ORDER OF WORSHIP

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.

Hymn 234 O come, all ye faithful (vs. 1–3 and 6 only) ADESTE FIDELES

Collect (in unison)

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.
Kyrie (sung by all) from Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena

Healey Willan (1880-1968)

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 Isaiah 7:10–16

Lector: A lesson from the Book of Isaiah, chapter 7, verses 10–16:

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.
Anthem

Et incarnatus est (from Missa Cellensis, Hob. XXII:5)

Franz Joseph Haydn (1732–1809)

Et incarnatus est de Spiritu Sancto
ex Maria Virgine: Et homo factus est.

And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost
of the Virgin Mary: And was made man.

Lesson

Romans 1:1–7

Lector: A lesson from St. Paul’s epistle to the Romans, chapter 1, verses 1–7:

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God’s beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80: 1–7, 17–19

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

🎵 Antiphon (sung by all)

I am the vine; you are the branches, rooted in faith and love.

Cantor: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph’s people like a flock!
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth before the tribes of Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh,
Stir up your might, and come to save us!

People: Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.
Cantor: O God of hosts,
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

People: You have fed them with the bread of tears,
and given them tears to drink in full measure.

Cantor: You make us the scorn of our neighbors;
our enemies laugh among themselves.

People: Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Cantor: But let your hand be upon those of your right hand,
the ones whom you have made strong for yourself!

People: Then we will never turn back from you;
give us life, and we will call on your name!

Glory to you, O Lord God of hosts!
let your face shine, that we may be saved!

Gloria Patri (sung by all)

Gospel Lesson Matthew 1:18–25

Lector: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew,
chapter 1, verses 18–25:

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord
appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

* Hymn 219 What child is this

Sermon “The Beginning of the Gospel”
The Rev. Dr. Robert Allan Hill
Dean of the Chapel

* Hymn 229 Infant holy, infant lowly

Call to Prayer (sung by all)
Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810–1876)
Prayers of the People and 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.

Offertory Sentences

At the Offertory  Recitative: Comfort ye my people  
Aria: Every valley shall be exalted (from Messiah)

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. 
Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned.
The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness; prepare ye the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

(Isaiah 40:1–3)

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill made low; the crooked straight and the rough places plain.  

(Isaiah 40:4)

Presentación of the Gifts (sung by all)

Un-to God be praise and glo-ry: to the Fa-ther and the Son,
to the-et-er-nal Spi-rit 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

Hymn 248  On this day earth shall ring

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

Please join us after worship for our Advent Bible Study “Prophecy and the Nativity,” led by Bill Cordts. All are welcome and no preparation is required. Light refreshments will be served.

The preacher is the Reverend Dr. Robert Allan Hill, Dean of the Chapel. The tenor soloist is Patrick T. Waters, Marsh Chapel Choral Fellow. The organist is Justin Thomas Blackwell, Associate Director of Music.

Christmas at Marsh Chapel

Sunday December 18 11:00 a.m. The Fourth Sunday of Advent
12:00 p.m. Advent Bible Study

Saturday December 24 1:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service
7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Sunday December 25 11:00 a.m. Christmas Day Service

Sunday January 1 11:00 a.m. The First Sunday after Christmas

Friday January 6 The Epiphany of our Lord

Sunday January 8 11:00 a.m. The First Sunday after the Epiphany

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 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 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
Rhea Brown-Bright, Ministry Assistant
Alec Vaughn, Ministry Assistant

The Reverend Dr. Jessica Chicka, PhD STH’19, University Chaplain for International Students
Al Carroll, Ministry Assistant
Meghna Chhabra, Communications Intern
Hannah Hathaway, 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

Heidi Freimanis-Cordts, MM CFA’09, Director of Marsh Chapel
Chloe McLaughlin, MDiv STH’22, Director of Hospitality
David Ames, Sacristan
Chloe Mclaughlin, Kaitie Noe, Wedding Coordinators
Wilsi Taveras, Hospitality Intern
Sylvie Adams, Vivian Chaing, Office Assistants
Nikhil Fereday, Emilio Latorre, Office Assistants
Jiqing Li, Zacharie Verdieu, Cinnie Zhang, Office Assistants

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