Please rise, as you are able.

ORDER OF SERVICE

The congregation is invited into silent prayer prior to the service.

Prelude

Variations on “Vom Himmel hoch”  
Walter L. Pelz (b. 1926)

Theme
I. Canon at the octave - “To you this night is born a child…”
II. “The blessing which the Father planned…” [quoting “Divinum mysterium”]
III. “My heart for very joy now leaps…”
IV. “Were earth a thousand times as fair…” [quoting “Silent night”]
V. Finale: Toccata – Chorale

Call to Worship and Greeting

The Dean: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
The Dean: The Word became flesh and dwells among us!
People: Glory to God in the highest and peace to God’s people on earth!

Introit

Ding dong! merrily on high  
harm. Charles Wood (1866-1926)

Ding dong! merrily on high in heaven the bells are ringing:
Ding dong! verily the sky is riven with angel singing:
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!  
G. R. Woodward

Hymn 246

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
ANTIOCH
Collect (in unison)

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Gloria in excelsis (sung by all)

Lesson

Isaiah 52:7-10

Lector: A lesson from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, chapter 52, verses 7-10:

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.
Anthem  Wonderf ul peace

Peace, Peace, wonderful peace,
Peace to the world is given.
Hush’d are the angels, so still is the night;
Then in the East shone a heavenly light.
Join in the chorus His praises sing!
Glory to God, to the newly born King.

Peace, peace, wonderful peace.
Peace to the world is given.

Peace, peace, bearer of peace.
Men of good will receive Him.
Holiest of Nights, O most wondrous of days;
Shepherds and kings lift their voices in praise.
Join in the chorus, His praises sing!
Glory to God, to the newly born King.

Peace, peace, wonderful peace.
Peace to the world is given.

Gustaf Nordqvist (1886-1946)

Lesson  Hebrews 1:1-4

Lector: A lesson from St. Paul’s Epistle to the Hebrews, chapter 1, verses 1-4:

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last
days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also
created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being,
and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat
down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the
name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.
Psalm 98

The antiphon is sung twice, first by choir alone, and then by choir and congregation.

🎵 Antiphon (sung by all)

Joy to the world! the Lord is come.

Cantor: O sing to the LORD a new song,
        for he has done marvelous things.

People: His right hand and his holy arm
        have gotten him victory.

Cantor: The LORD has made known his victory;
        he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.

People: He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.
        All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

Cantor: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
        break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

People: Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,
        with the lyre and the sound of melody.

Cantor: With trumpets and the sound of the horn
        make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD.

People: Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
        the world and those who live in it.

Cantor: Let the floods clap their hands;
        let the hills sing together for joy at the presence of the LORD,
        for he is coming to judge the earth.

People: He will judge the world with righteousness,
        and the peoples with equity. 🎵
Gloria Patri *(sung by all)*

Laud and honor to the Father, laud and honor to the Son,
Laud and honor to the Spirit, ever three and ever one;
One in might and one in glory, while unending ages run.

Gospel Lesson  John 1:1-14

*Lector:* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John,
chapter 1, verses 1-14:

*People:* Glory to you, O Lord.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.


*People:* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Hymn 224  Good Christian friends, rejoice

Sermon  “The Mystery of the Incarnation”  Rev. Dr. Robert Allan Hill, Dean

Hymn 234  O come, all ye faithful (stanzas 1, 2, 3, and 6)

Call to Prayer  Lead me, Lord *(sung by all)*

The music to this hymn is found on page 473 of the United Methodist Hymnal.

Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness;
Make thy way plain before my face.
For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord only,
That makest me dwell in safety.
Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Response

O little one sweet

O little one sweet, O little one mild, Thy Father’s purpose thou hast fulfilled;
Thou cam’st from heav’n to mortal ken, Equal to be with us poor men,
O little one sweet, O little one mild.  

Response

O little one sweet

O little one sweet, O little one mild, Thy Father’s purpose thou hast fulfilled;
Thou cam’st from heav’n to mortal ken, Equal to be with us poor men,
O little one sweet, O little one mild.

Community Life and Offering

At the Offertory

The blessed son of God

The blessed son of God only
In a crib full poor did lie;
With our poor flesh and our poor blood
Was clothed that everlasting good.

Kyrieleison.

