The lessons this week continue the theme of God’s overwhelming and merciful love for us; a love which in turn draws forth a joyful response of praise for God and love for one another. In the Old Testament lesson, Joseph is confronted with his brothers who sold him into enslavement, yet gives back to them compassion and forgiveness. In the Epistle, Paul reminds us that none of us is in a place to judge the other—we all will stand before God. In Matthew, the parable of the ungrateful servant reminds us that God has shown us each mercy beyond imagining, and it is with that same compassion and mercy that we are to care for our sisters and brothers.
Gathering
Carillon

Prelude

Tiento I (2º tono)                                             Antonio de Cabezón
                                                         (1510–1566)

Tiento [16] de 4º tono [“a modo de canción”]                  Francisco Correa de Arauxo
                                                         (1584–1654)

Greeting and Call to Worship

*Gathering Hymn | UMH 340

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy                            restoration

*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.

Minister:  Hear the good news:
            Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;
            that proves God’s love toward us.
            In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

People:   In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
All:      Glory to God. Amen.

*Peace | All exchange signs and words of God’s peace.

Minister:  The peace of Christ be with you.
People:    And also with you.
Prayer for Illumination | In unison:

Lord our God, by the Cross we are saved, and through your Word we are enlightened. Strengthen and sustain us in love through your son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson | OT page 46 in pew Bibles.

Genesis 50:15–21

Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalmody

O My Soul, Bless the Lord

O my soul, bless the Lord.
Blessed art thou, O Lord.
O my soul, bless the Lord.
All that is within me bless God’s holy name.
O my soul, bless the Lord.
I shall not forget all his benefits.
O my soul, my soul, bless the Lord.
Blessed art thou, O Lord.

—Psalm 103:1–2


Romans 14:1–12

Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.
Hymn | The refrain is introduced by the choir, then sung by all. The choir sings the verses; the congregation sings the refrain as indicated.

If We Live, We Live to the Lord

If we live, we live to the Lord. If we die, we die to the Lord.

So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s.

Mortal days are like the grass. They flourish like a flower in the field. Wind passes over; they are gone, never to be seen again. Refrain

Everlasting to everlasting is your love, O Lord; your righteousness for the children’s children, for your faithful ones. Refrain

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me. Bless the Lord, O my soul. Bless God’s holy name. Refrain

Sermon

Why We Need God

Response

Organ Meditation

A Quaker Reader

IV. “There is a Spirit that delights to do no evil...”

Ned Rorem (1923–2022)

Mission of the Month
Offertory Anthem | Please sign and pass the attendance pads located in the pew at the center aisle.

Bless the Lord, O My Soul

Mikhail Ippolitov-Ivanov
(1859–1935)

Bless thou the Lord, O my soul.
Blessed art thou, O Lord,
Bless thou the Lord, O my soul.
Bless the Lord and forget not all his benefits:
Bless thou the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me bless his holy name.
He is full of compassion and mercy, long suffering and great in goodness.
He will not always be chiding thee,
nor keepeth he his wrath forever.
Bless thou the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me bless his holy name.
O blessed art thou, O Lord.

—Psalm 103: 1–2, 8–9

*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 and Holy Communion

*The Great Thanksgiving | Musical Setting on page 17 in the hymnal.

*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 back of the hymnal.

Sharing of the Bread and Wine | All who love Christ, earnestly repent of their sins, and seek to be at peace with God and neighbor are invited to receive Communion. Bread and wine are used for communion. You may receive wine by dipping or drinking from the cup. If you desire gluten-free bread or grape juice, they are available from servers near Memorial Chapel in the front and opposite the attendant’s desk near the back. Please use these chalices for dipping only. If you will not receive Communion, you are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing, indicated by crossing your arms over your chest.
**TODAY IN WORSHIP**

**Presiding Ministers**
Racquel Gill  \[Minister for Intercultural Engagement, Duke University Chapel\]
Kathryn Lester-Bacon  \[Director of Religious Life, Duke University Chapel\]

**Preacher**
Luke A. Powery  \[Dean, Duke University Chapel\]

**Lectors**
Mary Anderson  \[Member, Congregation at Duke Chapel\]
John Murphy  \[Divinity School Intern, Congregation at Duke Chapel; Divinity ’25\]

**Mission of the Month**
Gemma Holland  \[Co-President, Duke Chapter of Habitat for Humanity; Trinity ’25\]

**Musicians**
Duke Chapel Choir  \[Choir\]
Zebulon Highben  \[Director of Chapel Music, Duke University Chapel\]
Robert Parkins  \[University Organist, Duke University\]
Chad Fothergill  \[Chapel Organist, Duke University Chapel\]

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**Communion Hymn** | UMH 557
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*Blest Be the Tie That Binds*  
dennis

**Post-Communion Prayer**

**Sending Forth**

**Benediction**

**Sending Hymn** | UMH 664
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*Sent Forth by God’s Blessing*  
THE ASH GROVE

