Duke University
Baccalaureate Service

From Duke Chapel
presented online

Friday, the Thirtieth of April, Two Thousand and Twenty One
Half After Four in the Afternoon
Duke University Chapel

“I want the central building to be a great towering church which will dominate all of the surrounding buildings, because such an edifice would be bound to have a profound influence on the spiritual life of the young men and women who come here.”

— James Buchanan Duke

Duke University Chapel is, indeed, the “great towering church” that James B. Duke requested and has become a widely recognized symbol of the university. As such, it offers a magnificent setting for significant events in the life of the university and its members. While the Duke family was Methodist, Chapel services have always been ecumenical, and the Chapel itself is a sanctuary open to all people, which is normally available throughout the year for important personal moments of prayer, reflection, grief, and gratitude.

As a profound symbol of faith on the campus, the Chapel is a suitable institution to act as the moderator for Religious Life at Duke. The Chapel, in partnership with the Division of Student Affairs, convenes, supports, and advocates for all of the 23 Religious Life groups on campus that serve students, including Buddhist, Catholic, Hindu, Jewish, Mormon, Muslim, and Protestant organizations and groups. Programs such as the Eruditio et Religio Living-Learning Community provide students with opportunities to learn about other faiths as they explore their own.

The Chapel is also a vibrant center of interdenominational Christianity. In a typical year, about one thousand people participate in services in the Chapel each week, encountering deep traditions of compelling preaching and stirring choral music. With a robust sacred music program, a comprehensive vocational discernment program, an active Congregation for care and service, and a community ministry that partners with Durham nonprofits and churches, the Chapel serves the campus and the community in fulfillment of the University’s historic motto (Eruditio et Religio) by bridging faith and learning.

Standing at 210 feet in the center of campus, of the original buildings at Duke University, the Chapel was planned first and built last. The architectural style of the Chapel is English Gothic, but it is modeled upon no particular cathedral, college chapel, or parish church. The architects of the Chapel were Horace Trumbauer of Philadelphia and his chief designer, Julian Abele, one of America’s first Black architects of renown.

The cornerstone was laid October 22, 1930, and construction of the Chapel required more than two years. It was first used at commencement in 1932 and was formally dedicated June 2, 1935.

The sanctuary contains four organs. The Kathleen U.B. McClendon organ, of post-Romantic design, is the last organ built by the Aeolian Organ Company and was installed in 1932. It was rededicated and named in 2009. With more than 5,000 pipes, the Benjamin N. Duke Memorial Organ rises to a height of almost 70 feet above the floor and was completed in 1976 by the Dutch organ builder D.A. Flentrop. A third organ, a two-manual instrument constructed by John Brombaugh in 1997 for the performance of pre-18th-century music, rests in a swallow’s nest gallery in the Memorial Chapel (adjacent to the south transept). The most recent addition is a portative (portable) built by Bennett and Giuttari in 2014 and used primarily for services and small ensemble accompaniment.

The J. Samuel Hammond Carillon in the Chapel Tower, one of the finest carillons in North America, has 50 bells ranging in weight from ten pounds to over five-and-one-half tons. Cast in 1930 and fully renovated in 1992 by the John Taylor Company of Loughborough, England, bell founders since the fourteenth century, the carillon is played in concert each weekday afternoon at 5:00 p.m. and before and after Sunday services.

The Chapel’s 77 stained-glass windows were designed and composed by G. Owen Bonawit, of New York, working with fifteen other artists and craftsmen. The windows contain an estimated 800 to 900 figures, including larger-than-life-sized figures in the chancel and transept windows. Duke Chapel reportedly was the first building in the United States with windows depicting all of the major stories from both the Old and New Testaments.

