

The 2025
Opening Convocation

DUKE
DIVINITY
SCHOOL



10:45 a.m.
Friday, August 29, 2025
Duke University Chapel
Durham, North Carolina

Order of Worship

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Allabreve in D Major, BWV 589

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685–1750)

GREETING AND WELCOME (*adpt. p. 58 Connections: Worship Companion, C2*)

O Lord, do not be far away; draw near to us in times of trouble.

You break the bonds of oppression, and clothe us in compassion.

We will sing your praise in the great congregation.

We will break bread together to celebrate your saving love.

All the peoples of the earth will turn to you, O Lord.

For you are the God of all, and your reign is everlasting!

*OPENING HYMN UMH 164

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!

NICAEA

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.

Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!

God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore thee,

Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea.

Cherubim and seraphim, falling down before thee,

Who was and is and evermore shall be.

Holy, Holy, Holy! though the darkness hide thee,

Though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,

Only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,

Perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth, and sky, and sea;

Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!

God in three Persons, blessed Trinity.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The minister will lead the congregation in the confession.

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us we pray, and free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All pray in silence. The minister offers words of assurance, concluding with:

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

Glory to God! Amen.

PROCLAMATION

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION *(in unison)*

Triune God, whose tenacious love grounds us: as we hear your Word proclaimed, stir our hearts with your truth, grace our minds with your wisdom, and entrust our hands with your vision of justice, so that we may become a people after your own heart, reflecting steadfast love and healing hope for a hurting world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Isaiah 42:5–9

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON—Acts 10:34–48

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON—We Believe

*RESPONSE

The Nicene Creed *(in unison)*

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made;
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven;
and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in the one holy catholic* and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.
We look forward to the resurrection of the dead,
and to life of the world to come. Amen.

*universal

COMMUNION

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

(Musical Setting A, on page 17 in the hymnal)

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE GIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

At the direction of the ushers, please come forward in continuously moving lines. The elements are bread and grape juice. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request at the stations along the center aisle.

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION:

Alabaré

Manuel José Alonso & José Pagán
arr. Ronald A. Nelson

Alabaré, alabaré, *Oh, I will praise, oh, I will praise,*
alabaré a mi Señor. *Oh, I will praise the Lord my God.*

We are one people, joyfully singing
Our canticles of glory to the Lord.

Praise to the Father, and praise to Christ Jesus,
praise to the Holy Spirit, bond of love.

Alabaré, alabaré,
alabaré a mi Señor. *Text: Alonso & Pagán; trans. Edgardo Colón-Emeric*

COMMUNION HYMN 618

Let Us Break Bread Together

LET US BREAK BREAD

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves to others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

***BENEDICTION**

***CLOSING HYMN UMH 88**

Maker, in Whom We Live

DIADEMATA

Maker in whom we live, in whom we are and move,
the glory, power and praise receive for thy creating love.
Let all the angel throng give thanks to God on high,
while earth repeats the joyful song, and echoes to the sky.

Incarnate Deity, let all the ransomed race
render in thanks their lives to thee for thy redeeming grace.
The grace to sinners shown ye heavenly choirs proclaim,
and cry: "Salvation to our God, salvation to the Lamb."

Spirit of Holiness, let all thy saints adore
Thy sacred energy, and bless thy heart-renewing power.
No angel tongues can tell thy love's ecstatic height,
the glorious joy unspeakable, the beatific sight.

Eternal, Triune God, let all the hosts above,
let all on earth below record and dwell upon thy love.
When heaven and earth are fled before thy glorious face,
sing all the saints thy love hath made thine everlasting praise.

