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(classical organ music) (bell ringing) (classical organ music) (bell ringing) (classical organ music) ♪ Praise the Lord, ye heavens, adore him ♪ ♪ Praise him, angels, in the height ♪ ♪ Sun and moon, rejoice before him ♪ ♪ Praise him, all ye stars and light ♪ ♪ Praise the Lord, for he hath spoken ♪ ♪ Worlds his mighty voice obeyed ♪ ♪ Laws, which never shall be broken ♪ ♪ For their guidance he hath made ♪ ("Jesus Shall Reign" on organ) ♪ Jesus shall reign where'er the sun ♪ ♪ Does its successive journeys run ♪ ♪ His kingdom stretch from shore to shore ♪ ♪ Till moons shall wax and wane no more ♪ ♪ To him shall endless prayer be made ♪ ♪ And praises throng to crown his head ♪ ♪ His name like sweet perfume shall rise ♪ ♪ With every morning sacrifice ♪ ♪ People and realms of every tongue ♪ ♪ Dwell on his love with sweetest song ♪ ♪ And infant voices shall proclaim ♪ ♪ Their early blessings on his name ♪ ♪ Let every creature rise and bring ♪ ♪ The highest honors to our King ♪ ♪ Angels descend with songs again ♪ ♪ And earth repeat the loud amen ♪ ♪ Amen ♪

- Dearly beloved, we are come together in the presence of Almighty God and in the whole company of heaven to make humble confession of our sins unto him, to set forth his most worthy praise, to hear his most holy word, to declare our faith in him and to ask for ourselves and all people those things which are necessary for the body and the soul, to offer unto him the service of our lives and to receive his blessing. Let us confess our sins to Almighty God. Oh Lord, our God, who by your love has made us and through your love has kept us and in your love would make us perfect, we humbly confess that we have not loved you with all our heart and soul and mind and strength and that we have not loved one another as Christ has loved us. Your light is within our souls but our selfishness has hindered you. We have not lived by faith. We have resisted your spirit. We have neglected your inspirations. Forgive what we have been. Help us to amend what we are and in your spirit direct what we shall be that you may come into the full glory of your creation in us and in all people, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. And now let us confess our sins in silent meditation to our Lord. Who is like unto God? Who pardons iniquity and passes over transgression? He does not retain his anger forever because he delights in steadfast love. He will again have compassion upon us. He will tread our iniquities underfoot. He will cast all of our sins into the depths of the sea. Let us give thanks for God is good and God's love is everlasting. (congregation talking) Amen. We are very pleased this morning to have a guest minister, a colleague of mine in campus ministry, Dr. Joseph Gibson. His credentials are in the bulletin. I invite you to stay afterwards and chat with Joe about what he is doing in campus ministry and also I would like to chat with you too especially if you are a summer student and would like to understand more about the campus ministry in the Duke Parish Ministry. Let us pray. Prepare our hearts, oh Lord, to accept your word. Silence in us any voice but your own. That hearing we may also obey your will through Jesus Christ, our Lord, amen. Will the congregation please stand for the reading of the Gospel? The Gospel lesson is from John the 21st chapter, verses 15 through 23. When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these? And he said to him, feed my lambs. A second time he said to him, Simon, son of John, do you love me? He said, yes Lord, you know that I love you. He said to him, tend my sheep. He said to him a third time, Simon, son of John, do you love me? Peter was grieved because he said to him a third time, do you love me and he said to him, Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you. Jesus said to him, feed my sheep. Truly, truly I say to you, when you were young

you girded yourself and walked where you would. But when you are old you will stretch out your hands and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish to go. This he said to show by what death he was to glorify God. And after this he said to him, follow me. Peter turned and saw following them the disciple whom Jesus loved, who had lain close to his breast at the supper and had said, Lord, who is it that is going to betray you? When Peter saw him he said to Jesus, Lord, what about this man? Jesus said to him, if it my will that he remain until I come what is that to you? Follow me. The saying spread abroad among the brethren that this disciple was not to die. And yet Jesus did not say to him that he was not to die. But if it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? May God grant us understanding to this reading of his word. Amen. ♪ Glory to God, Creator ♪ ♪ And to the Christ, the Son of God ♪ ♪ And to the Holy Spirit ♪ ♪ As it was in the beginning ♪ ♪ Is now, and ever more shall be ♪ (classical organ and choral music)

