chapel. Please send checks to: Duke University Chapel, Box 90974, Durham, NC 27708-0974.

TODAY'S GUEST PREACHER | Today’s Gomes Guest Preacher is the Rev. Dr. David Emmanuel Goatley. Rev. Dr. Goatley is a research professor of theology and Black church studies at Duke Divinity School. At the school, he also serves as director of the Office of Black Church Studies and associate dean for vocational formation and Christian witness. Professor Goatley is a constructive theologian whose scholarship and practice are at the intersection of missiology, Black Theology, and leadership strategy. A globally recognized missiologist, he emphasizes cross-cultural experiential learning with indigenous communities to deepen understanding, broaden horizons, and strengthen Christian discipleship and leadership formation.


ENGAGE

ONLINE SERVICE TODAY TO MARK CORONAVIRUS ANNIVERSARY | Approximately one year ago, the COVID-19 pandemic began its rapid spread across the United States. In response, churches, universities, and schools suspended in-person activities and began the shift to online services and courses. We will mark the anniversary of the pandemic with a brief, online Service of Lament and Healing today (March 14) at 4:00 p.m. In this prerecorded service, we will lament the things that we have lost—lives, incomes, stability—and pray for God’s healing and restoration of ourselves, our communities, and our world. It will include prayers, a hymn, scripture readings, virtual anthems from the Chapel Choir, and a homily from Chapel Dean Luke A. Powery. Watch here.

JOIN IN A DUKE CHAPEL VIRTUAL EASTER HYMN | For our Easter Sunday worship service this year, Chapel Music is creating a socially distanced recording of the beloved hymn “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today” (UMH #302). You are invited to join us! The process is fairly simple and you don’t need to be a choir member or a trained singer to participate. You do need two devices, one with which to record yourself (such as a smartphone) and one with which to listen to the guide track (such as a computer or tablet with headphones). If you would like to participate, please email chapelmusic@duke.edu and indicate your interest by Monday, March 15, at 12:00 p.m. Individual recordings will be due back by Friday, March 19.

DUKE STUDENTS, FACULTY, STAFF INVITED TO SIGN UP FOR TIME IN THE CHAPEL | By reservation only, the Chapel is open to students and to employees who are working on campus to
#FindSanctuary. Duke students, faculty, and staff with and without a faith affiliation are welcome to sign up for a time to meditate, reflect, pray, contemplate, or just be in the Chapel. Ticketed timeslots for students and employees are available during these hours: Tuesdays, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.; Wednesdays, 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.; and Thursdays, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Learn more and sign up at chapel.duke.edu/findsanctuary.

**STUDENT PREACHER NEXT SUNDAY |** Duke senior Tatayana Richardson will deliver a sermon on God helping people find peace in turbulent times, as part of the Chapel’s online worship service next Sunday, March 21, at 11:00 a.m. Richardson, a double major in religion and African American studies, has been selected to be this year’s Duke Chapel Student Preacher. Read more.

**ONLINE ORGAN RECITAL MARCH 21 |** Duke University Organist Dr. Robert Parkins will present a recital on the Chapel’s Flentrop organ via livestream next Sunday, March 21, at 4:00 p.m. The program, “J.S. Bach and His Legacy,” will feature eighteenth- and nineteenth-century German organ works, written or inspired by Bach. A member of Duke’s Music Department faculty, Dr. Parkins has concertized throughout the United States and Europe as well as in Central America. His organ and harpsichord recordings have appeared on the Calcante, Gothic, Loft, Musical Heritage Society, and Naxos labels. The online concert, free and open to the public, will be presented on the Chapel's website and YouTube channel. Watch here.

**HOLY WEEK AND EASTER ONLINE SERVICES |** We will celebrate Holy Week and Easter this year with these online services: Palm Sunday service March 28 at 11:00 a.m., Midday services throughout the week at 12-noon; Maundy Thursday service April 1 at 7:30 p.m., Good Friday service April 2 at 7:30 p.m., and the Easter Day service April 4 at 11:00 a.m. All of the services will be presented via livestream on the Chapel website and also broadcast on the Duke Hospital television system channel 12. Find details here.

**ONLINE CONVERSATION WITH HOWARD THURMAN SCHOLAR ON ‘JESUS AND THE DISINHERITED’ |** As part of the Duke Chapel Reads series, Chapel Dean Luke A. Powery will host an online discussion of the book Jesus and the Disinherited with Dr. Walter Fluker, a scholar of the book’s author, Howard Thurman, on Tuesday, April 6, at 7:00 p.m. Dr. Fluker is the editor of the multi-volume series The Papers of Howard Washington Thurman and is Dean’s Professor of Spirituality, Ethics, and Leadership at Emory University’s Candler School of Theology. Through Duke Chapel Reads, the Chapel aims to curate spaces for reflection and conversation based on a common book reading each semester. Register here at no cost.

**RELIGIOUS LIFE GROUP OUTDOOR SERVICES |** Campus Religious Life groups are holding small outdoor prayer and worship services for Duke students, staff, and faculty who are on campus. The services are an opportunity for collective worship for the many faith traditions represented by the groups. The services will adhere to all university public health protocols, including masking, physical distancing, and compliance with the Duke Compact. See a listing of the services.