**Postlude**

*Tocata IV (5º tono)*  
Juan Cabanilles  
(1644–1712)

**Carillon**
Katherine Johnson .......................... Organ Scholar, Duke University Chapel
Mitchell Eithun ............................. Chapel Carillonneur, Duke University Chapel

Head Usher
James Ferguson ............................. Member, Congregation at Duke Chapel

**Today’s Music**  | Psalm 103 plays an important role in Orthodox faith traditions, where its opening verses comprise the First Antiphon in the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom. Today, the Chapel Choir sings settings of Psalm 103 from both the Ukrainian Orthodox and Russian Orthodox churches. Kyrylo Stetsenko was a composer and conductor who later became a priest and a music education official in the Ukrainian People’s Republic. Russian composer Mikhail Ippolitov-Ivanov served as a conductor and teacher in Georgia before becoming a professor, and later director, of the Moscow Conservatory.

To celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15–October 15), today’s prelude and postlude feature works by the three most prominent composers of early Spanish organ music. The blind musician Antonio de Cabezón was appointed to the chapel of Queen Isabella at the age of 16 and became the most prominent Spanish organist-composer during the 1500s. Francisco Correa de Arauxo spent most of his professional life in Seville and published the only surviving collection of printed organ music in seventeenth-century Spain. The work of Juan Cabanilles, organist at Valencia Cathedral and the most prolific of the three, represents the culmination of this “Golden Age.”

**Liturgical Acknowledgments**  | **Prayer for Illumination** inspired by and adapted from the Bromholm prayer roll, Bromholm Priory, Norfolk, England, c. 1505–1535. *If We Live, We Live to the Lord.* Text and Music: Rolf Vegdahl, b. 1955, based on Romans 14:8, Psalm 103. © 2009, 2016 Augsburg Fortress.

**Today’s Flowers**  | The flowers for the worship service today are given to the glory of God by the Nancy Hanks Chapel Endowment.

**Mission of the Month**  | All of today’s cash offerings and checks written to Duke University Chapel will be used to support Duke Chapel’s sponsorship of a Habitat for Humanity home with the Duke Student Chapter of Habitat for Humanity. Duke Habitat is an active student organization on campus that raises awareness and funds for Durham Habitat for Humanity. Families selected by Habitat work closely with volunteers, investing 240–300 hours of their own labor, or “sweat equity,” into building their homes. Because partner families and Duke students do much of the work on Habitat homes, a Duke Chapter house fosters close connections between the students of Duke University and the people of Durham. Send checks to: Duke University Chapel, Box 90974, Durham, NC 27708-0974. You are invited to give online at chapel.duke.edu/offering.
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 community and beyond. Today, we give thanks for the Center for International Studies and Political Science.

Restrooms in Divinity School | Public restrooms are available in the Divinity School. To access them, exit the Chapel through the main front doors and enter the Divinity School. Restrooms are along the hallway in the Divinity School.

Listen-Assist Smartphone App | A new smartphone app lets you use your own phone and earbuds to listen in the pews to services. Stop by the AV console in the sanctuary on the way into a service for an easy two-step process to connect to the sound system.

Chapel Flowers | If you would like to honor a loved one and the worshiping community of the Duke Chapel with a gift of flowers to decorate the chancel for Sunday worship, please contact Angela Flynn, coordinator of worship and ministry, at angela.flynn@duke.edu.

Register Your Attendance Today | Let us know you are here. There is an attendance pad located in the pew at the center aisle. Please use it to register your presence today at this service and then pass it to the next person in the pew. This is an opportunity for you to get to know the names of others in your pew and for Chapel ministers to know who is in the pews.

Racial Equity | The Racial Equity Group of the Congregation at Duke Chapel welcomes all to a discussion after worship today in the Chapel kitchen, located in the lower level of the Chapel. The group will share what they have done in the past and invite input and engagement, as together we seek racial equity.

Back Pew Collection | Help Durham school children get needed school supplies as the new school year begins. With the community’s help, Crayons2Calculators helps equip Durham public school teachers with the classroom supplies they need to help reduce barriers to success for every Durham Public School student. Items currently needed are pencils, ballpoint pens, dry erase markers, and 70-page spiral notebooks. Donations for Crayons2Calculators may be placed on the back pew today or next Sunday, September 24.
**ENGAGE**

**LGBTQ+ Fellowship |** Members of the LGBTQ+ community and their allies are invited to attend the monthly fellowship gathering which meets on the third Sunday of the month after worship from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. in person and by Zoom. The meeting today, September 17, will be held in 0015 Westbrook on the lower level of Duke Divinity School.

