Hearing Assist System available—please ask an usher. 79.200 MHz
Please rise, as you are able.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

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

Prelude

Call to Worship and Greeting

The Dean: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
The Dean: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
People: Blessed be the name of the Lord.

Introit

People look east arr. Barry Ferguson (b. 1942)

People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today: love, the guest, is on the way. Eleanor Farjeon (1881–1965)

The opening hymn appears on the next page.

All of today’s hymns are taken from The Hymnal, 1982 (The Episcopal Church, USA)
**Hymn**

Prepare the way, O Zion

**BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN**

1. Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!
2. He brings God's rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above.
3. Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior's rule embrace.

Let every hill and valley a level way appear.
His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love.
His tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.

Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.
Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abound.
All lands will bow before him, their voices will adore him.

**Refrain**

Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

Words: Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847); tr. composite; adapt. Charles P. Price (b. 1920)
Music: *Bereden väg för Herran*, melody from *Then Svenska Psalmboken*, 1697

**Collect (in unison)**

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

**Kyrie**

from 'Mass for Five Voices'

William Byrd (c. 1540–1623)

Kyrie eleison,  
Lord, have mercy,
Christe eleison,  
Christ, have mercy,
Kyrie eleison.  
Lord, have mercy.
Assurance of Pardon

_The Dean:_ If we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

_All:_ Thanks be to God.

Lesson  Zephaniah 3:14–20

_Lector:_ A lesson from the Book of Zephaniah, chapter 3, verses 14–20:

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The L ORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the L ORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The L ORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the L ORD.

_Lector:_ The Word of the Lord.

_People:_ Thanks be to God.

Anthem  Ecce concipies  

Ecce concipies et paries filium, et vocabis nomen ejus Jesum. 
Hic erit magnus, et filius Altissimi vocabitur. 
Super solium David et super regnum ejus sedebit et regnabit in domo Jacob in aeternum et regni ejus non erit finis.

Ecce concipies et paries filium, et vocabis nomen ejus Jesum. 
Hic erit magnus, et filius Altissimi vocabitur. 
Super solium David et super regnum ejus sedebit et regnabit in domo Jacob in aeternum et regni ejus non erit finis.

Behold, thou shalt conceive and bear a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus. 
He shall be great and shall be called the son of the Most High. 
He shall sit upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom and he shall reign in the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

_Luke 1:31–33_
Lesson
Philippians 4:4–7

Lector: A lesson from Paul’s Epistle to the Philippians, chapter 4, verses 4–7:

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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

The First Song of Isaiah

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

chant (sung by all)

Cantor: You will say in that day: I will give thanks to you, O LORD, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, and you comforted me.

People: Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.

Cantor: With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

People: And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted.

Cantor: Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.

People: Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. (Isaiah 12)
Gloria Patri
from Magnificat (Collegium Sancti Johannis)  Herbert Howells (1892–1983)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Gospel Lesson  Luke 3:7–18

Lector:  The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Luke,
chapter 3, verses 7–18:

People:  Glory to you, O Lord.

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.


People:  Praise to you, Lord Christ.
Hymn

Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding

Any are welcome to sing the printed descant on stanzas 2 and 5.

Descant

1. Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding: “Christ is nigh,” it seems to say;
   2. Wakened by the solemn warning, from earth’s bond-age let us rise;
   3. Lo! the Lamb, so long expected, comes with pardon down from heaven;
   4. So when next he comes with glory, and the world is wrapped in fear,
   5. Honor, glory, might, and blessing to the Father and the Son,

2. Christ, our sun, all sloth dispelling, shines upon the morning skies.
   5. With the everlasting Spirit while unending ages run.

1. “Cast away the works of darkness, O ye children of the day.”
   2. Christ, our sun, all sloth dispelling, shines upon the morning skies.
   3. Let us haste, with tears of sorrow, one and all to be forgiven;
   4. May he with his mercy shield us, and with words of love draw near.
   5. With the everlasting Spirit while unending ages run.

Words: Latin, ca. 6th cent.; tr. Hymns Ancient and Modern, 1861, alt.
Music: Merton, William Henry Monk (1823-1889); desc. Alan Gray (1855-1935)

Sermon

“The Mark of Being Alive”

The Rev. Dr. Robert Allan Hill, Dean
On Jordan’s bank the Baptist's cry

1 On Jordan’s bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh; awake and hearken,
2 Then cleansed be every breast from sin; make straight the way for God within, and let each heart prepare,
3 For thou art our salvation, Lord, our refuge, and our great reward; without thy grace we bid the fallen sinner stand; shine forth, and let thy advent doth thy people free; whom with the Father
4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and to heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and
5 All praise, eternal Son, to thee, whose advent doth thy people free; whom with the Father

1 for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings.
2 pare a home where such a mighty guest may come.
3 waste a way like flowers that wither and decay.
4 light restore earth's own true love-liness once more.
5 we adore and Holy Spirit evermore.

Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749); tr. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944), after John Chandler (1806-1876); alt.

LM
Call to Prayer *(sung by all)*

| Call to Prayer | Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810–1876) |

| 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

Wie soll ich dich empfangen

How shall I embrace you,

Und wie begegn' ich dir?

and how encounter you?