**SACRED ON SATURDAY MARCH 27 |** Dr. Philip Cave, associate conductor for Chapel Music, will explore musical settings of the Passion in an online “Sacred on Saturday” presentation March 27 at 10:00 a.m. The session on “The Greatest Story Ever Sung: A Short History of Passion Music,” will include medieval chant to more contemporary works with compositions by Victoria, Schütz, Gesualdo, Handel, Pärt and Penderecki. Register here.
**ENGAGE**

**BACK PEW COLLECTION** | Reality Ministries fosters friendships amongst people of all abilities marked by mutuality, authenticity and the reality of Christ’s love for all. The ministry currently welcomes donations of postage stamps, envelopes, white copy paper, sharpies pens, dry erase markers, and file folders. Please send gifts or contributions to Reality Ministries, PO Box 242, Durham, NC 27702.

**MIDWEEK PRAYER** | Please join us for a brief service of prayer on Wednesdays at 12-noon through May 12. To participate in this prayer time, please [join the Zoom call here](#).

**PRAYERS FOR RACIAL JUSTICE** | A brief online prayer service focused specially on racial justice and reconciliation is being offered on Monday evenings at 8:00 p.m. This service is led by Nathaniel Metz, the Congregation’s Duke Divinity School intern, and lasts approximately twenty minutes. Please contact congregation@duke.edu for detailed information.

**ONLINE SERIES ON ‘LEANING INTO JUSTICE TOGETHER’** | Justice is for everyone and is meant to restore us to whole relationship with one another and to promote the flourishing of our communities. In an online series, titled “Coming Full Circle: Leaning into Justice Together,” the Chapel will explore how various faith communities and organizations in Durham are responding to justice issues around mass incarceration, housing inequality, and racism with restorative practices, transformational relationships, and truth telling in love. Participants are invited to come and listen, participate in circle processes and storytelling, ask questions, and carry new skills into their spaces and make them their own. [Learn more and register](#).

**COMMENTS SOUGHT IN REGULAR REVIEW OF DEAN POWERY** | A university committee is seeking comments as part of a regular performance review of Dean of Duke Chapel The Rev. Dr. Luke A. Powery. Reviews of senior administrators are typically conducted in the fourth year of a five-year term, and the results compiled in a confidential report. This will be the second such review for Powery, who has served in his current post since 2012. [Learn more and submit comments](#).

**VIRTUAL MISSION TRIP** | Zoe Empowers enables vulnerable children to become self-sufficient in three years by way of training, microgrants, and spiritual support. A Zoe Empowers virtual mission trip will take place on March 23–25 from 9:30–11:00 a.m. each day. This experience will take participants to Rwanda, Zimbabwe, and India. There is no charge to participate and the Zoom links will be shared closer to the time. [Please sign up to participate in one, two, or all three days of this virtual mission trip here](#).

**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
- **New Member Class:** For all those considering membership in the Congregation
- **Adult Bible Study:** A study of the Book of Colossians
- **Adult Forum:** On March 21, Shakeel Harris, MDiv from Duke Divinity, History PhD Candidate at Louisiana State University, will address “What Now?: Multiracial Mission Efforts After the Civil War and the Persistence of Racism.”
1. Come, ye sinners, poor and needy, weak and wounded, sick and sore;
2. Come, ye thirsty, come and welcome, God’s free bounty glorify;
3. Let not conscience make you linger, nor of fitness fondly dream;
4. Come, ye weary, heavy laden, lost and ruined by the fall;
5. I will rise and go to Jesus! He will save me from my sin.

Jesus ready stands to save you, full of pity, love, and power.
true belief and true repentance, every grace that brings you nigh.
all the fitness he requireth is to feel your need of him.
if you tarry till you’re better, you will never come at all.
By the riches of his merit, there is joy and life in him.

Joseph Hart, 1759; alt.
William Walker, The Southern Harmony, 1835
Response Hymn

There Is a Balm in Gilead

Refrain

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;

there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.

1 Sometimes I feel dis-cour-aged and think my work’s in vain,
2 If you can-not preach like Pe-ter, if you can-not pray like Paul,
3 Don’t ev-er be dis-cour-aged, for Je-sus is your friend;

but then the Ho-ly Spir-it re-vives my soul a-gain.
you can tell the love of Je-sus and say, “He died for all.”
and if you lack for knowl-edge, he’ll ne’er re-fuse to lend.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: BALM IN GILEAD, African American spiritual
What Wondrous Love Is This

1 What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down, when
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and

won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this
I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when I was sink-ing down
God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,

that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse for my
be-neath God's righ-teen-ous frown, Christ laid a-side his crown for my
who is the great I Am, while mil-lions join the theme, I will
I'll sing God's love for me, and through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing

soul, for my soul, to bear the dreadful curse for my soul?
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a-side his crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing, while mil-lions join the theme, I will sing.
on, I'll sing on; and through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.
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