



Duke  
UNIVERSITY  
CHAPEL

BRIDGING FAITH & LEARNING

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Ascension Sunday

Sunday, May 21, 2023, 11:00 a.m.



*The Ascension*, Jesus Mafa, 1973

In today's first lesson, the writer of Acts—historically identified as the same as the author of the Gospel of Luke—reminds his friend Theophilus that his first book shared the stories of Jesus from his birth until the time he was taken up into the heavens after his resurrection. In today's gospel lesson, we hear that latter story told by the same author, recounting the ascension of Jesus as he gave his followers a final blessing and was carried up into heaven. The reading from Ephesians affirms that Christ is now in heaven, where he is seated at God's right hand.

# Gathering

## Prelude

Prière du Christ montant vers son Père  
(Prayer of Christ rising to his Father)

Olivier Messiaen  
(1908–1992)

Veni, Creator Spiritus (Come, Holy Spirit)

Libby Larsen

## Greeting and Call to Worship

\*Processional Hymn | UMH 326

The Head That Once Was Crowned

ST. MAGNUS

\*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.

\*Peace | All exchange signs and words of God's peace.

Minister: The peace of the risen Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

## Proclamation

Prayer for Illumination | In unison:

**Eternal and gracious God, we believe your Son our Savior Jesus Christ ascended with triumph into your kingdom in heaven; carrying your word in our hearts and minds; may we also ascend to where he is and dwell with him for eternity, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.**

First Lesson | Page 110 in pew Bibles.

Acts 1:1–11

Lector: The word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Second Lesson | Page 181 in pew Bibles.

Ephesians 1:15–23

Lector: The word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

\*Gradual Hymn | UMH 325. Stanzas 1 and 2. All turn to face the Gospel Procession.

Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus

IN BABILONE

\*Gospel Lesson | Page 85 in pew Bibles.

Luke 24:44–53

Lector: The word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

\*Gradual Hymn | UMH 325. Stanzas 3 and 4.

Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus

IN BABILONE

Sermon

Before I Let Go

Response

Anthem

Come, Holy Ghost, Our Souls Inspire

Thomas Attwood  
(1765–1838)

\*All rise as able

Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,  
and lighten with celestial fire.  
Thou the anointing Spirit art,  
who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart.

Thy blessed unction from above  
is comfort, life, and fire of love.  
Enable with perpetual light  
the dullness of our blinded sight.

Anoint and cheer our soiled face  
with the abundance of thy grace.  
Keep far from foes, give peace at home:  
where thou art guide, no ill can come.

Teach us to know the Father, Son,  
and thee, of both, to be but One,  
that through the ages all along,  
this may be our endless song:  
Praise to thy eternal merit,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

—*Veni Creator Spiritus*, trans. John Cosin (1594–1672)

## 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 Anthem

Ubi Caritas

Dan Locklair

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.  
Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.  
Exultemus, et in ipso iucundemur.  
Timeamus, et amemus Deum vivum.  
Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero.

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.  
Simul ergo cum in unum congregamur:  
Ne nos mente dividamur, caveamus.  
Cessent iurgia maligna, cessent lites.  
Et in medio nostri sit Christus Deus.

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.  
Simul quoque cum beatis videamus,  
Glorianter vultum tuum, Christe Deus:  
Gaudium quod est immensum, atque probum,  
Saecula per infinita saeculorum. Amen.

*Where charity and love are, God is there.  
Christ's love has gathered us into one.  
Let us rejoice and be pleased in Him.  
Let us fear, and let us love the living God.  
And may we love each other with a sincere heart.*

*Where charity and love are, God is there.  
As we are gathered into one body,  
Beware, lest we be divided in mind.  
Let evil impulses stop, let controversy cease,  
And may Christ our God be in our midst.*

*Where charity and love are, God is there.  
And may we with the saints also,  
See Thy face in glory, O Christ our God:  
The joy that is immense and good,  
Unto the ages through infinite ages. Amen.*

## \*Doxology

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**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 | All are encouraged to pray the Lord's Prayer in the language of their choosing.

**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

\*Recessional Hymn | UMH 312

Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise

LLANFAIR

### Postlude

Komm, Gott Schöpfer, Heiliger Geist, BWV 667  
(Come, God Creator, Holy Spirit)

Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685–1750)

**Memorial Chapel Communion** | Immediately following today's worship service, a brief communion service will be held in Memorial Chapel. Following communion, a minister will be available to offer prayers and anointing.

## TODAY IN WORSHIP

### Presiding Ministers

Carol Gregg . . . . . *Pastor, Congregation at Duke Chapel*  
Kathryn Lester-Bacon . . . . . *Director of Religious Life, Duke University Chapel*

### Preacher

Racquel Gill . . . . . *Minister for Inturcultural Engagement, Duke University Chapel*

**Lectors**

David Ntim . . . . . *Trinity '26*  
Emily Summers. . . . . *Divinity '26*

**Musicians**

Philip Cave . . . . . *Conductor-in-Residence, Duke University Chapel*  
Jane Lynch. . . . . *Guest Organist*

**Head Usher**

James Ferguson. . . . . *Member, Congregation at Duke Chapel*

**Today's Offering** | All of today's cash offerings and checks written to Duke University Chapel will be used to support the Chapel's student engagement programming. You are invited to give online at [chapel.duke.edu/offering](http://chapel.duke.edu/offering). Send checks to: Duke University Chapel, Box 90974, Durham, NC 27708-0974.

**Today's Flowers** | The flowers for the worship service today are given to the glory of God in memory of Mary Duke Biddle Trent Semans and in honor of her former classmate Betty Pyle Baldwin.

