The dramatic narrative of Acts continues. As it states in Acts 19:23, “About that time no little disturbance broke out concerning the Way.” Disciples in the early church encountered all sorts of challenges, some expected and some surprising, from itinerant exorcists to silversmith riots, to Eutychus falling asleep and falling out of window as Paul preaches. Nevertheless, allies and advocates continue to appear in unexpected places, sometimes at great cost to themselves. The Way of Jesus continues to compel people, to convict listeners and onlookers, to change lives. Acts show us that following Jesus has never been easy. And yet, the Spirit continues to move, the church continues to grow. Even as Acts 20 shows the Apostle Paul preparing to say goodbye to the people of Ephesus, the Way leads on.
Gathering
Opening Voluntary

Partita, BWV 768: Sei gegrüßet, Jesu gütig
Choral, Variations I, II, and X

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

Greeting and Call to Worship

*Processional Hymn 192

There’s a Spirit in the Air

orientis partibus

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

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned in word and deed, by what we have done and what we have left undone. We have withheld our treasures, been slow to welcome those we see as outsiders, resisted your transformation, and refused the leading of your Spirit. We repent and turn to you. For the sake of the Holy and Righteous One, your Son Jesus, have mercy on us. Forgive our sins and renew us by your Spirit. Amen.

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:

Generous God, you give us gifts and make them grow: though our faith is small as a mustard seed, make it grow to your glory as we come to know your word, and help us to live for the flourishing of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*All rise as able
First Lesson | NT pages 132–133 in pew Bibles.

Acts 20:13–38

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

Gradual Music

Pie Jesu, from Requiem

Andrew Lloyd Webber
(b. 1948)

Pie Jesu,
Qui tollis peccata mundi,
Dona eis requiem.

Agnus Dei,
Qui tollis peccata mundi,
Dona eis requiem sempiternam.

—Requiem Mass

*Gospel Lesson | NT pages 67–68 in pew Bibles.


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

Sermon

Response

*Response Hymn 399

Take My Life, and Let It Be
*Affirmation of Faith*

We believe that God shows no partiality, and that those who fear God and do what is right are acceptable to God. We believe God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, and that Jesus went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed. We believe Jesus was put to death by hanging on a tree, but that God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear to those who were chosen by God as witnesses. We believe Jesus is the Lord of all and is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead, and that all the prophets have testified about Jesus that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.

—Adapted from Acts 10:34–43

**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**

Ave Maria

Franz Schubert (1797–1828)
arr. Stephen DiCesare

Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum.
Benedicta tu in mulieribus,
et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus.
Sancta Maria, Mater Dei,
ora pro nobis peccatoribus,
nunc et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen.

_Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee._
_Blessed art thou among women,_
_and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus._
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and in the hour of our death. Amen.

—traditional

*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

*Closing Hymn 501

O Thou Who Camest from Above

Closing Voluntary

Sei gegrüßet, Jesu gütig,
Variation XI
TODAY IN WORSHIP

Presiding Ministers
Carol Gregg .............................. Pastor, Congregation at Duke Chapel
Bruce Puckett ............................. Assistant Dean, Duke University Chapel

Preacher
Kathryn Lester-Bacon ..................... Director of Religious Life, Duke University Chapel

Lectors
Christopher Ross ........................... Member, Congregation at Duke Chapel
Tony Willms ................................. Member, Congregation at Duke Chapel

Musicians
Julia Leeman ................................ Guest Soloist
Sophie Leeman ................................ Guest Soloist
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 for an emergency fund for disaster and recovery support for communities affected by natural disasters and humanitarian crises. You are invited to give online at chapel.duke.edu/offering. Send checks to: Duke University Chapel, Box 90974, Durham, NC 27708-0974.

Today’s Flowers | Flowers for today’s worship service are provided by the Terry Sanford Chapel Flowers Fund.

Accessibility | Large print hymnals and worship guides are available at the visitor relations desk. Hearing assistance units are available at the AV console in the rear of the Chapel.

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 and beyond. This morning we give thanks for Duke Athletics Camp Programs.

ENGAGE

Restrooms in Divinity School | Public restrooms are available in the Divinity School. To access them, exit the Chapel through the main front doors, turn to the left, 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.

Back Pew Collection | Urban Ministries of Durham welcomes donations to support neighbors in need. The shelter currently needs: shaving cream, deodorant (unisex), lotion (travel size), breakfast cereal, canned fruit, canned meat, and canned pasta. Please place donations on the back pew of the Chapel today, July 24.

Young Adult Bible Study Tomorrow | University graduate students, other young adults, and their partners are invited to a virtual Bible study tomorrow, Monday, July 25, at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the Book of Ephesians. The Bible study meets on the second and fourth Monday of the month. New participants are welcome at any time. For Zoom link or additional information, please contact Laura Catherine Wilson at laura.wilson@duke.edu.

Guest Preacher Next Sunday | Next Sunday, July 31, we will welcome as our guest preacher the Rev. Dr. Mary S. Hulst, university pastor and adjunct professor at Calvin University. Before coming to Calvin College, Dr. Hulst spent eight years serving as the senior pastor at Eastern Avenue Christian Reformed Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan, before leaving to pursue a PhD in communication ethics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Her bachelor’s degree is in classical studies from Calvin College, and her master of divinity was granted by Calvin Theological Seminary. Dr. Hulst taught for one year in the Communications Arts and Sciences Department at Calvin College and then for two years at Calvin Theological Seminary, as assistant professor of preaching, where she still teaches on occasion.

Be The Bridge 101 | All are invited to participate in a four-week discussion on foundational principles for welcoming diversity and healing into our communities. This discussion, developed from an explicitly Christian perspective, is designed for white people to engage concepts such as white identity and white privilege. Discussion guides are produced by Be the Bridge (www.bethebridge.com). Be the Bridge 101 will be held by Zoom on Tuesday evenings from 7:00–8:00 p.m. on August 9, 16, 23, and 30. Rev. Breana van Velzen will facilitate the discussion. For more information, contact congreg@duke.edu.

Sunday Morning Classes | Sunday morning Christian Education classes are available for all ages. New participants are welcome at any time. Please contact congreg@duke.edu for additional information or Zoom link.
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.

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.