

# MARSH CHAPEL AT BOSTON UNIVERSITY

## University Interdenominational Protestant Service of Worship

Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016 –11:00 a.m.  
Christmas Day – The Nativity of our Lord

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The Reverend Doctor Robert Allan Hill, Dean

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✦ *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**

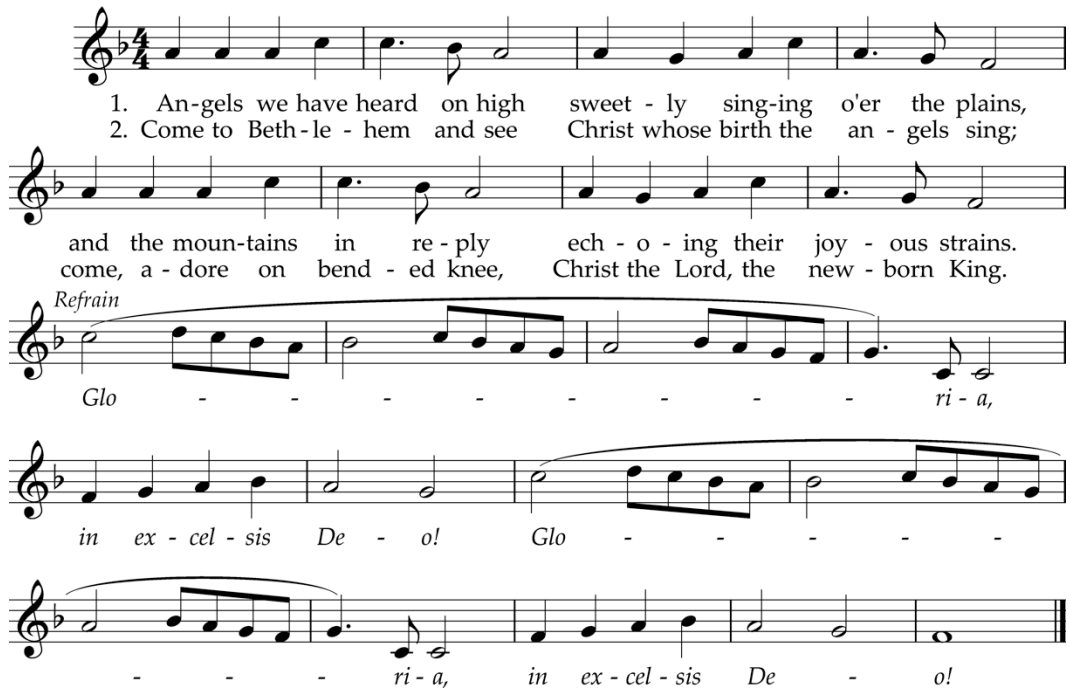
Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

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*)



1. An-gels we have heard on high sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains,  
2. Come to Beth-le-hem and see Christ whose birth the an-gels sing;  
and the moun-tains in re-ply ech-o-ing their joy-ous strains.  
come, a-dore on bend-ed knee, Christ the Lord, the new-born King.

*Refrain*  
Glo-ri-a,  
in ex-cel-sis De-o! Glo-ri-a,  
in ex-cel-sis De-o!

**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**                      Wonderful peace

*Gustaf Nordqvist (1886-1946)*

*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.*

*Norman Luboff*

**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.*



✦ **Gloria Patri** (*sung by all*)

REGENT SQUARE

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.

*Lector:*                    The Gospel of the Lord.

*People:*                    *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

✦ **Hymn 224**                    Good Christian friends, rejoice

IN DULCI JUBILO

**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)

ADESTE FIDELES

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

LEAD ME, LORD

*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

*harm. J. S. Bach (1685-1750)*

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.

*tr. Percy Dearmer*

### Community Life and Offering

#### At the Offertory      The blessed son of God

*Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)*

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                      *arr. John Rutter (b. 1945)*

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                      *John Rutter (b. 1945)*

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*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.

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

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**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, LCT, 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 Assistants

Cierra Brown, Ellis Brown, Kaelyn Brown, Dominique Cheung, Charles Cloy, Ushers

George Coulter, Mark Gray, Ratna Lusiaga, Beth Neville, Jay Reeg, Ushers

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