Today’s lessons contain two complementary parables. In the Old Testament lesson, we are told that God will take a branch from an established cedar tree and plant that branch high on a hill, where God will watch over it and see that it flourishes to become a mighty tree, visible to all and home to birds that nest there. This allegory of the Messiah and a future kingdom, drawn from a branch of the original cedar of Israel, is then paralleled in the Gospel by a parable that compares the kingdom of God to a mustard seed. This parable emphasizes something tiny by human standards—a mustard seed—which when fully grown, becomes a thriving, healthy bush, a place of refuge for the birds that nest in the shade of its branches.
Gathering
Prelude

Voluntary [in D] for Double Organ

Henry Purcell
(1659–1695)

Choral Introit

I was glad

H. Purcell

I was glad when they said unto me:

We will go into the house of the Lord.
Our feet shall stand in thy gates: O Jerusalem.
Jerusalem is built as a city: that is at unity in itself.
For thither the tribes go up, even the tribes of the Lord:

To testify unto Israel, to give thanks unto the Name of the Lord.
For there is the seat of judgement: even the seat of the house of David.
O pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee.
Peace be within thy walls: and plenteousness within thy palaces.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be: world without end.
Amen.

—Psalm 122, vv. 1 & 4–7

Greeting and Call to Worship

*Gathering Hymn | UMH 559

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

*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 Christ be with you.
People: And also with you.

Proclamation
Prayer for Illumination | In unison:

God of the universe, draw us closer to you through your word, that we might look away from this world’s uncertainty to your covenant and become one in your peace and secure in your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson | OT page 737 in pew Bibles.

Ezekiel 17:22–24

Lector: The word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Lesson | NT page 170 in pew Bibles.

2 Corinthians 5:6–17

Lector: The word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.
Anthem

Remember not, Lord

Remember not, Lord, our offences,
nor the offences of our forefathers;
neither take thou vengeance of our sins:
spare us, good Lord, spare thy people,
whom thou hast redeemed with thy most precious blood,
and be not angry with us for ever.

—The Litany, Book of Common Prayer (1662)

*Gospel Lesson | NT page 36 in pew Bibles.

Mark 4:26–34

Lector: The word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

An Opportunity to Boast

Response

*Response Hymn | UMH 161

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

*Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth:

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried: he descended into hell; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. 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 Anthem

Beati omnes qui timent Dominum 

Beati omnes qui timent Dominum, qui ambulant in viis ejus. 
Labores manuum tuarum quia manducabis: beatus es, et bene tibi erit. 
Uxor tua sicut vitis abundans in lateribus domus tuae; 
filii tui sicut novellae olivarum in circitu mensae tuae. 
Ecce sic benedicetur homo qui timet Dominum. 
Alleluia.

Blessed are all they that fear the Lord: and walk in his ways. 
For thou shalt eat the labours of thine hands: O well is thee, 
and happy shalt thou be. 
Thy wife shall be as the fruitful vine: upon the walls of thine house. 
Thy children like the olive-branches: round about thy table. 
Lo, thus shall the man be blessed: that feareth the Lord. 
Alleluia.

—Psalm 128:1–4

*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 | All are encouraged to pray the Lord’s Prayer in the language of their choosing. The English text can be found at 895 in the pew hymnal.

Sending Forth
*Choral Benediction

Hear my Prayer

Hear my Prayer, O Lord: and let my crying come unto thee.

—Psalm 102:1

*Benediction

*Sending Hymn | UMH 545

The Church’s One Foundation

AURELIA

Postlude

Rondeau

H. Purcell

Memorial Chapel Communion | Immediately following today’s worship service, a brief communion service will be held in Memorial Chapel. Following communion, the minister will be available to offer prayers and anointing.
Lectors
Beth Gettys Sturkey .......................... Member, Congregation at Duke Chapel
Mary Anderson ............................. Member, Congregation at Duke Chapel