**Bach Cantata Concert |** The first concert in this year’s Bach Cantata Series is today at 5:00 p.m. With a theme of “Fear and Hope,” the performance will present the cantatas *O Ewigkeit, du Donnerwort* (Eternity, thou word of thunder) and *Christus, der ist mein Leben* (Christ who art my life). There is no charge for admission. There will be a pre-concert talk at 4:00 p.m., given by Chapel organist Chad Fothergill. Families with young children are invited to attend an open rehearsal in Duke Chapel on Saturday, September 16, from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

**‘Text Messages’ Bible Study |** A new weekly Bible study called “Text Messages” will focus on how Scripture can speak to contemporary issues from relationships with parents to the church and the legacy of slavery. The next meeting is this Wednesday, September 20, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Mary Lou Williams Center for Black Culture. It will explore the topic of “The Black Presence in the Bible” by reading passages from the Gospels that describe Simon of Cyrene.

**Choral Evensong Next Sunday |** Our service of Choral Evensong follows the liturgy of the *Book of Common Prayer* and features choral and organ music from the English cathedral tradition, led by the Chapel’s Evensong Singers. The next Evensong on Sunday, September 24, at 4:00 p.m., will use settings of the service by the British composer William Byrd, including his anthem *O God, the Proud*.

**Carillon Recital Next Sunday |** Duke Chapel carillonneur Mitchell Eithun will present a recital on the bells in the Chapel tower next Sunday, September 24, at 5:00 p.m. Bring a lawn chair or blanket, and enjoy the music from the beautiful surroundings of Abele Quad. The recital will be presented rain or shine; a livestream will be available.
Apply to Become a Chapel Scholar | Chapel Scholars is a program for students to build community across Christian traditions through study, service, and worship. Scholars have priority access to Duke Chapel’s programs, initiatives, events, and mentor networks. New Scholars are placed in a cohort that connects them with other students from a wide range of Christian traditions. Learn more and apply by September 30 at chapel.duke.edu/scholars.

Organ Music to Accompany Silent Film | Watch a classic horror film in the darkened Duke Chapel with a live, improvised soundtrack. Organist Peter Richard Conte will accompany the silent film *The Phantom of the Opera* (1925) at this special concert in our Organ Recital Series on Sunday, October 1, at 5:00 p.m. Conte is the Wanamaker Grand Court Organist at Macy’s Center City in Philadelphia. Admission is free.

2023 Few Lecture on Faith, Mental Health, and Community | Dr. Thema Bryant, a leader in clinical psychology, will give the 2023 William Preston Few Lecture on “Faith, Mental Health, and Community” on Tuesday, October 3, at 6:00 p.m. at Duke Chapel. Dr. Bryant is president of the American Psychological Association and a tenured professor of psychology in the Graduate School of Education and Psychology at Pepperdine University, where she directs the Culture and Trauma Research Laboratory. A triple-graduate of Duke University, Dr. Bryant completed a doctorate in clinical psychology and also earned a master of arts and bachelor of arts at Duke. The event, presented as a public conversation with Chapel Dean Luke A. Powery, is free and open to the public but requires a no-cost ticket to attend. Go to chapel.duke.edu/FewLecture to learn more and register.

Durham Pilgrimage of Pain and Hope | Students, Duke community members, and others are invited to discover how their spiritual journeys are connected to our city of Durham through the Durham Pilgrimage of Pain and Hope. Held on the weekend of October 27–29, the pilgrimage is led by DurhamCares, a nonprofit with a mission to foster collaboration, develop leaders, and educate the people of Durham to care for their neighbors in holistic ways. Space on the pilgrimage is limited. To learn more and sign up contact the Chapel’s assistant dean, the Rev. Bruce Puckett, at bruce.puckett@duke.edu.
**Engage**

**Sunday Morning Classes** | Sunday morning Christian Education classes are available for all ages from 9:45–10:45 a.m., with coffee and refreshments provided at 9:30 a.m. Classes meet in the lowest level of the Westbrook building. New participants are welcome at any time. Please contact congregation@duke.edu for additional information.

**Wee Praise:** Music and movement for children ages 0–3 with parents or caregivers in 0011 Westbrook

**Godly Play:** Spiritual formation for children ages 4 through 5th grade in 0050 Langford

**Godly Play Advanced:** Spiritual formation for children in 2nd–5th grades in 0050 Langford

**Youth Program:** Youth in 6th–12th grades will explore Joshua, Judges, and Ruth in 0015 Westbrook

**Adult Forum:** On September 24, the Rev. Dr. Christian Wilson, retired Methodist minister and Congregation member will discuss “Paul and Revelation: Comparative Eschatology” in 0013 Westbrook and over Zoom
ACCESSIBILITY

Large-print worship guides are available at the visitor relations desk. Hearing assistance units are available at the AV console in the rear of the Chapel. Please let us know if you need other accommodations by approaching a minister or usher, or email us at dukechapel@duke.edu.

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.

chapel.duke.edu 919-681-9488
401 Chapel Drive
Campus Box 90974
Durham, NC 27708
dukechapel@duke.edu

congregation.chapel.duke.edu 919-684-3917
The Congregation at Duke University 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.