Today, both the Old Testament lesson and the Epistle speak of God’s answer to prayer. In First Kings, Solomon asks for wisdom, and God honors this request as more noble than a prayer for long life or riches. In Romans, Paul offers assurance that the Spirit knows our needs even when prayer eludes us. In Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus shares a series of parables that illuminate the precious nature of the kingdom of heaven that we have been promised.
Gathering
Organ Voluntary

Poco lento (Six Preludes for Organ, No. 2)  
Ernest Bloch (1880–1959)

Lamento  
Denis Bédard

Greeting and Call to Worship

*Processional Hymn | UMH 61

Come, Thou Almighty King  
ITALIAN HYMN

*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:

Holy Spirit, Life of all creation, you fill the world, uniting strangers, and enfolding us together. Ignite our minds, and fill these gathered here with love and praise for our greatest gift and hope, Jesus Christ. Amen.

*All rise as able
1 Kings 3:5–12

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

Psalmody | The refrain is introduced by the cantor, then sung by all. The congregation sings the refrain as indicated. The cantor chants the verses.

Psalm 119:129–136

Your decrees are wonderful;
therefore I obey them with all my heart.
When your word is opened it gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple.
I open my mouth and pant
because I long for your commandments.
Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as you always do to those who love your name. Refrain

Order my footsteps in your word;
let no iniquity have dominion over me.
Rescue me from those who oppress me,
and I will keep your commandments.
Let your face shine upon your servant
and teach me your statutes.
My eyes shed streams of tears,
because people do not keep your teaching. Refrain

Romans 8:26–39

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

*Gospel Lesson | NT page 14 in pew Bibles.

Matthew 13:31–33, 44–52

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

Sermon

It Really Do Be Like That

Response

*Response Hymn | UMH 540

I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord

*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 Solo

Lord, God of Abraham (from Elijah)    Felix Mendelssohn
(1809–1847)

Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel;
This day let it be known that thou art God,
and I am thy servant!
Lord God of Abraham! O shew to all this people
that I have done these things according to thy word!
O hear me, Lord, and answer me!
O hear me, and answer me;
and shew this people that thou art Lord God;
and let their hearts again be turned.

—1 Kings 18:36–37, adapt. William Bartholomew

*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 | UMH 663

Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name  
ELLERS

Closing Voluntary

Fugue on the Magnificat, BWV 733  
Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685–1750)
ENGAGE

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 Chemistry.

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.

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.


Today’s Flowers | The flowers for the worship service today are given to the glory of God by the Nancy Hanks Chapel Endowment.

Today’s Offering | All of today’s cash offerings and checks written to Duke University Chapel will be used to support mission trips sent out from the Chapel. Send checks to: Duke University Chapel, Box 90974, Durham, NC 27708-0974. Go to chapel.duke.edu/offering to give online.
August Book Group | Starting on Wednesday, August 9, book groups will read *The Measure: A Read with Jenna Pick* by Nikki Erlick. This New York Times bestseller first-year has been selected as the Duke Common Experience book. Book groups will meet over Zoom for four Wednesdays in August at 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. For more information, please contact congregation@duke.edu.

Choir Auditions | Duke Chapel’s choral ensembles— the Chapel Choir, Evensong Singers, and Vespers Ensemble— 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 or to schedule an audition, please contact the Chapel Music office at chapelmusic@duke.edu or 919-684-3898.

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. Please contact congregation@duke.edu to sign up.

Fellowship Event August 13 | All are welcome to stay after worship on Sunday, August 13, for a time of fellowship and refreshment in the Chapel lounge, located in the lower level of the building. Cake and a get-to-know-you bingo game will be offered.

Canned Food Drive | The Food Bank of Central & Eastern NC 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.

Lasagnas and Volunteers Needed | The Congregation serves dinner at Urban Ministries of Durham once a month. Donated lasagnas to serve twenty-four (such as two party-sized Stouffer’s lasagnas) are needed on Wednesday, August 23 and Sunday, September 10, both at 5:00 p.m.. Volunteers are needed to stay to serve the meal. Please contact congregation@duke.edu to donate or volunteer.
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 over Zoom and other groups meet 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 August 6, The Rev. Luke Oliver, Doctor of Theology student, Duke Divinity School, will lead a class on First Corinthians 12 and 14 in 0013 Westbrook and over Zoom
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.

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@duke.edu to receive the weekly eNews.