Musicians
Chorworks 2024 Young Artists Program ................................. Choir
Philip Cave ............................. Conductor-in-Residence, Duke University Chapel
Molly Quinn ................................. Soprano, Chorworks Faculty
Giles Underwood ........................ Bass, Chorworks Faculty
Daniel Swenberg .......................... Theorbo
Stephanie Vial ................................. Baroque cello
Chad Fothergill ........................... Chapel Organist, Duke University Chapel
Katherine Johnson ........................ Organ Scholar, Duke University Chapel
Aaron Colston ........................ Chapel Carillonneur, Duke University Chapel

Head Ushers
James Ferguson .......................... Member, Congregation at Duke Chapel
Ken Arneson .............................. Member, Congregation at Duke Chapel

Today’s Offering | All of today’s cash offerings and checks written to Duke University Chapel will be used for an emergency fund for disaster and recovery support for communities affected by natural disasters and humanitarian crises. Send checks to: Duke University Chapel, Box 90974, Durham, NC 27708-0974. Give online at chapel.duke.edu/offering.

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

Today’s Flowers | The flowers for the worship service today are given to the glory of God by the Elizabeth Lucina Gotham Memorial Chapel Endowment.

Today’s Music | Music today is provided by the students and faculty of the Chorworks 2024 Young Artists Program under the direction of Duke Chapel’s conductor-in-residence, Dr. Philip Cave. The participants have spent the last week studying and performing music by the seventeenth-century English composer Henry Purcell, whose musical voice blends French joie-de-vivre, Italian drama, and England’s long choral tradition. Chorworks is a nonprofit organization founded in 2005 by Dr. Cave to explore the rich diversity of choral music. Through concerts and educational workshops, Chorworks offers singers and conductors the opportunity to study and perform choral masterpieces, with an emphasis on the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.
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 Department of Theater Studies.

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.

Chapel Flowers | If you would like to honor a loved one and the worshiping community of the Duke Chapel with a gift of flowers to decorate the chancel for Sunday worship, please contact Angela Flynn, coordinator of worship and ministry, at angela.flynn@duke.edu.

Guest Preacher Next Sunday | The guest preacher for next Sunday’s service is the Rev. Rachel Billups. Rev. Billups serves as senior pastor at New Albany United Methodist Church, New Albany/Columbus, Ohio. Pastor Billups is a popular speaker at national gatherings and has recently authored *An Unlikely Advent: Extraordinary People of the Christmas Story* as well as *BE BOLD: Finding Your Fierce*. She is an ordained Elder in the United Methodist Church and holds a bachelor’s degree in Bible/religion and history from Anderson University and a master of divinity from Duke Divinity School. Most days you can find her reaching out—praying online, hosting Open Table gatherings in her home, or enjoying moments with her husband and four children.

LGBTQ+ Fellowship After Worship | Happy Pride Month! Members of the LGBTQ+ community and allies are invited to attend the monthly fellowship gathering after worship today from 12:30 p.m.–1:30 p.m. in the Chapel kitchen.
Back Pew Collection | Durham Literacy Center (DLC), one of the Congregation’s community partner agencies, has provided free instruction and tutoring to over 18,000 adults and out-of-school youth since 1985. Next Sunday, June 23, the Congregation will be collecting school supplies on the back pews of the Chapel. For more information about needed items, please reach out to congregation@duke.edu.

Sunday Morning Classes | Sunday morning Christian Education classes are available for all ages 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. Contact 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 4–1st grade in 0054 Langford
Godly Play Advanced: Spiritual formation for children in 2nd–5th grades in 0050 Langford
Youth Program: 6th–12th graders will meet in 0015 Westbrook
Adult Class: The Sunday morning Adult Summer Study is “Faith on the Threshold: Liminality in the Bible.” This study will explore Biblical stories to discover how persons learned to follow God and navigate times of transition. It will meet in 0012 Westbrook and over Zoom
ACCESSIBILITY

Hearing assistance units, as well as large-print worship guides and hymnals, are available at the AV console in the rear of the Chapel. There, you can also find directions to download a listen-assist app on your phone. Please let us know if you need other accommodations by approaching a minister or usher, or email us at dukechapel@duke.edu.

LET’S KEEP IN TOUCH

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

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The Congregation at Duke Chapel

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.chapel.duke.edu to receive the weekly eNews.