The Reverend Doctor Robert Allan Hill, Dean

- 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

Christe, Redemptoris omnium

Gerald Near (b. 1942)

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!

Hymn 245

The first Noel the angel did say

THE FIRST NOEL

Collect (in unison)

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.
Gloria in excelsis (sung by all)

1. Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
2. Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing;

and the mountains in reply echoing their joyful strains.

Adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Lesson 1 Samuel 2:18–20, 26

Lector A lesson from the second book of Samuel, chapter 2, verses 18–20 and 26:

Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod. His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the LORD repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the LORD"; and then they would return to their home. Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the LORD and with the people.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.
Bereite dir, Jesu, noch itzo die Bahn, Prepare, Jesus, even now the path for Yourself,
Mein Heiland, erwähle my Savior, select
Die gläubende Seele the faithful souls
Und siehe mit Augen der Gnade mich an! and look upon me with eyes of mercy!

Lesson Colossians 3:12–17

Lector: A lesson from St. Paul’s epistle to the Colossians, chapter 3, verses 12–17:

As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 148

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

Cantor: Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise the Lord in the heights!

People: Praise the Lord, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

Cantor: Praise the Lord, sun and moon; praise the Lord, all you shining stars!

People: Praise the Lord, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!
Cantor: Let them praise the name of the LORD who commanded and they were created.
People: Who established them forever and ever; and fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.
Cantor: Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,
People: fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling God’s command!
Cantor: Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!
People: Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!
Cantor: Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!
People: Young men and women alike, old and young together!
Cantor: Let them praise the name of the LORD, whose name alone is exalted; whose glory is above earth and heaven.
People: God has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are near their God. Praise the LORD! ♫

Gloria Patri (sung by all) Regent Square

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day’s journey. Then they started to
look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.


People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Hymn 237 Sing we now of Christmas French Carol

Sermon "Read!" The Rev. Dr. Robert Allan Hill, Dean

Hymn 224 Good Christian friends, rejoice In dulci jubilo

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

Öffne dich, mein ganzes Herze (from Cantata No. 61)  J. S. Bach (1685–1750)

Öffne dich, mein ganzes Herze,          Open yourself, my whole heart —
Jesus kommt und ziehet ein.           Jesus comes and enters in.
Bin ich gleich nur Staub und Erde,     Although I am only ashes and dust,
will er mich doch nicht verschmähn    he will not disdain
Seine Lust an mir zu seh'n,       to see his delight filling my heart,
daß ich seine Wohnung werde.    so that I might become his dwelling.
O wie selig werd' ich sein! (da capo)  O how happy I will be!

Offertory Sentences

At the Offertory Auch mit gedämpften (from Cantata No. 36)  J. S. Bach (1685–1750)

Auch mit gedämpften, schwachen Stimmen   Even with subdued, weak voices
Wird Gottes Majestät verehrt.            God's majesty is revered.
Denn schallet nur der Geist darbei,    For though our soul alone may sound,
So ist ihm solches ein Geschrei,       This to Him is a mighty shout
Das er im Himmel selber hört.          That He in heaven itself doth hear.

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 246  Joy to the world, the Lord is come  ANTIOCH

Benediction

Postlude  Vom Himmel hoch, da komm' ich her  Johann Pachelbel (1653–1706)

The preacher is the Reverend Dr. Robert Allan Hill, Dean of the Chapel.
The soprano soloist is MaryRuth Lown, Marsh Chapel Choral Scholar.
The instrumentalists are Susana Ogata (violin), Guy Fishman (cello), and Justin Blackwell (organ).
Boston University requires that masks be worn by everyone while inside University buildings, regardless of vaccination status. Your mask must cover both your mouth and your nose.

All members of the Marsh Chapel clergy, staff, and choir have been vaccinated against COVID-19. We urge you to be vaccinated as well. For information on the vaccine or how to be vaccinated, go to mass.gov/covid-19-vaccine.

We urge you to continue to observe physical distancing between households, particularly if you or a member of your household is unvaccinated.

Singing is permitted while wearing a mask.

We welcome our visitors today. Please sign the narthex guest book to indicate your presence and contact Heidi Freimanis-Cordts (hrf@bu.edu) to receive our monthly newsletter, Common Ground.

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<tr>
<td>TODAY</td>
<td>December 26</td>
<td>11:00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SUNDAY</td>
<td>January 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>THURSDAY</td>
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<td>The Epiphany of our Lord—No Services</td>
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A QR code parking pass for the CAS lot is available on our website. To obtain a printed copy, please speak with a Marsh Chapel staff member. Parking passes are only for Sundays, 8:30am–1:30pm.
WELCOME TO MARSH CHAPEL

We thank you for joining us this afternoon 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 on WBUR 90.9 FM.

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

The Reverend Dr. Karen Coleman, University Chaplain for Episcopal Ministry
Amber Jogie, Food Ministry Coordinator
Taylor Emmaus McGhee, Ministry Assistant
Alec Vaughn, Ministry Assistant

The Reverend Dr. Jessica Chicka, PhD STH’19, University Chaplain for International Students
Chloe McLaughlin, Ministry Associate

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, Director, Inner Strength Gospel Choir

Ray Bouchard, MTS STH’95, Director of Marsh Chapel
Heidi Freimanis-Cordts, MM CFA’09, Director of Hospitality
The Reverend Dr. Victoria Hart Gaskell, D.Min. STH’19, Minister for Visitation
David Ames, Sacristan
Zoe Chock, Heidi Freimanis-Cordts, Kaitie Noe, Wedding Coordinators
Anastasya Chandra, Zoe Chock, Office Assistants
Emilio Latorre, Jace Shneyderman, Office Assistants
Angelee Verdieu, Office Assistants

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