The scripture lessons this week emphasize God’s enduring and steadfast love, exemplified by Jesus and expected of his followers. Psalm 136 recounts the story of God as the creator, redeemer, and sustainer of the people of Israel. The psalmist punctuates each act of God reminding the people that the Lord’s steadfast love endures forever. In John’s Gospel, Jesus teaches of the love that he shares with his Father and with the disciples. This love leads Jesus to “lay down his life for his friends,” and Jesus invites his friends to follow him in this self-sacrificial love. 1 John continues the theme of following Jesus’s example and his command to love. In considering Jesus’s example, the epistle writer asks the pointed question that remains a challenge for us today: “How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?”
Gathering
Opening Voluntary

Rhapsody in D-flat major, Op. 17, No. 1

Herbert Howells (1892–1983)

Greeting and Call to Worship

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

Ye Servants of God

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

Transgression speaks to the wicked deep in our hearts;
there is no fear of you, O God, before our eyes.

For we flatter ourselves in our own eyes
that our iniquity cannot be found out and hated.

The words of our mouths are mischief and deceit;
we have ceased to act wisely and do good.

We plot mischief while on our beds; we are set on a way that is not good;
and we do not reject evil.

Yet your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens,
and your faithfulness to the clouds.

Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains,
and your judgments are like the great deep;
you save humans and animals alike, O Lord.

Forgive us we pray, and free us for joyful obedience through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Text: Adapted from Psalm 36

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

 Generous God, you give us gifts and make them grow: though our faith is small, as we hear your wisdom, make our faith grow to your glory and the flourishing of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*All rise as able
First Lesson

1 John 3:11–17

Psalmody

Psalm 136:1–18, 21–26

setting by Joseph Gelineau
(1920–2008)

Who alone has wrought marvelous works…
whose wisdom it was made the skies…
who spread the earth on the seas…

It was he who made the great lights…
the sun to rule in the day…
the moon and stars in the night…

The firstborn of the Egyptians he smote…
brought Israel out from their midst…
arm outstretched, with power in his hand…

He divided the Red Sea in two…
made Israel pass through the midst…
flung Pharoah and his force in the sea…

Through the desert his people he led…
nations in their greatness he struck…
kings in their splendor he slew…

He let Israel inherit their land…
on his servant their land he bestowed…
he remembered us in our distress…

And he snatched us away from our foes…
he gives food to all living things…
to the God of heaven give thanks…
*Gospel Lesson

John 15:9–17

Sermon

Enduring Love

Response

Solo

Give Me Jesus

In the mornin’ when I rise, in the mornin’ when I rise,
in the mornin’ when I rise, give me Jesus.
Give me Jesus, give me Jesus,
you may have all this world, give me Jesus.

Dark midnight was my cry, dark midnight was my cry,
dark midnight was my cry, give me Jesus.
Give me Jesus, give me Jesus,
you may have all this world, give me Jesus.

Oh, when I comes to die, oh, when I comes to die,
oh, when I comes to die, give me Jesus.
Give me Jesus, nobody but Jesus,
you may have all of this world, give me Jesus.

*Affirmation of Faith

Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the clouds.
Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains,
your judgments are like the great deep;
you save humans and animals alike, O Lord.
How precious is your steadfast love, O God!
All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.
They feast on the abundance of your house,
and you give them drink from the river of your delights.
For with you is the fountain of life;
in your light we see light. Amen.

Text: Psalm 36:5–9

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.

Offering

*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.

For the Fruit of All Creation

Closing Voluntary

Allegro con spirito in B-flat major

Frank Bridge (1879–1941)
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 have been following a different selection of texts. Together, we have read the Psalms as our primary scripture lesson in our Sunday services and we have invited you to read Psalms with us throughout your week; this approach is called lection 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 have joined us throughout the summer as we have read, studied, and learned from Psalms. For our final week, please read Psalms 139–150.

