Throughout this cycle of Ordinary Time, we hear lessons on the power of God. In today’s lesson from Genesis, Jacob, who might be described as a simple shepherd, is asleep in the open with a rock for a pillow, and God appears to him in a dream, promising to make his descendants as numerous as the stars. In Romans, the Apostle Paul continues to reassure the persecuted Christians that, just as Christ died and then rose in glory, so too will all who are co-heirs in Christ. In the Gospel, we are told the story of a successful crop that has been infiltrated by weeds, but the wise master has a plan to sort the weeds at harvest, just as God will separate the righteous from the wicked.
Gathering
Opening Voluntary

Kyrie, Maestoso in C Sharp Minor, op. 16, No. 1
Louis Vierne (1870–1937)
arr. Alexander Schreiner

Greeting and Call to Worship

*Processional Hymn | UMH 127

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Baptism

Presentation of Candidates | Errol James Wooten and Siong Min Virginia Boggan are presented for baptism by their parents.

Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith | The Congregation and those presenting candidates for baptism affirm their faith by responding to the following questions.

Minister: Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?
All: I do.

Minister: Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior, trusting in his grace and love?
All: I do.

Minister: Will you be Christ’s faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love?
All: I will.

All: Believing that God reaches out to us with love and forgiveness, we seek to grow together in faith through worship, study, service, and our life together, to the end that we embody Christ’s compassion and holiness.

Commitment by the Congregation

Prayer over the Water

*All rise as able
Baptism

Commissioning Prayer and Welcome | in unison:

With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you into Christ’s church to share with us in his ministry, for we are all one in Christ.

*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:

O Lord, you have given us your Word as a light to shine upon our path. Grant that we may meditate on that Word and follow its teaching, finding in it the Light that shines more and more until the perfect day. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson | OT page 24 in pew Bibles.

Genesis 28:10–19a

Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Choral Anthem

Jacob’s Ladder

We are climbing Jacob’s ladder, we are climbing Jacob’s ladder, We are climbing Jacob’s ladder, soldiers of the cross.

Every round goes higher, higher...

Sinner, do you love my Jesus...

If you love him, why not serve him?...

—Black spiritual

Romans 8:12–25

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

*Gospel Lesson | NT page 14 in pew Bibles.

Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43

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

Sermon

God in the Edgelands

Response

Response Hymn | UMH 694

   Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

   ST GEORGE’S WINDSOR

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

   Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast

   Roy Johnson

   Almighty God, your word is cast like seed upon the ground, now let the dew of heaven descend and righteous fruits abound.
Let not our selfishness and hate this holy seed remove,
but give it root in every heart to bring forth fruits of love.

Let not the world’s deceitful cares the rising plant destroy,
But let it yield a hundredfold the fruits of peace and joy.

Almighty God, your word is cast like seed upon the ground,
now let the dew of heaven descend and righteous fruits abound.

—John Cawood (1775–1852), alt.

*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!

Sending Forth

*Choral Benediction

The Spirit of the Lord

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.

—Isaiah 11:2 and Psalm 72:18, adapt.

*Benediction

*Closing Hymn | See hymn printed at back of worship guide.

For the Fruit of All Creation

AR HYD Y NOS

Closing Voluntary

Fugue on the name BACH, Opus 60, No. 1

Robert Schumann
(1810–1856)
TODAY IN WORSHIP

Presiding Ministers
Bruce Puckett .......................... Assistant Dean, Duke University Chapel
Carol Gregg ............................ Pastor, Congregation at Duke Chapel
Kathryn Lester-Bacon ............. Director of Religious Life, Duke University Chapel

Preacher
Stephanie Paulsell ................ Professor of the Practice of Christian Studies, Harvard Divinity School

Lectors
Christian Wilson .................... Member, Congregation at Duke Chapel
Tamela Davis ......................... Member, Congregation at Duke Chapel

Musicians
Summer Choir .............................. Choir
Zebulon Highben .................... Director of Chapel Music, Duke University Chapel
Jane Lynch ............................. Guest Organist

Head Usher
James Ferguson ....................... Member, Congregation at Duke Chapel

Today's Guest Preacher | The Rev. Dr. Paulsell is the Susan Shallcross Swartz Professor of the Practice of Christian Studies at Harvard Divinity School, where she teaches in the areas of religion and literature and Christian spirituality. Her recent publications include *Religion Around Virginia Woolf* and *Toni Morrison: Goodness and the Literary Imagination*, which she co-edited. She is an ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and lives in Cambridge with her husband, Kevin Madigan, where they serve as faculty deans of Eliot House in Harvard College.

Baptized Today | Please welcome two children to the family of faith: Errol James Wooten, the son of Charlene James and Eric Wooten, and Siong Min Virginia Boggan, the daughter of Lin Ong and Joel Boggan and sister to Khai Boggan.

