

MARSH CHAPEL AT BOSTON UNIVERSITY
735 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE BOSTON, MA 02215

**University Interdenominational Protestant
Service of Word and Sacrament
Sunday, September 7th, 2025 — 11:00 a.m.
The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Series LXXVI № 2**

The Reverend Doctor Robert Allan Hill, Dean

✠ *Please rise, as you are able.*

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude Adagio (from Symphonie No. 3) *Louis Vierne (1870–1937)*

Call to Worship and Greeting

The Dean: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
The Dean: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them up to the Lord!

✠ **Introit** from “Behold, I build an house” *Lukas Foss (1922–2009)*

Behold, I build an house.
Then the house was filled with a cloud,
For the glory of the Lord had filled the house of God.

✠ **Hymn 103** Immortal, invisible, God only wise **ST. DENIO**

✠ **Collect** (*in unison*)

Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness

Celebrant: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

All: *Amen.*

Celebrant: Trusting in God's mercy,
let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

All: Merciful and loving God,
We are a stiff-necked people.
We trample on the needy.
We grumble about your grace to others.
We turn away from the poor.
Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.
Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found.
Amen.

Celebrant: Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful.
Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.
You who were lost have been found.
In the name of Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

All: *Amen.*

Lesson Deuteronomy 30:15–20

Choose life

Lector: A lesson from the Book of Deuteronomy, chapter 30, verses 15–20:

"See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Anthem

Kyrie (from Requiem, Op. 9)

Maurice Duruflé (1902–1986)

Kyrie eleison.
Christe eleison.
Kyrie eleison.

*Lord have mercy,
Christ have mercy,
Lord have mercy.*

Lesson

Philemon 1–21

Paul says, Receive Onesimus

Lector: A lesson from the epistle to Philemon, verses 1–21:

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To our beloved coworker Philemon, to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother. For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

The Psalter

Psalm 1

The way of the righteous

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



- Cantor:* Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked,
or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers;
- People:* *but their delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on his law they meditate day and night.*
- Cantor:* They are like trees planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither.
In all that they do, they prosper.
- People:* *The wicked are not so,
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.*
- Cantor:* Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;
- People:* *for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish. ♪*

✠ Gloria Patri

from 'Benedictus, Op. 34, no. 2'

Edward Elgar (1857–1934)

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 14:25–33

Give up your possessions

- Lector:* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Luke,
chapter 14, 25–33:
- People:* *Glory to you, O Lord.*

Now large crowds were traveling with him, and he turned and said to them, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my

disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

Lector: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon "Choices" The Rev. Dr. Jessica Chicka
University Chaplain for International Students

✠ **Hymn 451** Be thou my vision SLANE

✠ Exchange of Peace

Celebrant: The peace of Christ be with you always!
People: And also with you.

All may exchange signs and words of God's peace.

✠ **Hymn** Awake, O sleeper MARSH CHAPEL

1. A - wake, O sleep - er, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light;
2. Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that he might save;

so learn his love, its length and breadth, its full - ness, depth, and height.
with kind and gen - tle hearts for - give as God in Christ for - gave.

Offertory Sentences

At the Offertory Light of the world (from *The Light of Life*)

Edward Elgar (1857–1934)

Light of the world, we know thy praise,
the angels and archangels raise,
 and all the host of heaven;
more worthily than our faint hymns,
whose jarring sound that glory dims,
 which God to thee has given.

But thou didst not disdain to take
our low estate, or e'en to make
 the tomb thy resting place;
so thou might bring into our night
the dawn of thine eternal light
 to shine upon our face.

Nor death, nor hell, nor sin, is Lord,
but thou, O Son of God. Thy word
 is now our sov'reign law.
Therefore we thank thee, and we pray
thy light may shine unto the perfect day,
 on us for evermore.

Edward Capel Cure (1828–1890)

✦ Presentation of the Gifts (*sung by all*)

NUN DANKET; *arr. John Rutter* (b. 1945)



All praise and thanks to God The Fa-ther now be giv - en, The
Son, and him who reigns With them in high - est hea - ven, The
One e - ter - nal God, Whom heav'n and earth a - dore; For
thus it was, is now, And shall be ev - er - more. A - men.