Metrical psalms are hymnic paraphrases of psalms, reworked to fit a particular rhyme scheme and/or poetic meter. We have sung many of these throughout this summer’s series. But some hymns are inspired by a single image, idea, or verse of a psalm. A hymnwriter takes a phrase, an image, or a theme and crafts a new text, sometimes pulling together several disparate Bible verses related to that theme. Such is the case with today’s hymns. “Ye Servants of God” draws upon Revelation 7:9–12 but also echoes Psalm 135 (especially verse 1) and its exhortation for the Lord’s servants to continually praise God’s name. “For the Fruit of All Creation” reflects Psalm 136 in its theme but also in its structure: The internal refrain of Psalm 136 is mirrored in the hymn’s repetition of “thanks be to God” six times across its three stanzas.

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.

University graduate students, other young adults, and their partners are invited to a virtual discussion of the wisdom literature in the Bible on Mondays,
August 10 and 24, at 6:30 p.m. All questions and perspectives are welcome. Please contact Matt Wright at matthew.r.wright@duke.edu for login information.

'THE CHRISTIAN IMAGINATION' BOOK GROUP | Beginning August 18, a group of ministers, community members, and students are gathering online twice-a-month to discuss the book *The Christian Imagination: Theology and the Origins of Race* by the Rev. Dr. Willie Jennings, associate professor of systematic theology and Africana studies at Yale Divinity School. Co-organized by the community group Durahmcares, the first online meeting is Tuesday, August 18, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. and the following meetings will be at the same time on the first and third Tuesdays of each month; the final meeting will be on Tuesday, December 15. To receive a Zoom link to participate in the discussion, register for free here. For more information, email the Chapel’s community minister, the Rev. Breana van Velzen, at breana.van.velzen@duke.edu.

STUDENT RELIGIOUS LIFE DISCUSSION | As part of orientation for the incoming Class of 2024, the Chapel’s director of Religious Life, the Rev. Kathryn Lester-Bacon, will lead a virtual panel discussion with student leaders on Religious Life at Duke. First-year students can find details about the discussion, which will be held this coming Tuesday at 8:00 p.m., through the First-Year Orientation program.

SPIRITUAL CLASSIC | *Interior Castle*, a spiritual classic, will be the focus of a six-week book group starting on Wednesday, August 26. *Interior Castle*, written by Teresa of Avila and translated by Mirabai Starr, describes seven stages of spiritual development leading to the soul’s final union with the divine. Teresa, who lived in the 1500’s, is still widely read today. The book groups will meet on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. by Zoom. For login information, please contact congregation@duke.edu.

SAVE THE DATE | The fall new member class will be held on four Sunday mornings from 9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. beginning Sunday, October 18. All those who are considering becoming a member in the Congregation at Duke Chapel are welcome to attend. For additional information, please contact carol.gregg@duke.edu.

COMING SOON | The Education Committee of the Congregation is planning to launch five small groups this fall to encourage community building and spiritual growth starting the week of August 30. The intergenerational groups of students and community members will encourage deeper connections with others and with God. Watch for more information.

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.

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 48 and the topic of “Zion,” led by Jack and Fran Steele, members of the Congregation at Duke Chapel
Hymn

Ye Servants of God

1. Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim,
and publish abroad his wonderful name;
the name all victorious of Jesus exalt,
his kingdom is glorious and rules over all.

2. God ruleth on high, almighty to save,
and still he is nigh, his presence we have;
the great congregation his triumph shall sing,
ascribing salvation to Jesus, our King.

3. "Salvation to God, who sits on the throne!"
Let all cry aloud and honor the Son,
the praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,
fall down on their faces and worship the Lamb.

4. Then let us adore and give him his right,
all glory and power, all wisdom and might;
all honor and blessing with angels above,
and thanks never ceasing and infinite love.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1744 (Rev. 7:9-12)
MUSIC: Attr. to William Croft, 1708
For the Fruit of All Creation

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 safe-keeping, 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.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000
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