



Duke
UNIVERSITY
CHAPEL

BRIDGING FAITH & LEARNING

SERVICE OF WORSHIP
Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost
Opening Sunday
Sunday, August 31, 2025, 11:00 a.m.



Léon Augustin Lhermitte, *Among the Humble*, 1905.

A new semester of classes has begun at Duke, and we extend God’s welcome to you in Christ. Today’s scripture readings focus on the theme of humility. The reading from Proverbs gives a brief word of wisdom acknowledging the virtue of humility. Jesus’s words in the reading from Luke give almost the same instructions as the reading from Proverbs. Jesus moves beyond this exhortation by encouraging his listeners to invite “the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind” to their tables. This kind of invitation is blessed, he says, because it cannot be repaid.

Gathering

Carillon

Prelude

Andante in F Major

Felix Mendelssohn
(1809–1847)

Sonata in B-flat Major, Op. 65, No. 4
II. Andante religioso

Introit

What Is This Place

Dutch melody, 17th cent.
arr. Adrian Engels

What is this place where we are meeting?
Only a house, the earth its floor.
Walls and a roof sheltering people,
windows for light, an open door.
Yet it becomes a body that lives
when we are gathered here,
and know our God is near.

Words from afar, stars that are falling,
sparks that are sown in us like seed:
names for our God, dreams, signs, and wonders
sent from the past are all we need.
We in this place remember and speak
again what we have heard:
God's free redeeming word.

And we accept bread at this table,
broken and shared, a living sign.
Here in this world, dying and living,
we are each other's bread and wine.
This is the place where we can receive
what we need to increase:
our justice and God's peace.

Greeting and Call to Worship

*Gathering Hymn | Stanzas 1–3. See hymn printed on the insert.

All Are Welcome

TWO OAKS

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

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry, and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways to the glory of your name. 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:

Open wide the window of our spirits, O Lord, and fill us full of light; open wide the door of our hearts, that we may receive and entertain you with all our powers of adoration and love. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson | OT page 573 in pew Bibles.

Proverbs 25:6–7

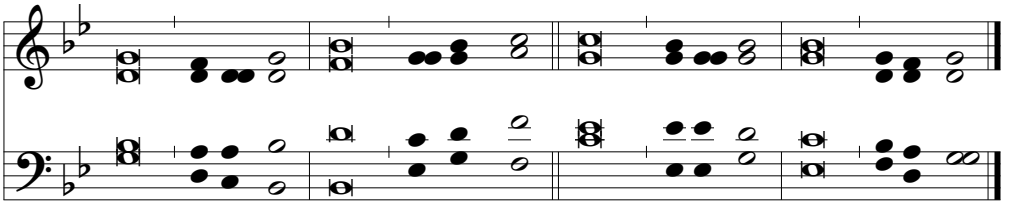
Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*All rise as able

Psalmody | The assembly chants the verses in bold.

Psalm 112



Halelu Yah! It is well with those who fear | Adonai,
who take deep delight in | His commandments.
Mighty in the land will | their seed be;
a worthy generation, it | will be blessed.

**Wealth, riches are | in their home,
and their righteousness stands | evermore.**
Light dawns in darkness | for the worthy—
generous, compassion- | ate, and righteous.

Good are those who show | grace in lending,
who conduct their | affairs justly.
No, never will they | be dislodged;
the righteous will be held in last- | ing remembrance.

**Evil rumor they | do not fear;
steadfast their heart, trusting in | Adonai.**
**Firm their heart; they | do not fear,
sure of the fate | of their foes.**

They give freely | to the vulnerable;
their righteousness stands forever;
their horn is raised | high in honor.
The wicked will see and be enraged,
gnash their teeth | and despair.
What the wicked crave | vanishes.

—*trans. Ellen F. Davis*

New Testament Lesson | NT page 213–214 in pew Bibles.

Hebrews 13:1–8, 15–16

Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel Lesson | NT page 72 in pew Bibles.

Luke 14:1, 7–14

Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Lower Education

Response

*Response Hymn | UMH 581

Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service

BEACH SPRING

*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 Anthem

When You Give a Banquet

Ronald A. Nelson
(1927–2014)

“When you give a banquet, invite the poor,
the crippled, the lame, and the blind.
And you will be blessed...”

Let us break bread together, on our knees.
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together...
Let us praise God together...

