The scripture lessons today emphasize the greatness of God and God’s ways. Psalm 104 praises God for the wonders of creation and the works of God’s hands. The psalmist declares, “I will sing to the Lord as long as I live.” In the lesson from Matthew, Jesus shares multiple parables about the kingdom of heaven. He compares it to small things, like a mustard seed and yeast, that grow and spread with great impact. He also compares it to pearls and treasures—things of great value. Through Jesus’s ministry on earth, the treasured reign and rule of God grew, revealing its expansive and inclusive nature. In a similar way, Paul writes in his letter to the church in Rome about the invitation into the large family of God where Jesus is the firstborn. For those who are conformed to the image of Christ, Paul proclaims that nothing “will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
Gathering
Opening Voluntary

Psalm Prelude: 130 “Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord”                         Herbert Howells
(1892–1983)

Greeting and Call to Worship

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

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

*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 you Lord, my soul waits, and in your word I hope;
   my soul waits for you 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

Creator God, you made us all in your image: as we are formed by your word, may we
discern you in all that we see, and serve you in all that we do; through Jesus Christ our
Lord. Amen.

First Lesson

Romans 8:26–39

*All rise as able
Psalmody | The refrain is introduced by the cantor, then sung by all.

Psalm 104:24–35

How manifold are your works, O LORD!
In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.
Yonder is the sea, great and wide, with its swarms too many to number,
living things both small and great.
There go the ships to and fro,
and Leviathan, which you made for the sport of it.
All of them look to you
to give them their food in due season.
You give it to them; they gather it;
you open your hand, and they are filled with good things. Refrain

When you hide your face, they are terrified;
when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.
You send forth your Spirit, and they are created;
and so you renew the face of the earth.
May the glory of the LORD endure forever;
O LORD, rejoice in all your works.
You look at the earth and it trembles;
you touch the mountains and they smoke. Refrain

I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;
I will praise my God while I have my being.
May these words of mine please God.
I will rejoice in the LORD.
Let sinners be consumed from the earth
and the wicked be no more.
Bless the LORD, O my soul. Hallelujah! Refrain

*Gospel Lesson

Matthew 13:31–33, 44–52

Sermon

Useless Resistance
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

King of Glory, King of Peace

King of glory, King of peace, I will love thee;
And that love may never cease, I will move thee.
Thou hast granted my request, thou hast heard me;
Thou didst note my working breast, thou hast spared me.

Wherefore with my utmost art I will sing thee,
And the cream of all my heart I will bring thee.
Though my sins against me cried, thou did’st clear me;
And alone, when they replied, thou did’st hear me.
Sev’n whole days, not one in sev’n, I will praise thee;
In my heart, though not in heav’n, I can raise thee.
Small it is, in this poor sort to enroll thee:
E’en eternity’s too short to extoll thee!

Text: George Herbert (1593–1633)

*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

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 | See hymns at the back of the bulletin.

O Come, My Soul, Sing Praise to God

Closing Voluntary

Toccata in G Major

Théodore Dubois
(1837–1924)
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 August 2, please read Psalms 119–125.

SINGING THE PSALMS | Both of today’s hymns are paraphrases of Psalm 103. Henry F. Lyte’s “Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven” was written in England in the 1830s. Each of its five stanzas was based on a sequential group of psalm verses. By 1861 the original fourth stanza (which paraphrased verses 15-18 and began, “Frail as summer’s flower we flourish”) was already being omitted from hymnals. “O, Come My Soul, Sing Praise to God” first appeared in the *Psalter 1912*, a hymnal of the United Presbyterian Church of North America. Note its five stanzas, including a fourth stanza that likewise summarizes verses 15-18. Though it is also paired with a well-known tune, this later paraphrase has not had the staying power of “Praise, My Soul.” Lyte’s hymn may have “lost” a stanza, but the rest has become beloved, appearing in more than 450 hymnals since its publication.

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.

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.

CHAPEL MUSIC DIRECTOR’S ORIGINAL HYMNS SELECTED FOR PUBLICATION | A forthcoming publication of songs for Christian worship will include original music and lyrics by Duke Chapel Director of Music Dr. Zebulon Highben. In creating the liturgical supplement All Creation Sings, the Lutheran publishing house Augsburg Fortress selected three hymns by Dr. Highben. Two of the hymns have original tunes by Dr. Highben, which are paired with texts by the poet and pastor Rev. Susan Briehl—“God Alone Be Praised” and “Lift Up Your Heads.” In a third hymn, “Surely God Is My Salvation,” Dr. Highben paired his own text with a traditional folk melody.

SOUNDS OF FAITH VIDEO REFLECTIONS | In the latest installment of our Sounds of Faith series, University Organist Dr. Robert Parkins discusses his original organ transcription of Richard Strauss’s “Im Abendrot,” which imagines the glow of a sunset through the eyes of an aging couple. Watch the video, and others in the series, at youtube.com/dukechapel.

TWO MINUTES TOGETHER | In our latest Two Minutes Together video, the Rev. Breana van Velzen, the Chapel’s community minister, reflects on the role of altars to God during a time when many people are having to do their spiritual practices at home. She takes inspiration from a recent workshop she attended as well as this passage in the Book of Exodus (20:24): “You need make for me only an altar of earth and sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and your offerings of well-being, your sheep and your oxen; in every place where I cause my name to be remembered I will come to you and bless you.” Watch the video 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 80 and the topic of the people of God led by Dr. Brian Stratton, Philosophy professor at UNC-Pembroke
Hymn

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

1. Praise, my soul, the King of heaven, to the throne thy tribute bring; ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, evermore God’s praises sing. Alleluia!
2. Praise the Lord for grace and favor to all people in distress; praise God, still the same as ever, slow to chide, and swift to bless. Alleluia!
3. Father-like, God tends and spares us; well our feeble frame God knows; mother-like, God gently bears us, rescues us from all our foes. Alleluia!
4. Angels in the heights, adoring, you behold God face to face; saints triumphant, now adoring, gathered in from every race. Alleluia!

Alleluia! Praise the everlast­ing King.
Alleluia! Glorious now God’s faith­ful­ness.
Alleluia! Wide­ly yet God’s mer­cy flows.
Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace.

WORDS: Henry F. Lyte, 1834 (Ps. 103)
MUSIC: John Goss, 1869
Hymn

O Come, My Soul, Sing Praise to God

Text: Psalter 1912, alt. (Psalm 103)

Tune: TIDINGS, James Walch, 1875