**Liturgical Acknowledgments** | Prayer for Illumination, adapted from the *Roman Missal*, © 1973, International Committee on English in the Liturgy.

**ENGAGE**

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**University Prayer of Thanksgiving** | Each week, we focus on a different campus unit, school, or department for whom to give thanks to God for their service and contributions to the wider university community and beyond. Today, we give thanks for the Duke International Office.

**Restrooms in Divinity School** | Public restrooms are available in the Divinity School. To access them, exit the Chapel through the main front doors and enter the Divinity School. Restrooms are along the hallway in the Divinity School.

**Tour After the Service** | Learn about the history, architecture, and life of Duke Chapel on a tour immediately following the service. The tour is free and lasts about forty-five minutes. Meet the docent outside in front of the Chapel.

## ENGAGE

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**Listen-Assist Smartphone App** | A new smartphone app lets you use your own phone and earbuds to listen in the pews to services. To use the app, stop by the AV console in the sanctuary on the way into a service. It's an easy two-step process of downloading the app and then scanning a QR code to connect to the sound system.

**Chapel Music Director Wins Composition Award** | The American Harp Society selected the choral anthem "A Christmas Carol," composed by Duke Chapel Music Director Dr. Zebulon Highben, for its 2023 Weiger Lepke-Sims Family Sacred Music Award. The award recognizes "beautiful melody and tonal harmonic structure" and is intended to promote the expansion of harp repertoire in traditional church or synagogue settings. The piece debuted at the Chapel's 2021 Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols service with Anita Burroughs-Price playing harp and the Duke Chapel Schola Cantorum singing.

**Congratulations to Organ Scholar Daniel Jacky** | Our organ scholar this year, Daniel Jacky, has been accepted into the master's program at the Institute of Sacred Music at Yale University. Daniel will be leaving Duke at the end of June, and our prayers and best wishes go with him.

**New Organ Scholar Begins in August** | Katherine Johnson, currently a senior at Oberlin College and Conservatory, will be the next organ scholar in the American Guild of Organists Organ Scholar Program at Duke Chapel. As an organ scholar, Johnson will play the organ during services in the Chapel and at Duke Divinity School, assist with weekly choir rehearsals, and receive regular lessons and coaching in organ playing, accompanying, conducting, composing, and vocal techniques. She begins the ten-month position on August 15.

**Back Pew Collection** | Donations for Families Moving Forward may be placed on the back pew today, May 21. Families Moving Forward provides temporary shelter for neighboring families.

**Lunch Today** | All are invited to stay after worship today to enjoy lunch with other worshipers in the Brodhead Center, which is a short walk from the Chapel and provides a wide array of dining options. Participants will purchase their own lunch and then gather in the dining area by The Skillet, on the main floor, to share a time of fellowship and food. Volunteers will be holding signs after worship to provide directions.



## ENGAGE

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**Young Adult Gathering Tomorrow** | University graduate students, other young adults, and their partners are invited to dinner and Bible study tomorrow, Monday, May 22, at 6:30 p.m. in the Chapel kitchen, located in the lower level of the Chapel. Come for a light supper and good conversation. Participants will explore the Gospel of John. Please contact [evan.bille@duke.edu](mailto:evan.bille@duke.edu) for additional information.

**Volunteers Needed June 3** | On Saturday, June 3, join Urban Community Agrinomics (UCAN) to learn how a historic farmstead dating back to the 1790s is being carefully restored to address food insecurity in Durham. Volunteers will meet at 2080 Sawmill Parkway, Durham from 9:00 a.m.–noon and visit the original buildings. UCAN has over thirty garden plots used to grow vegetables as an educational opportunity and to give the resulting produce to hungry Durham residents. Volunteers are needed to help with harvesting and planting vegetables in their newly constructed high tunnel. For additional information, contact [congregation@duke.edu](mailto:congregation@duke.edu).

**Sunday Morning Classes** | There will be no classes on May 28. Classes will resume on June 4. Sunday morning Christian Education classes for all ages are offered from 9:45–10:45 a.m., with coffee and refreshments provided at 9:30 a.m. Classes meet in the lowest level of the Westbrook building. New participants are welcome at any time. Please contact [congregation@duke.edu](mailto:congregation@duke.edu) for additional information.

**Wee Praise:** Music and movement for children ages 0–3 with parents or caregivers in 0011 Westbrook

**Godly Play:** Spiritual formation for children ages 4 through 5th grade in 0050 Langford

**Youth Program:** Youth in 6th–12th grades will explore the gospel of John in 0015 Westbrook

**Wesbrook Adult Bible Study:** A summer study of First Corinthians will be held in 0013 Westbrook and over Zoom. Carol Gregg, pastor to the Congregation, will lead the discussion on June 4 with a focus on chapter 1.

## ACCESSIBILITY

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Large-print worship guides are available at the visitor relations desk. Hearing assistance units are available at the AV console in the rear of the Chapel. Please let us know if you need other accommodations by approaching a minister or usher, or email us at [dukechapel@duke.edu](mailto:dukechapel@duke.edu).

## LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH

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We would like to get to know you. What are your questions? What is your story? Take a moment to fill out a brief form, and a Chapel minister or other staff member will contact you soon. Scan the QR code or visit [chapel.duke.edu/connect](http://chapel.duke.edu/connect).



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*The Congregation  
at Duke Chapel*

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Connect with us



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The Congregation at Duke University Chapel joyfully welcomes all persons regardless of age, race, class, origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other distinction and invites membership and participation in all of its ministries.

Please email [congregation@duke.edu](mailto:congregation@duke.edu) to receive the weekly eNews.