Jesus’s journey led him to the cross. When Peter, whom earlier Jesus called the rock of the church, tries to dissuade Jesus from this path, Jesus rebukes him as the tempter. Further, Jesus tells his disciples that following him requires taking up their crosses and denying themselves as well. Attempting to save their own lives is futile. Better is to find true life by losing their lives for Jesus’s sake. The Apostle Paul describes to the Roman Christians what a life following Christ and carrying his cross looks like. He provides concrete wisdom on how to enact one’s faith in community, emphasizing love and sharing one another’s burdens. Jesus’s calling to follow him and Paul’s guidance for the journey extend through the generations to us today; we are those called to bear Christ’s cross in community.
Gathering
Carillon

Opening Voluntary

Cortège et Litanie, Op. 19
Marcel Dupré
(1886–1971)

Greeting and Call to Worship

*Opening Hymn | See hymns at the back of the worship guide.

Lift High the Cross

*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.

*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

God of glory, the end of our searching, inspire us through your word and help us to lay aside all that prevents us from seeking your kingdom, and encourage us to give all that we have to discover life with you, through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

*All rise as able
Psalm 26

Give judgment for me, O Lord, for I have lived with integrity; I have trusted in the Lord and have not faltered. Test me, O Lord and try me; examine my heart and my mind. *Refrain*

I have not sat with the worthless, nor do I consort with the deceitful. I have hated the company of evildoers; I will not sit down with the wicked. *Refrain*

I will wash my hands in innocence, O Lord, that I may go in procession round your altar, singing aloud a song of thanksgiving and recounting all your wonderful deeds. Lord, I love the house in which you dwell and the place where your glory, the place where your glory abides. *Refrain*

New Testament Lesson

Romans 12:9–21

*Gospel Acclamation* | Sung the first time by the cantor, then by all.

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our hearts, so that we may know the hope to which God has called us. (*Ephesians* 1:17, 18)

Hallelujah...
*Gospel Lesson

Matthew 16:21–28

Sermon

Life Together

Response

Duet

Qui vult venire post me

Qui vult venire post me, abneget semet ipsum, tollat crucem suam, et sequatur me, dicit Dominus.

Whoever would come after me, let them deny themselves, and take up their cross and follow me, says the Lord.

Text: Matthew 16:24

*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.

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.
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 worship guide.

Take Up Your Cross

Closing Voluntary

Toccata in C Minor

Johann Pachelbel
(1653–1706)

Carillon
**COMMISSIONING PATHWAYS FELLOWS** | During next Sunday’s online worship service at 11:00 a.m., we will commission [this year’s PathWays Fellows](#). These recent Duke graduates are spending a year living in Christian community, serving with partners in Durham, and seeking vocational discernment. Join us in praying for them.

**RECEIVE PERSONAL PRAYERS ONLINE** | Following the livestream of this morning’s service, you are invited to receive personal prayer online. Register in advance by clicking on this link. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. Individuals will then be invited one-at-a-time to share concerns and receive a brief prayer from a pastor.

**BECOME A CHAPEL SCHOLAR** | Undergraduate students are invited to nurture their intellectual, ethical, and spiritual life as Chapel Scholars. The program fosters an environment of ecumenical fellowship and serves as a hub for spiritual mentorship. Learn more and apply at [chapel.duke.edu/scholars](http://chapel.duke.edu/scholars).

**JOIN A RELIGIOUS LIFE GROUP** | Students can deepen their faith and make friends through Religious Life groups. Duke has more than twenty Religious Life groups representing a wide range of faith traditions, including Catholic, Hindu, Latter-Day Saints, Jewish, Muslim, and a variety of Protestant denominations. See how to connect with Religious Life leaders at [chapel.duke.edu/ReligiousLife](http://chapel.duke.edu/ReligiousLife). For questions, contact the Chapel’s director of Religious Life, the Rev. Kathryn Lester-Bacon, at [kathryn.lester.bacon@duke.edu](mailto:kathryn.lester.bacon@duke.edu).

