Duke UNIVERSITY CHAPEL

BRIDGING FAITH & LEARNING

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, September 13, 2026, 11:00 a.m.

Jacopo da Pontormo, National Gallery (London),
Joseph with Jacob in Egypt , ca. 1517–1518.

This morning's scripture lessons center on the theme of mercy. In the Old Testament lesson, Joseph is confronted with his brothers who sold him into enslavement, yet he chooses to meet them with compassion and forgiveness. In the Epistle, Paul reminds his audience that none of them are in a place to judge each other, for they will all stand before God. The reading from the Gospel of Matthew contains the parable of the ungrateful servant, conveying the message that God has shown mercy beyond imagining. Jesus calls us to have the same compassion and mercy as we care for our siblings in Christ.

Gathering

Carillon

Prelude

Fantasia contraria à 4, SwWV 270 — Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck (1562–1621)

Introit

Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death — Carl G. Gläser (1781–1829) arr. Lowell Mason

Awake, O sleeper, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light;
so learn his love, its length and breadth, its fullness, depth, and height.

To us on earth he came to bring from sin and fear release,
to give the Spirit's unity, the very bond of peace.

For us Christ lived, for us he died, and conquered in the strife.
Awake, arise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.

—F. Bland Tucker (1895–1984)

Greeting and Call to Worship

***Gathering Hymn** | UMH 390

Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive — DETROIT

***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.

***All rise as able**

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:

Almighty God, you call your church to witness that in Christ we are reconciled to you. Inspire us so to proclaim the good news of your love and mercy, that all who hear it may turn to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson | OT page 46 in pew Bibles. Read in Mandarin.

Genesis 50:15–21

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

New Testament Lesson | NT pages 152–153 in pew Bibles.

Romans 14:1–12

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

Anthem

Live Unto God — Zebulon M. Highben

Living, live unto God; dying, die unto God.
For whether we live or whether we die, we belong to God.
For this Christ died and rose again,
that he shall be Lord of the dead and the living.
Amen.

—Romans 14:8–9, adapt.

***Gospel Lesson** | NT page 19 in pew Bibles.

Matthew 18:21–35

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

Sermon

The Power of Forgiveness

Response

***Response Hymn** | See hymn printed on the insert.

Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace — LOMMEDALEN

Commissioning of the PathWays Fellows

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

My Eternal King — Jane Marshall (1924–2019)

My God, I love thee;
not because I hope for heaven thereby,
nor yet because who love thee not
must die eternally.

Thou, O my Jesus,
thou didst me upon the cross embrace;
for me didst bear the nails and spear,
and manifold disgrace.

Why, then why, O blessed Jesus Christ,
should I not love thee well?

Not for the hope of winning heaven,
nor of escaping hell;
not with the hope of gaining aught,
not seeking a reward;
but as thyself hast loved me,
O ever-loving Lord!

E'en so I love thee, and will love,
and in thy praise will sing;
solely because thou art my God,
and my eternal King!

—anonymous; trans. Edward Caswall (1814–1878)

***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 English text can be found at 895 in the pew hymnal.

Sending Forth

***Choral Benediction**

God Be in My Head — John Rutter

God be in my head and in my understanding,
God be in mine eyes and in my looking,
God be in my mouth and in my speaking,
God be in mine heart and in my thinking,
God be at my end and in my departing.

—*Sarum Primer*

***Benediction**

***Sending Hymn** | UMH 66

Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven — LAUDA ANIMA

Postlude

Improvisation

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

Luke A. Powery. . . . . *Dean, Duke University Chapel*
Grace deMaine . . . . . *Intern for Worship and Student Engagement; Divinity '28*

Preacher

Bruce Puckett . . . . . *Assistant Dean, Duke University Chapel*

Lectors

Jiale Hu . . . . . *Chapel PathWays Fellow; Divinity '27*
Cynthia Omokaro . . . . . *Chapel PathWays Fellow; Divinity '29*

Musicians

Duke Chapel Choir. . . . . *Choir*
Zebulon Highben. . . . . *Director of Chapel Music, Duke University Chapel*
Chad Fothergill. . . . . *Chapel Organist, Duke University Chapel*
Sophia Cornicello. . . . . *Organ Scholar, Duke University Chapel*
Mitchell Eithun . . . . . *Chapel Carillonneur, Duke University Chapel*

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 Nancy Hanks Chapel Endowment.

Today's Hymns | Each week of the fall semester, our worship service features hymns that will be included in *The Chapel Hymnal*, a new hymnbook that will be published by Duke Chapel and MorningStar Music Publishers in 2027. All of the hymns sung in today's service are part of this new collection.

Liturgical Acknowledgments | **Prayer for Illumination**. Adapted from *Book of Common Worship*, Daily Prayer, Westminster John Knox Press, © 1993.

RESPONSE HYMN | Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace

Text: Olive Wise Spannaus (1916–2018), alt.
Music: Timothy E. Kimbrough

Lommedalen
LM

Text © 1969 Concordia Publishing House
Music © 2025 Birnamwood Publications (MorningStar Music)

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.

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