The scripture lessons for today emphasize the fleeting nature of human existence and the permanence and power of God. Isaiah gives voice to the ephemeral quality of life, comparing people to grass that withers in a day. By contrast, God is everlasting, strong, and ready to renew the strength of those who wait on the Lord. In Psalm 90, the psalmist recognizes the brevity of life in light of God’s eternity and asks God to help us gain wisdom by teaching us to count our days. The Gospel lesson emphasizes Jesus’s eternal nature as the one who was with God and was God from the beginning. Through the Word, Jesus, all things came into being, and though the grass withers and the flower fades, the Word of the Lord will stand forever.
Gathering
Opening Voluntary

Four Duets (from Clavierübung III), BWV 802–805
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Greeting and Call to Worship

*Opening Hymn | See hymns at the back of the bulletin.

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise
ST. DENIO

*Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance | In unison:

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.
Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!
If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?
But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.
I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;
   my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning,
   more than those who watch for the morning.

Text: Adapted from Psalm 130

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

Gracious Father, by the obedience of Jesus you brought salvation to our wayward world:
kindle in us obedience today, and draw us into harmony with your will, that we may find
all things restored in him, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

First Lesson

Isaiah 40:6-8, 27-31
Psalmody | The refrain is introduced by the cantor, then sung by all.

Psalm 90

O Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to the next. Before the mountains were born or the earth or the world brought forth, you are God, without beginning or end. You turn us back into dust and say: “Go back, children of the earth.” To your eyes a thousand years are like yesterday, come and gone, no more than a watch in the night. Refrain

You sweep us away like a dream, like grass which springs up in the morning. In the morning it springs up and flowers; by evening it withers and fades. So we are destroyed in your anger, struck with terror in your fury. Our guilt lies open before you, our secrets in the light of your face. Refrain

All our days pass away in your anger. Our life is over like a sigh. Our span is seventy years or eighty for those who are strong. And most of these days are emptiness and pain. They pass swiftly and we are gone. Who understands the power of your anger and fears the strength of your fury? Refrain

Make us know the shortness of our life that we may gain wisdom of heart. Lord, relent! Is your anger forever? Show pity to your servants. In the morning, fill us with your love we shall exult and rejoice all our days. Give us joy to balance our affliction for the years when we knew misfortune. Refrain

Show forth your work to your servants; let your glory shine on their children. Let the favor of the Lord be upon us: give success to the word of our hands, give success to the work of our hands. Refrain

*Gospel Lesson

John 1:1-14

Sermon

Masks and Mortals

Response

*Affirmation of Faith

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and do not forget all God's benefits—
who forgives all our iniquity,
who heals all our diseases,
who redeems our life from the Pit,
who crowns us with steadfast love and mercy,
who satisfies us with good as long as we live
so that our youth is renewed like the eagle's.

The Lord works vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.
God made known God's ways to Moses,
God's acts to the people of Israel.
The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Text: Adapted from Psalm 103

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 Solo

Maya’s Prayer for Peace

Father, Mother, God,
thank you for your presence during the hard and mean days,
for then we have you to lean upon.
Thank you for your presence during the bright and sunny days,
for then we can share that we have with those who have less.
Thank you for your presence during the holy days,
for then we are able to celebrate you and our families and our friends.

For those who have no voice, we ask you to speak.
For those who feel unworthy,
we ask you to pour out your love in waterfalls of tenderness.
For those who live in pain,
we ask you to bathe them in your river of healing.
For those who are lonely,
we ask you to keep them company.
For those who are depressed,
we ask you to shower upon them the light of hope!

Father, Mother, God,
you, the borderless sea of substance,
we ask you to give all the world that which we need the most:
peace.


*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

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.
SUMMER PSALMS SERIES | As Christians who worship in a liturgical tradition, we follow the Revised Common Lectionary for our scripture texts throughout the year. This three-year cycle of scriptures follows the Christian calendar, and passages are selected to match the season of the church year and the themes present therein. As with the last two years, this summer we will be following a different selection of texts. Together, we will read the Psalms as our primary scripture lesson in our Sunday services and we invite you to read Psalms with us throughout your week; this approach is called *lectio continua*. Reading in this way opens us up to a broader range of the scriptural canon by allowing our community to learn from passages not regularly included in the Sunday morning lectionary. We hope you will join us through the summer as we read, study, and learn from Psalms. For July 19, please read Psalms 91-102.