POSTLUDE

Improvisation

MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

Preacher	Edgardo Colón-Emeric <i>Dean; Ruth and A. Morris Williams Jr. Professor of Theology and Christian Ministry</i>
Presiding Ministers	Luke Powery <i>Dean of Duke Chapel; Professor of Homiletics</i>
	Sangwoo Kim <i>Associate Dean for Vocational Formation; Senior Director of the Methodist House</i>
	Meghan F. Benson <i>Chaplain of the Divinity School</i>
Lectors	Kate Azumah <i>Divinity '26</i>
	Daniel Principe <i>Divinity '26</i>
Choir Director	Zebulon M. Highben <i>Associate Professor of the Practice of Church Music; Director of Chapel Music at Duke University Chapel</i>
Organist	Chad Fothergill <i>Divinity School Organist and Duke Chapel Organist</i>
Crucifer	Jongho Yoon, D '26
Torch Bearers	Emily Magen, D/MPP '26 Erica Starke, D '26
Bible-bearer	Elia Zonio, D '26
Faculty Marshal	Quinton Dixie <i>Associate Research Professor of the History of Christianity in the United States and Black Church Studies</i>

The Duke Divinity School Community is invited to lunch immediately following the service to celebrate the start of the academic year.

Grab-and-go lunch stations will be set up in the 00 Westbrook sub-basement hallway. Please enjoy your lunch and fellowship in the 00 Level classrooms, on the Terrace, or the beautiful green spaces across West Campus.

New Endowments

The Joseph B. Bethea Professorship in Black Church Studies was established in 2024 through the generosity of The Duke Endowment to support a senior faculty member specializing in Black Church Studies at the Divinity School at Duke University. The fund is named in honor and memory of Joseph B. Bethea who was the founding director of the Divinity School's Office of Black Church Studies (OBCS), which he led from its establishment in 1972 until 1977. Bethea later became the first Black bishop elected to episcopacy by the Southeastern Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church.

The Rev. F. Donald and Emily G. Beaty Fund was established in 2024 by Rufus F. Beaty, Trinity College Class of 1980, of Sweetwater, Tennessee, Susan Beaty Hamner, Nursing School Class of 1981, of Mt Pleasant, South Carolina, and Harold Grier Beaty, Trinity College Class of 1984, of Ocean Isle Beach, North Carolina. The endowment was established by their family to honor their lifelong values of faith, love, family, friendship, education, and generosity. Don, Duke class of 1954 and Duke Divinity School class of 1957, served in churches in the Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church for over 40 years. Emily, Flora McDonald College class of 1952, was by his side in Divinity School and throughout his ministry, supporting him, his ministry, and their congregations, while also teaching school. Duke was a special place for both of them. Fund distributions will be used to provide scholarships to graduate professional students enrolled in the Divinity School at Duke University.

The Jack and Barbara Bovender Scholarship Fund was established in 2025 through a planned gift by Jack and Barbara Bovender to honor and memorialize the Bovenders' outstanding and steadfast commitment to the Church and Duke University, as evidenced by Jack Bovender's leadership roles on the Board of Trustees and in the Divinity School and Fuqua School of Business. Distributions from the Fund shall be used to provide whole or partial scholarships to graduate and professional students who are enrolled in the Divinity School at Duke University with priority given to students in the Anglican Episcopal House of Studies (AEHS), with additional consideration for those students within AEHS preparing for ordained leadership.

The Oliver W. and Elaine M. Clark Scholarship Fund was established in 2024 by Elaine M. Clark, of Birmingham, Alabama. This fund is established in honor and memory of the Rev. Dr. Oliver Watson Clark Jr., a 1962 graduate of Duke Divinity School who faithfully served the United Methodist Church as a pastor and district superintendent in Alabama to the honor and glory of God. Fund income will be used to provide scholarships to graduate professional students enrolled in the Divinity School at Duke University.

The Albert N. Gore Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in 2025 by Albert N. Gore III, School of Engineering Class of 1979, of Hillsborough, North Carolina. This fund is created in honor of Albert N. Gore Jr., a 1957 graduate of Duke Divinity, whose ministry served congregations across Virginia, North Carolina, and Mississippi, as well as the U.S. Army. Fund distributions will be used to provide scholarships to graduate professional students enrolled in the Divinity School at Duke University.