Choir Auditions | We are grateful to the Summer Choir for their leadership today in worship. The Chapel’s regular choirs—the Chapel Choir, Evensong Singers, and Vespers Ensemble—will resume rehearsals and worship leadership in late August. Auditions are open to students, faculty, staff, and members of the broader Duke and Durham communities. For more information, please contact the Chapel Music office at chapelmusic@duke.edu or 919-684-3898.
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 Pratt School of Engineering Research Centers.

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.

Listen-Assist Smartphone App | A new smartphone app lets you use your own phone and earbuds to listen in the pews to services. Stop by the AV console in the sanctuary on the way into a service for an easy two-step process to connect to the sound system.

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.

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.
Help Introduce Visitors to Duke Chapel | Visitors from across America and around the globe visit Duke Chapel about 300,000 times each year. For many of these people, their visit is enriched by the hospitality and insights of our team of volunteer docents who offer welcome and give tours. You are invited to join this team to serve these visitors and deepen your understanding of the Chapel. Training is provided. Contact Tamela Davis at tamelabdavis@gmail.com to learn more.

Congregation at Duke Chapel Seeks to Hire a Senior Pastor | With the Rev. Dr. Carol Gregg retiring at the end of the calendar year after ten years of service, the Congregation at Duke Chapel is seeking to hire a new senior pastor. The Congregation is seeking an ordained protestant minister who is gifted in pastoral care, administration, and Christian education. Candidates should have a strong interest in community service and be comfortable in both parish and academic settings. Go to congregation.chapel.duke.edu for more information.

LGBTQ+ Fellowship | Members of the LGBTQ+ community and their allies are invited to attend the monthly fellowship gathering on the fourth Sunday of each month from 12:15–1:15 p.m. in the Congregation Office located in the lower level of the Chapel. All are welcome to attend today, Sunday, July 23. For more information, please contact congregation@duke.edu.

Young Adult Dinner and Discussion Tomorrow | Please join friendly people for a simple dinner and Bible study that will focus on the experience of University graduate students, younger adults, and their partners. The next gathering will be tomorrow, Monday, July 23, at 6:30 p.m. in the Chapel kitchen, located in the lower level of the Chapel. The group will explore the Gospel of John. All are welcome, and we encourage questions and a range of perspectives. Please contact evan.bille@duke.edu for additional information.

August Book Group | Two book groups will meet in August to discuss The Measure by Nikki Erlick. The book, which focuses on eight ordinary people with one extraordinary choice, was chosen as the Duke Common Experience book. Book groups will meet for four Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. over Zoom beginning August 9. For additional information, please contact congregation@duke.edu.
**ENGAGE**

**Saturday Service Project** | Volunteers are needed at the indoor air-conditioned Durham branch of the Food Bank of Central & Eastern NC, located at 2700 Angier Avenue, Durham on Saturday, August 12, from 9:00 a.m. until 12-noon. Work will involve the sorting of canned and/or perishable food for distribution in central and eastern North Carolina. By working together, the burden on families can be eased, ensuring growing children get the nourishment needed to grow, play and learn. To sign up, please contact congregation@duke.edu.

**Canned Food Drive** | The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina welcomes donations of any type of canned goods and other non-perishable food items, including both baby formula and baby food. Please drop off donations for the Food Bank on the back pew of the Chapel on Sundays August 13 and August 20.

**New Members Welcome** | The Congregation at Duke Chapel invites visitors and regular attenders to consider congregation membership. Members of the congregation initiate and participate in ministries of education, mission, and fellowship beyond Sunday mornings. A four-week new member class is offered each fall and spring. For more information, please contact carol.gregg@duke.edu.

**Growing Thru Grief** | Growing Thru Grief, sponsored by a coalition of area religious and civic organizations that includes the Congregation, offers small group support to those who are grieving the loss of a loved one. The meetings are held on Tuesdays from 4:30–6:00 p.m., with registration beginning at 4:00 p.m. at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, 1200 West Cornwallis in Durham. Proof of COVID vaccination and booster is required for first time attendees. For more details, please contact admin@growingthru grief.org.

**Life Together Groups** | Life Together Groups are the Congregation’s small group ministry in which participants meet to share life and prayers together. Groups meet for 75 minutes every two weeks with an intentionally simple structure to facilitate extended conversation. All existing groups welcome new participants and creating new groups is always an option. Some groups meet by Zoom and others in person. Contact carol.gregg@duke.edu for more information.
Sunday Morning Classes | 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 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: On July 30, the Rev. Lynn Holmes, associate in ministry at First Baptist Church, Raleigh, will lead a class on 1 Corinthians 10–11 in 0013 Westbrook and over Zoom
1 For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
2 In the just reward of labor, God’s will is done.
3 For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.

For these gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.
In the help we give our neighbor, God’s will is done.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.

For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,
In our world-wide task of caring for the hungry and despairing,
For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us,

future needs in earth’s safekeeping, thanks be to God.
in the harvests we are sharing, God’s will is done.
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.
ACCESSIBILITY

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.

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.

chapel.duke.edu
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Connect with us

@DukeChapel
#FindSanctuary

The Congregation at Duke 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 to receive the weekly eNews.