✦ 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 to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

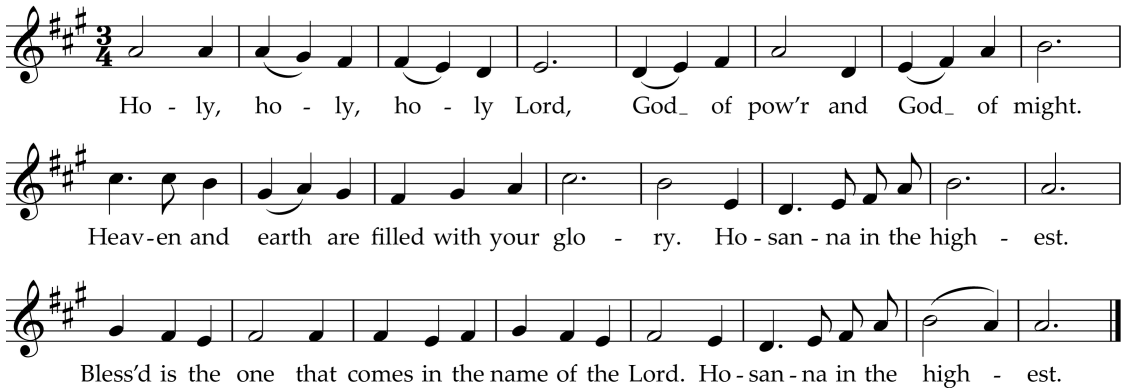
People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Celebrant: It is indeed our duty and our joy that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

✦ Sanctus and Benedictus (*sung by all*)

Patrick T. Waters (b. 1983)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God_ of pow'r and God_ of might.

Heav-en and earth are filled with your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless'd is the one that comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

✦ Words of Institution

Celebrant: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal:
you we praise and glorify, you we worship and adore.

Celebrant:

You formed the earth from chaos;
You encircled the globe with air;
You created fire for warmth and light;
You nourish the lands with water.

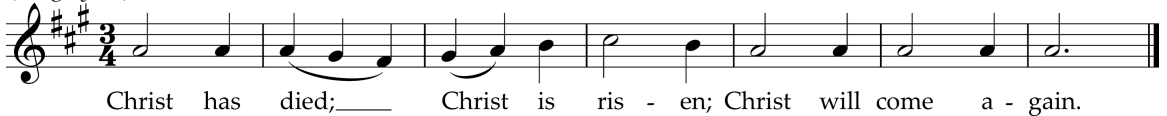
You molded us in your image,
And with mercy higher than the mountains,
With grace deeper than the seas,
You blessed the Israelites and cherished them as your own.
That also we, estranged and dying,
might be adopted to live in your Spirit,
you called us through the life and death of Jesus.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
Our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
Broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper,
He took the cup, gave thanks,
And gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
Shed for you and for all people
For the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Together as the body of Christ,
We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

(sung by all)



Celebrant:

With this bread and cup we remember your Son,
The first-born of your new creation.
We remember his life lived for others,
And his death and resurrection,
Which renews the face of the earth.
We await his coming, when,

Celebrant: With the world made perfect through your wisdom,
All our sins and sorrows will be no more.

People: *Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.*

Celebrant: Holy God, Holy and merciful, holy and compassionate,
Send upon us and this meal your Holy Spirit,
Whose breath revives us for life,
Whose fire rouses us to love.
Enfold in your arms all who share this holy food.
Nurture in us the fruits of the Spirit,
That we may be a living tree,
Sharing your bounty with all the world.

People: *Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.*

Celebrant: Holy and benevolent God,
Receive our praise and petitions,
As Jesus received the cry of the needy,
And fill us with your blessing,
Until, needy no longer and bound to you in love,
We feast forever in the triumph of the Lamb:
Through whom all glory and honor is yours,
O God, O Living One, with the Holy Spirit,
In your holy church, now and forever.

All: *Amen.*

✠ 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.

✠ Agnus Dei *(sung by the choir)*

Lamb of God, who takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
Lamb of God, who takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
Lamb of God, who takest away the sin of the world, grant us peace.

Distribution of the Elements

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. We provide both wine (pulpit side) and an alcohol-free grape juice (lectern side). Gluten-free bread is available upon request.