The Lord Christ Jesu, God’s son dear,
Was a guest and a stranger here;
Us for to bring from misery,
That we might live eternally.

All this did he for us freely,
For to declare his great mercy;
All Christendom be merry therefore,
And give him thanks for evermore.

Miles Coverdale (c. 1488-1569)

Presentation of the Gifts (sung by all)

GREENSLEEVES

The music to this hymn is found on page 219 of the United Methodist Hymnal, verse 3.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.
Offertory Prayer

Hymn 251  Go, tell it on the mountain  

Go, tell it on the mountain

Benediction

Response  God be in my head  

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 my heart and in my thinking.
God be at mine end and at my departing.

Old English Prayer from Sarum Primer

Postlude  Toccata in Seven

Toccata in Seven  John Rutter (b. 1945)

The preacher is the Reverend Dr. Robert Allan Hill, Dean of the Chapel.
The conductor and organist is Justin Thomas Blackwell, Associate Director of Music.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Dean, Chaplains, and staff of Marsh Chapel wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy and safe holiday season!

Winter Intersession: The University is currently closed for Winter Intersession. During this period, the chapel offices are not open and with the exception of the services listed below, the building is closed to visitors. The University and Chapel offices will reopen on Tuesday, January 3, 2017. Phone messages left at the chapel will be checked daily.

The Interdenominational Protestant Worship service, held on Sundays at 11:00 a.m., will not be affected by any of the closures listed here, and will continue to be held each Sunday during Winter Break, including next week on New Year’s Day.

THIS WEEK AT MARSH CHAPEL

TODAY  
11 a.m.  Interdenominational Protestant Worship (Main Chapel)
12:00 noon  Coffee Hour (Marsh Room)

Weekday Chapel activities have been suspended while students are on Winter Break.

NEXT SUNDAY  
11 a.m.  Interdenominational Protestant Worship (Main Chapel)
(New Year’s Day)  12:00 noon  Coffee Hour (Marsh Room)
WELCOME TO MARSH CHAPEL

We thank you for joining us this morning for worship, and hope that you have found the Spirit of God in our midst. If you are interested in becoming a member of Marsh Chapel, or have other questions, please feel free to contact any of the Chaplains or Associates listed below.

Hearing Assist System available – please ask an usher. 79.200 MHz

617.353.3560 - chapel@bu.edu - www.bu.edu/chapel
The Chapel Office is open 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. weekdays, and on Sunday mornings.
Marsh Chapel Sunday morning services are broadcast live on WBUR 90.9 FM.

The Reverend Dr. Robert Allan Hill, Dean and Chaplain of the University

Jessica Chicka, STM STH’11, University Chaplain for International Students
Br. Lawrence A. Whitney, LC†, MDiv STH’09, University Chaplain for Community Life
The Reverend Victoria Hart Gaskell, Chapel Associate for Methodist Students
The Reverend Soren Hessler, MDiv STH’11, Chapel Associate for Leadership Development
The Reverend Jen Quigley, MDiv STH’11, Chapel Associate for Vocational Discernment
Matthew Cron, Devin Harvin, Ian Quillen, Marsh Associates
Nick Rodriguez, Denise-Nicole Stone, Kasey Shultz, Marsh Associates

Scott Allen Jarrett, DMA CFA’08, Director of Music
Justin Thomas Blackwell, MM CFA’09, Associate Director of Music
David Ames, Sacristan
Justin Thomas Blackwell, MM CFA’09, Operations Manager, Music at Marsh Chapel
Herbert S. Jones, Director, Inner Strength Gospel Choir
Sean Watland, Conducting Fellow, Marsh Chapel Choir
Margaret Weckworth, MM CFA’15, Phoebe Oler, Music Program Administrators

Ray Bouchard, MTS STH’95, Director of Marsh Chapel
Heidi Freimanis-Cordts, MM CFA’09, Director of Hospitality
Heidi Freimanis-Cordts, Jeannette Lewis, Wedding Coordinators
Susan Piersa, Ian Quillen, Sonya Stanczyk, Office Assistante
Cierra Brown, Ellis Brown, Kaelyn Brown, Dominique Cheung, Charles Cloy, Ushers
George Coulter, Mark Gray, Ratna Lusiaga, Beth Neville, Jay Reeg, Ushers