- Grace to you and peace from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, amen. I imagine Peter must have been a very troubled and very concerned person when confronted by three questions by our Lord. It is not strange to be asked if you love someone. Mates do it everyday. Children do it of their parents, parents do it of their children. The reality of the question and the kind questioning stands firm in our mind all the time. We want to know that we are loved and we want to know how we are loved and what that love means for us. But to be questioned three times in practically identical methods must trouble the depths of one's heart. One day when I walked into the kitchen of my home and saw the drippings from cookies on the countertop and looking up on my son's face, found leavings of cookie crumbs around his mouth and noticing quickly that the lid was off the cookie jar, I asked my son, have you been into the cookies? It's that kind of question that one already knows the answer to that gets us into trouble most of the time. I knew sufficient evidence existed that someone had been in the cookie jar. Enough evidence was left on the mouth to know which one of the someones had been in it. But it's that kind of question that was being asked. Not a question for information, for enough information had already been collected, but a question of responsibility. Are you willing to admit, are you willing to own up to your behavior? Are you willing to say, yes, I have been in the cookie jar? I imagine it was a question of responsibility that Jesus was asking Peter that day. Do you love me? I am not interested in your saying that you love me. I'm more interested in what you do that demonstrates that you love me. If you love me, will you feed my sheep? If you love me, feed my sheep. Now there are those among us who become theologians at this point when we've been directed clearly by anyone to do what we're supposed to do, we become theologians and we begin to ask, what does it mean to love? Who are the sheep? How do I find them? Where are they located? What manner shall I go about doing it? And I imagine that's why Jesus didn't spend an awful lot of time in explanations but rather redirected the question again. If you love me, here, tend my sheep. Maybe we should become theologians for a moment and ask the question. When Jesus was asked, what is the most important of the commandments he responded, we should love God, we should love others and we should love ourselves. So becoming a theologian at that point is not problematical but rather instructional. Volumes have been written about what it means to love God. And there are those who spend 24 hours a day in praise and prayer, who've separated themselves from the rest of the world and worldly responsibilities in order to give constant attention to their love for God and they pray constantly and consistently. They pray not only for themselves but they pray for us. They pray for the whole world. And they constantly remind us that one can continually be in prayer. Preachers preach everyday about loving God and I imagine those who would not really want to be bothered with other people are really bothered with themselves to find this kind of praise and

admiration for God self-satisfactory and sustaining for their lives. And then when we really want to be hard on one another we admonish one another to love others. We know how difficult it is to love other people. They come in such different shapes and forms and attitudes and altitudes. Some have so much money, some have so little. Some have so much class, some have so little. Some have so much couth, some have none. And we discover that if we ever really wanna get down on someone and we know that they're a part of the faith in any kind of expressive way, we can ask them this challenging question, how have you loved others? Show your demonstration, love for others and it becomes almost the way to put another person down to ask them to test how they're loving others. We could challenge people to visit the prisons and to visit in hospitals and to visit the sick and the orphans and the homeless. To visit those whom society has dealt an unfair blow. We can show all kinds of ways for loving others and we know what it means to be in some kind of meaningful relationship. I think the real clinker in Jesus' response to us to love ourselves is that we have taught and been taught for so long that we must not do that. To love ourselves may be to take ourselves more seriously than we have before. To take more seriously what it means to be a whole person. To realize that the whole gift of God's life to us is not a privilege but a responsibility, an opportunity, yes, to live in abundance and to have life abundantly and to show others how to do that. But in order to be in that kind of lifestyle we must take ourselves seriously enough to care for ourselves. Let's look for a moment. Whoever heard a preacher requesting someone to love themselves? When you wake up in the morning and look in the mirror do you really like what you see? I've really been excited about our society, how much money is spent on changing the way we look. How much energy is put into changing just our physical features. And you can probably spend the rest of your life and the rest of the money you can acquire making those kinds of changes but I assure you that what I'm talking about is seeing the inside person, the one that can only be expressed through who you are and how you act. Do you love that person? And if you grasp the love for that person than you begin to understand a little bit about what Jesus must have meant when he said, love others, and maybe a little bit of why it's exciting to love God who created us and made us. The question that was being asked was, if you love me, make it possible for my sheep to have food and drink. If you love me, make it possible for those who are put away in prisons to discover that freedom really means handling one's life responsibly, that society has proper demands to be placed upon us and we need not always break the laws placed before us. We could reduce the need for prisons. We could reduce the need for the corrective in our society. Loving means not showing power but learning how to empower. If someone asks me today, what do I think is the most disheartening part of our whole world, it is that somehow it has become difficult for us who have power and who wield power so easily to learn how to empower others. I'm not as upset as many people are about Republican party platform, not including ERA, as I am that they really miss the whole point. Being far against it is not the issue. How do we relegate women to their proper place in our society? How do we help people understand that each of us, regardless of our sexual identity, has a proper place before God and that no one should be denied the full expression of their being. Methods to obtain it, methods to reach it must not be confused with the reality itself. There would be no need for a constitutional amendment if the society responded to people as they had been created without placing blocks in their way. Maybe we should erect somewhere on the west coast of our country a new statue. We talk about the Statue of Liberty bringing people in and being with open arms and handling all the kinds of responsibilities given when people are oppressed and put upon by governments. Maybe we need to erect another statue, the statue of responsibility where people could know that it is all of our responsibility to make life possible for others, that we cannot live in our world alone. You see, we generally have enough