Post-Communion Prayer

O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ✠ Hymn 178 | Hope of the world | VICAR |
| ✠ Benediction | | |
| ✠ Response | from “Behold, I build an house” | Lukas Foss (1922–2009) |
| For great is our God.
That thine eyes may be open upon this house. | | |
| ✠ Postlude | Grand Choeur in G major | Théodore Salomé (1834–1896) |

*The preacher and celebrant is the Rev. Dr. Jessica Chicka, University Chaplain for International Students.
The Marsh Chapel Choir is conducted by Dr. Scott Allen Jarrett, Director of Music.
The organist is Justin Thomas Blackwell, Associate Director of Music.*

THIS WEEK AT MARSH CHAPEL

TODAY	11:00 a.m.	Interdenominational Protestant Worship (Nave)
MONDAY	12:00–1:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m.	Tai Chi at Marsh Chapel (Marsh Room) Community Dinner (Marsh Room)
TUESDAY	10:30am—1:30pm 12:00–2:00 p.m.	Religious and Spiritual Life Fair (Marsh Plaza) Create Space (Thurman Room)
WEDNESDAY	12:00–1:00 p.m. 5:15 p.m.	Tai Chi at Marsh Chapel (Marsh Room) Ecumenical Service with Eucharist (Robinson Chapel)
THURSDAY	6:00 p.m. 6:30–9:00 p.m.	Marsh Chapel Choir Auditions (Nave) Marsh Chapel Choir Rehearsal (Nave)
NEXT SUNDAY	11:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m.	Interdenominational Protestant Worship (Nave) Welcome Back Barbecue (BU Beach)

Welcome to Marsh Chapel

Please scan the QR code on the right to complete our online Connection Form. This form allows us to gather new and updated contact information so that we can stay in touch with you. Thank you for joining us today!



Marsh Chapel Choir Auditions will take place this Thursday, September 11, from 6–9 p.m. in the Main Chapel. Those auditioning should plan to stay for the entire rehearsal period. Please email the music staff at musicmar@bu.edu to reserve an audition slot.



MARSH CHAPEL & RELIGIOUS LIFE

The Reverend Dr. Robert Allan Hill

Dean of Marsh Chapel and Chaplain to the University
Professor of New Testament and Pastoral Theology

MINISTRY

The Reverend Dr. Jessica Chicka		<i>University Chaplain for International Students</i>
The Reverend Dr. Karen Coleman		<i>University Chaplain for Episcopal Ministry</i>
Jonathan Byung Hoon Lee		<i>Associate Chaplain for Student Outreach</i>
Darby McMonagle		<i>Ministry Assistant</i>
Emmanuel Segbedzi		<i>Graduate Assistant</i>

MUSIC

Scott Allen Jarrett		<i>Director of Music, the Arts, and Cultural Engagement</i>
Justin Thomas Blackwell		<i>Associate Director of Music</i>
Sung Jin Choi		<i>Technical Director, Marsh Chapel Media</i>
Andrew Marshall		<i>Director, Inner Strength Gospel Choir</i>
Patrick T. Waters		<i>Assistant Director of Music, Special Projects and Publications</i>
Timothy Rodriguez		<i>Manager and Librarian, Marsh Chapel Choir</i>

HOSPITALITY & ADMINISTRATION

Heidi Freimanis-Cordts		<i>Director of Marsh Chapel and Religious Life</i>
Chloe Kantharia		<i>Director of Hospitality and Weddings</i>
The Reverend Al Carroll		<i>Chapel Associate for Special Projects</i>
David Ames		<i>Sacristan</i>
Catherine Park		<i>Hospitality Intern</i>

Office Staff

Sylvie Adams, Luke Bardouille, Emily Cao, Rubing Chen, Kaitlin Deng,
Stephanie Donahoe, Nikhil Fereday, Molly Fineberg, Aiden Healea, Eloise Knight,
Bella Marquez, Sophie Saucier, Zacharie Verdieu

The Chapel Office is open 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. weekdays, and on Sunday mornings.

(617) 353-3560 — chapel@bu.edu — www.bu.edu/chapel.

A heart for the heart of the city and a service in the service of the city