The Samuel B. Long III Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in 2025 by Jane Pickelmann Long, Trinity College Class of 1977 and Law School Class of 1980, of Fernandina Beach, Florida. This fund is established as a memorial to Samuel B. Long III to honor his profound but largely anonymous impact on the lives of those who came to the United States in search of a better life. This scholarship will provide vital financial aid to support future ministers and theologians who will pursue their calling and aspire to prepare for their ministry at Duke Divinity. Distributions from the Fund will be used to provide scholarships to graduate professional students enrolled in the Divinity School at Duke University with preference to students who are immigrants or are from immigrant families and second to international students.

The Thomas S. Murphy Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in 2024 by Emilie B. Murphy, Trinity College Class of 1979, of Rye, New York. This fund is created in appreciation for the work of the Theology Medicine and Culture Initiative at Duke Divinity School. The focus on the *Imago Dei* in each human being and the preparation of health care workers for lives of service to others consistent with the Christian faith is in keeping with Thomas S. Murphy's love for his fellows. Distributions from the Fund will provide scholarships to graduate professional students enrolled in the Divinity School at Duke University and participating in the Theology, Medicine, and Culture certificate program(s).

The Reverend Susan Pennock Scholarship Fund was established in 2024 by J. Bradford McIlvain, School of Engineering Class of 1981, and Maura McIlvain, of Kiawah Island, South Carolina. The fund was established to recognize and express their admiration for the profound impact that the Reverend Susan Pennock has had on their lives and the lives of so many others. As a proud graduate of Duke Divinity School, Susan's ministry has been a testament to the power of faith, compassion, and calling. Rev. Pennock's example has inspired them to establish a scholarship in her honor as a way to support individuals who, like Susan, have felt a deep calling and wish to prepare for their ministry at Duke Divinity. Vital financial aid gave Susan the ability to pursue her studies and achieve her degree and this fund will ensure others with a similar calling have the same opportunity to fulfill their dreams and make an extraordinary impact through their ministry, just as Susan has done. Fund distributions will provide scholarships to graduate professional students enrolled in the Divinity School at Duke University.

The Reverend Ben F. Wyland Fund was established in 2025 through a planned gift by an anonymous donor. This fund is established in honor of the late Reverend Ben F. Wyland, a Presbyterian minister who fought on the front lines of the Civil Rights Movement. Distributions from the Fund will be used to provide funding for activities and scholarship that address the intersection of religion, law, and history in the Divinity School at Duke University. Such activities may include lectureships, travel scholarships to complement related coursework, research and publishing, and faculty support for course development.

An Anonymous Scholarship Fund was established in 2025 by anonymous donors. After a lifetime of service in the medical profession, the anonymous donors seek to equip a new generation with theological training that will shape and sustain them in their life-giving work. Distributions from the Fund will be used to provide whole or partial scholarships for graduate professional students who are enrolled in the Theology, Medicine, and Culture Initiative in the Divinity School at Duke University.

Major Program Resources

The Divinity Annual Fund received record contributions of \$1,425,254 from Duke Divinity School students, graduates, and friends from across the nation and around the world, with the contributions helping significantly with student financial aid. The 1,251 supporters of the Divinity Annual Fund make scholarships possible for students.

The Duke Endowment in Charlotte, North Carolina, provided generous grants to underwrite Divinity School programs for field education, continuing education, Thriving Rural Communities, the Center for Reconciliation, Clergy Health Initiative, the Hispanic House of Studies, Renewing Duke Divinity School as a Keystone Institution, Seminary to Early Ministry, and a new endowment for a Black Church Studies Professorship.

Lilly Endowment in Indianapolis, Indiana, provided generous support for Compelling Preaching, Capacity Building, Thriving Congregations, and Thriving in Ministry.

The Ministerial Education Fund of the United Methodist Church provided essential support for student financial aid, faculty support, and other core mission programs of the Divinity School.

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