Acts 21 tells how Paul’s journey toward Jerusalem continued despite warnings from other believers along the way. As Paul and his companions sailed to various cities staying with other disciples, those in Tyre were the first to tell Paul not to continue to Jerusalem. After a short stay, Paul continued to Caesarea where Agabus, a prophet from Judea, acted out a dramatic scene to warn Paul about the danger that awaited him in Jerusalem. These cautions did not stop Paul, who like Jesus in the Gospel of Luke, was resolute as he continued on his way to the city. Paul’s unwavering faithfulness in his journey reflects a fitting response to Jesus’s admonition to a would-be follower at the end of the Gospel lesson from Luke 9: “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”
Gathering
Prelude

Adagio & Allegro from Sonata in D Major Johann Sebastian Bach for Viola da Gamba and Keyboard, BWV 1028 (1685–1750)

Greeting and Call to Worship

*Processional Hymn 73

O Worship the King

*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:

Faithful God, whose promises never fail: send your Spirit to illuminate your holy word; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Lesson | NT page 133 in pew Bibles.

Acts 21:1–16

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

Thy Way, Not Mine, O Lord

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Words: Horatius Bonar (1857), based on Acts 21:14
Music: Leighton George Hayne, 1863
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*Gospel Lesson | NT page 66 in pew Bibles.


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

Sermon

What Was Paul Thinking?

Response

Response Music

Andante from Sonata in D, BWV 1028  
J. S. Bach
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 Music

Allegro from Sonata in D, BWV 1028  
J. S. Bach

*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 | 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 168

At the Name of Jesus  
KING’S WESTON

Closing Voluntary  

Fugue in G Minor, BWV 578  
J. S. Bach

TODAY IN WORSHIP

Presiding Ministers  
Carol Gregg  
Breana van Velzen  
Pastor, Congregation at Duke Chapel  
Community Minister, Duke University Chapel

Preacher  
Mary S. Hulst  
University Pastor and Adjunct Professor, Calvin University

Lectors  
Ken Davenport  
Beth Gettys Sturkey  
Member, Congregation at Duke Chapel

Musicians  
Timothy Crouch  
Mingjun Wilson  
Jane Lynch  
Viola  
Piano  
Guest Organist

Head Usher  
James Ferguson  
Member, Congregation at Duke Chapel
**Today’s Guest Preacher** | The Goodson Guest Preacher today is 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.

**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. You are invited to give online at [chapel.duke.edu/offering](http://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 Nancy Hanks 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 the Samuel DuBois Cook Center on Social Equity at Duke University.

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**ENGAGE**

**Guest Preacher Next Sunday** | Our guest preacher next Sunday is the Rev. Ashley Crowder Stanley, founding pastor of Wellspring United Methodist Church. Wellspring is a new congregation in Asheville, North Carolina, that is focused on hospitality and welcome for all people. Rev. Stanley has served in the United Methodist Church in a variety of ways, including chairing the Western North Carolina Annual Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, as a mentor to many young clergy, as an instructor at Duke Divinity School, and as a delegate to both General and Jurisdictional Conference. She is also a current member of Duke’s Board of Trustees.

**Summer Choir Next Sunday** | The Chapel Summer Choir will welcome local singers again for the service next Sunday, August 7. On that day, the choir will meet to rehearse in the Chapel at 9:15 a.m. and then sing in the service at 11:00 a.m. Auditions are not required. To learn more, email chapelmusic@duke.edu.
Young Adult Bible Study | University graduate students, other young adults, and their partners are invited to a virtual Bible study on the second and fourth Monday of the month. The next discussion will be Monday, August 8, at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the Book of Ephesians. New participants are welcome at any time. Please contact Laura Catherine Wilson at laura.wilson@duke.edu for a zoom link or additional information.

Saturday Service Project | Volunteers are needed on Saturday, August 13, from 9:00 a.m.–12 noon to work at the Reality Farm, located at 3120 Mt Sinai Road, Durham. Reality Ministries encourages people of all abilities to share life together. The gardening work nurtures both food and friendships. For more information, please contact congregation@duke.edu.

Summer Snackluck | All are invited to attend a snackluck in the Chapel lounge, located in the lower level of the Chapel on Sunday, August 14, immediately following worship. A snackluck is a simplified version of a potluck meal. The Congregation’s fellowship committee will provide dogs-in-a-blanket; participants are invited to bring finger food sides or desserts to share. Please plan to attend the “Hot Diggity Dog Days of Summer Snackluck” for food, fellowship, and fun.

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 is 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, the Chapel’s community minister, will facilitate the discussion. For more information, please contact congregation@duke.edu.

Sunday Morning Classes | Sunday morning Christian Education classes are available for all ages. New participants are welcome at any time. Please contact congregation@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.