**JOIN THE CHAPEL’S CHOIRS** | The Duke Chapel Choir is holding open virtual auditions for the fall! Make new friends, learn great choral music in weekly Zoom gatherings, and add your voice to “virtual choir” recording projects. All Duke students, faculty, staff, and community members are invited to audition. Visit [chapel.duke.edu/sing](http://chapel.duke.edu/sing) to learn more. Contact [chapelmusic@duke.edu](mailto:chapelmusic@duke.edu) to schedule a Chapel Choir audition, or inquire about the Chapel’s Vespers Ensemble and Evensong Singers.

**LIFE TOGETHER GROUPS** | Starting this week, the Congregation at Duke Chapel is offering “Life Together Groups” to encourage deeper connections and spiritual growth. Both university students and community members are invited to participate. Groups will meet for 60–75 minutes every other week for conversation, prayer, laughter, and connection. [Please sign up here for Life Together Groups](#). For more information, please contact Michael Larbi.
THE CHRISTIAN IMAGINATION BOOK GROUP | 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 DurhamCares, the next online meeting is Tuesday, September 1, 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, email the Chapel’s community minister, the Rev. Breana van Velzen, at breana.van.velzen@duke.edu.

YOUNG ADULT STUDY | University graduate students, other young adults, and their partners are invited to a virtual Bible study on the second and fourth Mondays of the month. The next studies, on the book of Ezekiel, are September 14 and 28 at 6:30 p.m. All perspectives are welcome; questions and laughter are encouraged. Please contact Matt Wright at matthew.r.wright@duke.edu for login information.

SERMON PODCAST | Subscribe to the Duke Chapel Sermons podcast to listen to the sermon each week—and share with others the faithful preaching from the Chapel’s pulpit.

35TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION | First, there was the Duke University Church, then the Duke Church Group, and now, since 1985, there is the Congregation at Duke University Chapel. Please plan to join a virtual celebration of the Congregation’s past, present and future on Sunday, September 13 at 1:00 p.m. The event will include highlights from the Congregation’s history, reflections from former pastors, choir music videos, and children’s music. Please contact the Congregation office for logon information.

FALL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SCHEDULE | Online and video classes for all ages are offered Sunday mornings from 9:45–10:45 a.m. New participants are always welcome. Please see the Congregation’s eNews for links or contact the Congregation office at congregation@duke.edu. Classes are:

- Wee Praise – Music and movement for children ages 03–with parents or caregivers
- Godly Play – Spiritual formation for children ages 4 through 5th grade
- Youth Bible Study – A study of Ezekiel-Malachi for students in 6th–12th grades
- Adult Forum – On Sunday, September 6, Dr. Terry Yuschok, Congregation member, presents “The Saint with a Tamborine” (Saint Teresa of Avila).
Opening Hymn
Lift High the Cross

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim

Fine

till all the world adore his sacred name.

Harmony

1. Come, Christians, follow this triumphant sign. The hosts of God in unity combine.
2. Each newborn servant of the Crucified bears on the brow the seal of him who died.
3. O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree, as thou hast promised, draw the world to thee.
4. So shall our song of triumph ever be: Praise to the Crucified for victory!

MUSIC: Sydney Hugo Nicholson, 1916

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Closing Hymn

Take Up Your Cross

1 “Take up your cross,” the Savior said,
2 Take up your cross; let not its weight
3 Take up your cross, nor heed the shame,
4 Take up your cross and follow Christ,

“if you would my disciple be;
pervade your soul with vain alarm;
nor let your foolish heart rebel;
nor think till death to lay it down;

for sake the past, and come this day,
his strength shall bear your spirit up,
for you the Lord endured the cross
for those who humbly bear the cross

and humbly follow after me.”
sustain your heart, and nerve your arm.
to save your soul from death and hell.
one day will wear the glorious crown.

Text: Charles W. Everest, 1814-1877, alt.
Music: BOURBON, W. Hanier, Hesperian Harp, 1848; arr. hymnal version
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