On May 11, 2016, the Chapel reopened after a year-long restoration project. In 2017, the University removed the statue of Gen. Robert E. Lee from the Chapel’s entrance and engaged the Duke community in an ongoing consideration of how the campus represents its history and its values in campus memorials.
Preparation

CARILLON

ORGAN PRELUDE

Fantasy in G (BWV 572)
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

Gathering

CHORAL INTROIT

Non nobis, Domine
Rosephanye Powell (b. 1962)

Not unto us, Lord, but unto your name be the glory.
— Psalm 115:1
Hearing the Word

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Psalm 23

SERMON: Traveling Wisdom

ANTHEM

Hear My Prayer
Moses Hogan (1957–2003)

O Lord, please hear my prayer,
in the mornin’ when I rise.
It’s your servant bound for glory,
O dear Lord, please hear my prayer.

O Lord, please hear my prayer,
Keep me safe within your arms.
It’s your servant bound for glory,
O dear Lord, please hear my prayer.

When my work on earth is done,
and you come to take me home,
just to know I’m bound for glory
and to hear you say, “Well done.”

Done with sin and sorrow,
have mercy, mercy. Amen

— Moses Hogan
PRESIDENT’S REFLECTIONS

ANTHEM

The 23rd Psalm
Bobby McFerrin (b. 1950)

The Lord is my shepherd, I have all I need,
she makes me lie down in green meadows
beside the still waters she will lead.
She restores my soul, she rights my wrongs,
she leads me in a path of good things,
and fills my heart with songs.
Even though I walk through a dry and dreary land,
there is nothing that can shake me,
she has said she won’t forsake me, I’m in her hand.
She sets a table before me, in the presence of my foes,
she anoints my head with oil and my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and kindness will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in her house forever and ever.

Glory be to our mother and daughter
and to the holy of holies,
as it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen

— Bobby McFerrin, after Psalm 23

Being Sent Forth

Benediction

CHORAL BLESSING

God’s Got the Whole World
spiritual, arr. Mark A. Miller

God’s got the whole world in God’s hands.
God has you and me in those hands.
God’s got the whole world, the whole world,
the whole world in God’s hands.

ORGAN POSTLUDE

Finale, from Symphony 3, Op. 78
Camille Saint-Saëns (1835–1921),
trans. David Briggs

CARILLON
Presiding Minister and Preacher: Bruce V. Puckett
Assistant Dean of Duke Chapel

Presiding Religious Leaders: Rabbi Elana Friedman
Jewish Life at Duke
Chaplain Joshua Salaam
Center for Muslim Life

Lector: Grace Jeffrey
President of Duke Chapel Choir, Trinity '21

President of the University: Vincent E. Price

Choirs:
Duke University Chapel Choir;
Duke Chapel staff singers

Zebulon Highben
Director of Chapel Music
Associate Professor of the Practice of Church Music

Duke University Chorale
Rodney Wynkoop
Director of University Choral Music
Professor of the Practice of Music

Organists:
Robert Parkins
University Organist
Professor of the Practice of Music

Christopher Jacobson
Chapel Organist

Carillonneur: Joseph Fala
Chapel Carillonneur
The Baccalaureate is a service inherited from the universities of Western Europe and associated with the commencement exercises of American colleges and universities since colonial times. The term baccalaureate is derived from two Latin words, bacca and laurens, which refer to wreaths of berries and laurel worn by new graduates in the medieval period of Europe. The baccalaureate service remains, to this day, an integral part of the commencement exercises of many of America’s privately endowed colleges and universities and symbolizes the connection between these increasingly secular institutions and their historic and religious origins. Today, Duke University offers its graduates and their families and friends this Baccalaureate Service, a tradition of Trinity College and Duke University since 1853.

The Reverend Bruce Puckett is Assistant Dean of Duke Chapel and an ordained elder in the Church of the Nazarene. Prior to joining the Chapel staff in 2012, he served as the Interim Pastor for the Congregation at Duke Chapel for two years. He has a Master of Divinity from Duke Divinity School, and a Bachelor of Arts in Religion from Olivet Nazarene University. He has enjoyed working on the Chapel staff as the Director of Community Ministry, the Director of Worship and Community Ministry, and now as the Assistant Dean of the Chapel. These various roles have enabled him to engage his passion for connecting people with God and with one another. He is a regular contributor on A Plain Account, an online Wesleyan lectionary commentary resource for preaching and study, and is also a contributor to the commentary series titled, Connections: A Lectionary Commentary for Preaching and Worship.