O aller Welt Verlangen,

O desire of the whole world,

O meiner Seelen Zier!

O adornment of my soul!

O Jesu, Jesu, setze

O Jesus, Jesus place

Mir selbst die Fackel bei,

the torch near me yourself,

Damit, was dich ergötze,

so that what gives you pleasure

Mir kund und wissend sei!

be known and familiar to me!

Community Life and Offering

At the Offertory

How lovely are the messengers (from Paulus, Op. 36)

Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847)

How lovely are the messengers that preach us the gospel of peace.
To all the nations is gone forth the sound of their words,
throughout all the lands their glad tidings.

Romans 10:15, 18

Presentation of the Gifts (sung by all)

PICARDY

Un-to God be praise and glo-ry: to the Fa-ther and the Son,
to th’e-ter-nal Spir-it hon-or now and ev-er-more be done;
praise and glo-ry in the high-est, while un-end-ing a-ges run.

Offertory Prayer

Those wishing to attend Children’s Education may exit the chapel during the singing of the next hymn.
Rejoice! Rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear!
See that your lamps are burning, replenish them with oil;
Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;

The evening is advancing, and darker night is near.
Look now for your salvation, the end of sin and toil.
Arise, thou Sun so longed for, above this darkened sphere!

The Bridegroom is arising, and soon he will draw nigh;
The marriage-feast is waiting, the gates wide open stand;
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see

up, watch in expectation! At midnight comes the cry.
rise up, ye heirs of glory, the Bridegroom is at hand!
the day of earth’s redemption, and ever be with thee!

Words: Laurentius Laurenti (1660-1722); tr. Sarah B. Findlater (1823-1907), alt.
Music: Llangloffan, melody from Hymnau a Thonau or Gwasanaeth yr Eglwys yng Nghymru, 1865
**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**

_The preacher is the Rev. Dr. Robert Allan Hill, Dean of the Chapel._  
_The Marsh Chapel Choir is conducted by Dr. Scott Allen Jarrett, Director of Music._  
_The organist is Justin Thomas Blackwell, Associate Director of Music._

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**THIS WEEK AT MARSH CHAPEL**

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

**Today**  
11:00 a.m.  
Interdenominational Protestant Worship Service (Nave)

11:50 a.m.  
Children’s Education (Thurman Room)

12:00 p.m.  
Coffee Hour (Marsh Room)

12:30 p.m.  
Thurman Choir Rehearsal (Robinson Chapel)

12:30 p.m.  
Abolitionist Chapel Today (Thurman Room)

**Next Sunday**  
11:00 a.m.  
Interdenominational Protestant Worship Service (Nave)

12:00 p.m.  
Coffee Hour (Marsh Room)

12:30 p.m.  
Thurman Choir Rehearsal (Robinson Chapel)

**Next Monday**  
1:00 p.m.  
Christmas Eve Service (Nave)

7:30 p.m.  
Candlelight Christmas Eve Service (Nave)

Marsh Chapel is pleased to offer childcare during our Sunday morning services. Inquiries can be made at the main office on the lower level of the building.

We are happy to provide **free parking for the Sunday morning service** (11:00 a.m.) in the lot behind the College of Arts and Sciences (accessible via Bay State Road).

Those interested in year-end giving may consider ongoing support for the **Endowment of the Deanship** of Marsh Chapel. For more information visit www.bu.edu/stewardship.
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.

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

Br. Lawrence A. Whitney, LC†, MDiv STH’09, University Chaplain for Community Life

The Reverend Dr. Karen Coleman, Associate Chaplain for Episcopal Ministry

Mahalia Damm, Ministry Assistant for Children’s Ministry
Nick Rodriguez, Ministry Assistant for Outreach and Engagement
Tom Batson, T.J. Bergeron, Emi Fermin, Marsh Associates
Shruti Gupta, Devin Harvin, Cornelia Johnson Marsh Associates
Phoebe Oler, Denise-Nicole Stone, Marsh Associates

Jessica Chicka, STM STH’11, University Chaplain for International Students

Joseph Viola, Ministry Associate
Jaira Koh, Ministry Assistant

Scott Allen Jarrett, DMA CFA’08, Director of Music

Justin Thomas Blackwell, MM CFA’09, Associate Director of Music

Margaret Weckworth, MM CFA’15, Music Program Administrator
Herbert S. Jones, Inner Strength Gospel Choir

Ray Bouchard, MTS STH’95, Director of Marsh Chapel

Heidi Freimanis-Cordts, MM CFA’09, Director of Hospitality

The Reverend Victoria Hart Gaskell, Minister for Visitation
David Ames, Sacristan
Heidi Freimanis-Cordts, Jeannette Lewis, Wedding Coordinators
Kaitie Noe, Helena Pham, Wedding Coordinators
Anastasya Chandra, Helen Houghton, Moniroath Nann, Office Assistants
Helena Pham, Sonya Stanczyk, Angelee Verdieu, Office Assistants
Cierra Brown, Ellis Brown, Kaelyn Brown, Charles Cloy, George Coulter, Ushers
Mark Gray, Naa Ameley Owusu-Amo, Sydney Passley-Harris, Jay Reeg, Liz Scully, Ushers

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