The Reverend Doctor Robert Allan Hill, Dean

Please rise, as you are able.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Prelude

Of the Father’s Love Begotten

Wilbur Held (1914–2015)

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

Rise up, shepherd, and follow

Traditional Spiritual

There’s a star in the east on Christmas morn,
It’ll lead to the place where the Savior’s born.
Leave your flocks and leave your lambs;
Leave your sheep and leave your rams;

Follow, follow,
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.
Follow the star of Bethlehem,
Rise up shepherd and follow.

If you take good heed to the angel’s words,
you’ll forget your flocks, you’ll forget your herds.

Hymn 240
Hark! the herald angels sing

Mendelssohn
**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,
   and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.
2. Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing;
   come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

**Lesson** Isaiah 63:7–9

*Lector:* A lesson from the book of Isaiah, chapter 63, verses 7–9:

I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD, the praiseworthy acts of the LORD, because of all that the LORD has done for us, and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely"; and he became their savior in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

*Lector:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* Thanks be to God.
Anthem

A glorious day is dawning, and o’er the waking earth
The heralds of the morning are springing into birth.
In dark and hidden places there shines the blessed light;
The beam of Truth displaces the darkness of the night.

The watchword has been spoken, the light has broken forth,
Far shines the blessed token upon the startled earth.
To hearts and homes benighted the blessed Truth is giv’n,
And peace and love, united, point upward into heav’n.

Franz Joseph Haydn (1732–1809)

Lesson

Hebrews 2:10–18

Lector: A lesson from the epistle to the Hebrews, chapter 2, verses 10–18:

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you." And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Here am I and the children whom God has given me." Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.
Psalm 148

The antiphon is sung twice, first by choir alone, and then by choir 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! 🎵
Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son." When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more." When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.
While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground,
“Fear not,” said he, for mighty dread had seized their troubled mind;
“To you, in David’s town, this day is born of David’s line
“The heavenly Babe you there shall find to human view displayed,
Thus spake the seraph, and forthwith appeared a shining throng

the angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around.
“Glad tidings of great joy I bring to you and all mankind.
the Savior, who is Christ the Lord; and this shall be the sign:
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands, and in a manger laid.”
of angels praising God, who thus addressed their joyful song:

“All glory be to God on high
and on the earth be peace;
good will henceforth from heaven to men
begin and never cease.”

“New Strength”
The Rev. Dr. Robert Allan Hill, Dean

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Gesù bambino

When blossoms flower e’er ‘mid the snow upon a winter night
Was born the Child, the Christmas Rose, the King of Love and Light.
The angels sang, the shepherds sang, the grateful earth rejoiced,
And at His blessed birth the stars their exultation voiced.
O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Again the heart with rapture glows to greet the holy night
That gave the world its Christmas Rose, its King of Love and Light.
Let ev’ry voice acclaim His name, the grateful chorus swell
From paradise to earth He came that we with Him might dwell.       Pietro A. Yon

*Presentation of the Gifts (sung by all)*

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*

**The SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

*The Great Thanksgiving*

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them up to the Lord.
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.
Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets. In the fullness of time you gave your only Son Jesus Christ to be our Savior, and at his birth the angels sang glory to you in the highest and peace to your people on earth. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

✿ Sanctus and Benedictus (sung by all)  

Patrick T. Waters (b. 1983)

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. As Mary and Joseph went from Galilee to Bethlehem and there found no room, so Jesus went from Galilee to Jerusalem and was despised and rejected. As in the poverty of a stable Jesus was born, so by the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.
Celebrant: As your Word became flesh, born of woman, on that night long ago, so, on the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Sung by all:

<music notation>

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Celebrant: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.

All: Amen.

The Lord’s Prayer

Celebrant: The Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and taught us when we pray to be bold and say:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven...
**Agnus Dei** *(spoken responsively)*

*Celebrant:* Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
*People:* Have mercy on us.
*Celebrant:* Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
*People:* Have mercy on us.
*Celebrant:* Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
*People:* Grant us your peace.

**Distribution of the Elements**

*During this season of increased health risks, we are offering Communion “in one kind” (i.e., bread only).*

Marsh Chapel at Boston University is an interdenominational faith community and all are welcome and invited to participate in Communion today. If you do not feel comfortable receiving the elements of Communion, you may, if you wish, come forward and receive a blessing instead. Simply let the server know when you approach. If you are unable to come forward, we will come to you with Communion or for a blessing—just raise your hand after the others have finished. Gluten-free bread is available upon request.

**Prayer of Thanksgiving** *(in unison)*

*Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**Hymn 251**

*Go, tell it on the mountain*

**Benediction**

**Response**

*What can I give him, poor as I am?*
*If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;*
*If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;*
*Yet what I can I give him: give my heart.*

**Postlude**

*Good Christians Friends, Rejoice*

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*The preacher and celebrant is the Reverend Dr. Robert Allan Hill, Dean of the Chapel. The soloists are Wee Kiat Chia, countertenor; Patrick T. Waters, tenor; and Scott Allen Jarrett, baritone. The organists are Clayton McCleskey and Scott Allen Jarrett.*
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
Wlsi 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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