And you will be blessed....

—*Luke 14:13–14a; Black Spiritual*

*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. The text is found on page 895 at the end of the hymnal.

Sending Forth

*Choral Benediction

The Lord Bless You and Keep You

Edwin R. Taylor

The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious unto you;
the LORD lift his countenance upon you
and give you peace. Amen.

—*Numbers 6:24–26*

*Benediction

***Sending Hymn** | Stanzas 4–5. See hymn printed on the insert.

All Are Welcome

TWO OAKS

Postlude

Prelude and Fugue in F Major

Vincent Lübeck
(1654–1740)

Carillon

Memorial Chapel Communion | Immediately following the postlude, a brief communion service will be held in Memorial Chapel; worship guides for the service are available near the entrance. Following communion, the minister will be available to offer prayers and anointing.

TODAY IN WORSHIP

Presiding Ministers

Bruce Puckett *Assistant Dean, Duke University Chapel*
Lyn Pace *Assistant Dean of Religious Life, Duke University Chapel*

Preacher

Luke A. Powery *Dean, Duke University Chapel*

Lectors

Daniel Parham *Congregation Divinity School Intern; Divinity '27*
Keagan Bouman *Intern for Worship and Student Engagement; Divinity '26*

Musicians

Duke Chapel Choir *Choir*
Zebulon Highben *Director of Chapel Music, Duke University Chapel*
Chad Fothergill *Chapel Organist, Duke University Chapel*
David Lim *Organ Scholar, Duke University Chapel*
Mitchell Eithun *Chapel Carillonneur, Duke University Chapel*
Kirsten Overdahl *Cantor*

Head Ushers

Ken Arneson *Member, Congregation at Duke Chapel*
Pete Acker *Member, Congregation at Duke Chapel*

Today's Offering | All of today's cash offerings and checks written to Duke University Chapel will be used to support the Chapel's student engagement programming. Give online at chapel.duke.edu/offering. Give directly to the Congregation at Duke University Chapel by check written to The Congregation at Duke Chapel or online at congregation.chapel.duke.edu.

Today's Flowers | The flowers for the worship service today are given to the glory of God by the Nan and Taylor Cole Chapel Endowment.

Musical Acknowledgments | **What Is This Place.** Text: Huub Oosterhuis, 1933–2023; tr. David Smith. © 1984 TEAM Publications, admin. OCP Publications. **Psalm 112.** Text © Ellen F. Davis; used by permission. **Let Us Build a House (All Are Welcome).** Text and music, Two Oaks: Marty Haugen, © 1994 GIA Publications, Inc. Copyrighted elements reproduced under OneLicense.net #A-725399.

Liturgical Acknowledgments | **Prayer for Illumination.** *The United Methodist Hymnal* ©1989 The United Methodist Publishing House.

GATHERING AND SENDING HYMN | All Are Welcome



1. Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can
2. Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, and words are
3. Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter,
4. Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the
5. Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and



safe - ly live, a place where saints and chil - dren
strong and true, where all God's chil - dren dare to
wine and wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly
wood and stone to heal and strength - en, serve and
vi - sions heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and



tell how hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and
seek to dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall
ground where peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of
teach, and live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast
claimed as words with - in the Word. Built of tears and



dreams and vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
stand as wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace;
God, through Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space;
and the strang - er bear the im - age of God's face;
cries and laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace,



here the love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
here as one we claim the faith of Je - sus:
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:
let us bring an end to fear and dan - ger:
let this house pro - claim from floor to raf - ter:

Refrain



All are wel - come, all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

ACCESSIBILITY

Hearing assistance technology, as well as large-print worship guides and hymnals, is available at the AV console in the rear of the Chapel. For other accommodations, please approach a minister or usher.

RESTROOMS

For public restrooms, exit the Chapel through the main front doors and turn left to enter the Divinity School. Restrooms are along the Divinity School hallway.

TOURS

Meet a docent outside in front of the Chapel immediately following the service for a free, forty-five minute tour of Duke Chapel's history, architecture, and life.

LEARN MORE AND ENGAGE

Scan the QR codes to learn more about the missions and ministries of Duke Chapel and the Congregation at Duke University Chapel. Also, read this week's announcements, see upcoming events, and find out how to engage with the Chapel and the Congregation.



*The Congregation
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