SINGING THE PSALMS | Today’s setting of Psalm 90 is presented in a “Gelineau psalm” setting. Joseph Gelineau (1920-2008) was a French Jesuit priest with a deep interest in both music and text (he helped translate *La Bible de Jérusalem*, the French predecessor to The Jerusalem Bible). His psalm settings are his most famous compositions, and are now considered a “genre” of sung psalmody in their own right. In a Gelineau setting, a constant pulse permeates the psalm and connects the refrain and the verses. Stressed syllables in the verse text are timed to occur on the pulse, and all remaining
syllables happen between pulses. The result is a style of chant with a strongly rhythmic affect (unlike the arguably more ethereal Gregorian chant). Today’s hymns are reprinted from Glory to God, the 2013 hymnal of The Presbyterian Church USA. Both bear a thematic connection to Psalm 90, which you can read about in the explanatory notes on each hymn page.

**BIBLE STUDY ON THE PSALMS** | The Sunday morning Bible Study focuses on the Psalter to correspond with the summer preaching series. The online classes are held on Sunday mornings from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. and are open to all. Please contact the Congregation office at congregation@duke.edu for the Zoom link.

**LAMENTING INJUSTICE AND THOSE WHO HAVE DIED** | The Chapel continues lamenting injustice and those who have died. See a collection of our prayers, messages, and reflections at chapel.duke.edu/lament.

**GRAD STUDENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS** | University graduate students, other young adults, and their partners are invited to a virtual discussion of the wisdom literature in the Bible on Mondays, July 13 and July 27, at 6:30 p.m. All questions and perspectives are welcome. Please contact Matt Wright at matthew.r.wright@duke.edu for login information.

**JULY BOOK GROUPS** | The Congregation is sponsoring two book groups, beginning on Wednesday, July 15, to discuss Marilyn Chandler McEntyre’s Christ, My Companion: Meditations on the Prayer of St. Patrick. By focusing on a beloved prayer of the patron saint of Ireland, the book invokes the ways Christ is present to us. The book groups will meet by Zoom on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. from July 15 through August 5. Please contact the Congregation office for Zoom links and additional details.

**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. EDT on the Duke Chapel Facebook page at facebook.com/dukechapel.

**DUKE CHAPEL YOUTUBE CHANNEL** | Duke Chapel’s YouTube channel has an extensive archive of Sunday, Evensong, and Vespers worship services as well as concerts and panel discussions. Please enjoy these resources at youtube.com/dukechapel.

**SOUNDS OF FAITH VIDEO REFLECTIONS** | While in the current climate we cannot gather together to worship and sing, we can still find consolation in recordings of the congregational hymns, choral anthems, organ voluntaries, and other music that has filled the Chapel over the decades—and perhaps, find ways to listen even more deeply to these sounds of faith. To that end, Chapel musicians have created the Sounds of Faith video series. Each video presents a recording of music performed at the Chapel with commentary about its composition, history, and meaning. Find the complete playlist at youtube.com/dukechapel.

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASSES** | Online classes for all ages are offered Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m. Please see the Congregation’s eNews for links or contact the Congregation office at congregation@duke.edu. Classes are:

- **Wee Praise**: For children who are infants through age 3 with parents or caregivers
- **Godly Play**: For children age 4 through 5th grade
- **Bible Study on the Psalms**: Focus on Psalm 73 and the topic of the prosperity of the wicked led by Carol Gregg, Congregation Pastor
Hymn

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

2 Unresting, unhaasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rul'est in might;
thy justice, like mountains high soaring above;
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

3 To all, life thou giv'est, to both great and small,
In all life thou livest, the true life of all.
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
then wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.

4 Thou reignest in glory; thou dwell'st in light.
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight.
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

The opening line of this hymn was inspired by the three divine attributes listed in 1 Timothy 1:17 (King James Version), and it continues by considering how God’s life exceeds our own finite existence. The text is well set to a Welsh melody shaped by many three-note units.
Hymn

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

ST. ANNE

1 Our God, our help in ages past, our
2 Beneath the shadow of thy throne thy
3 Before the hills in order stood, or
4 A thousand ages in thy sight are

hope for years to come, our shelter from the
saints have dwelt secure; sufficient is thine
earth received its frame, from everlasting
like an evening gone, short as the watch that

stormy blast, and our eternal home:
arm alone, and our defense is sure.
thou art God, to endless years the same.
ends the night before the rising sun.

5 Time, like an ever rolling stream,
6 Our God, our help in ages past,
bears all our years away;
our hope for years to come,
they fly forgotten, as a dream
be thou our guard while life shall last,
dies at the opening day.
and our eternal home.

Many people sing this hymn unaware that it paraphrases Psalm 90, partly because this text speaks so immediately to the human condition. Since the middle of the 19th century, it has usually been joined to this tune named for the London parish where the composer was organist.

TEXT: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.
MUSIC: Attr. William Croft, 1708