information to live our lives. And just as I'm certain that Jesus had enough information regarding Peter, he wanted him to accept the responsibility. And so the question was asked again and again. Many times when we know the answer and we don't like the answer we ask the question. And Peter was no different. Peter looked at John and said, all right Lord, you got me straight, what about him? How many times when, at our labor, we know the right thing to do and we know what is responsible in our lives but rather than doing that we check our our neighbor. We look them and we say, they're not doing it, why should I? How many times when everybody around us is cheating on their income tax and not telling the truth about how much they gave to church and other places, we look and say, we don't have to follow the rules because no one else is. I imagine that must have flashed rapidly through his mind and he said, what about John? Jesus responded, no matter what happens to him, you take responsibility for your life and you follow me. Jesus has a strange way of challenging us to deal with the future without knowing it. That we can stand easy knowing that God, the Creator, a sustain, redeemer God, provides for us all that is necessary for our continued good existence and that we face the future knowing that that Creator God still is in control of our world and if we would allow that power to become our power we can change the world too. He didn't respond to what would happen to his beloved disciple, John, but rather says it doesn't make any difference to you what happens to him. I want you to do something specific. Follow me. That question then comes down to eternity to us. Each of us, although we stand corporately before God in worship, although we stand corporately, the power that can change the whole world, we stand as that moving force for change in the world and all over the world, even though corporately we can do more than we can ever do individually, the question still comes to us individually. What will you do? John, Peter, Mary, Elizabeth, Joe, do you love me? Feed my sheep. Do you love me? Tend my sheep. Each of us today, deep somewhere in the recesses of our own hearts, need to hear this question and to begin working out new ways by which we can follow that. It is not a question of information. For we know who we are better than anyone else. It is a question of responsibility. How will you respond to it today? If you should find some way to look at who you are and want to make that kind of change the power of God is here even now and that power and possibility is yours at all times. I would challenge you then to make that new decision. To be transformed even now, that as the question comes over and over again, we might respond, yes, I will follow you. Yes, I will do what you ask me to do. Yes, I will help this world be a better place. Yes, I will change old relationships that have gone sour and make them new again. Yes, I will change my opinion of myself and make it new again. Yes, I will become a part of the body of Christ and I will serve and I will enable other people to discover who you are that they might serve too. Do you love me? Feed my sheep, amen. ("Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" on organ) ♪ Guide me, O thou great Jehovah ♪ ♪ Pilgrim through this barren land ♪ ♪ I am weak, but thou art mighty ♪ ♪ Hold me with thy powerful hand ♪ ♪ Bread of heaven, bread of heaven ♪ ♪ Feed me till I want no more ♪ ♪ Feed me till I want no more ♪ ♪ Open now the crystal fountain ♪ ♪ Whence the healing stream doth flow ♪ ♪ Let the fire and cloudy pillar ♪ ♪ Lead me all my journey through ♪ ♪ Strong deliverer, strong deliverer ♪ ♪ Be thou still my strength and shield ♪ ♪ Be thou still my strength and shield ♪ ♪ When I tread the verge of Jordan ♪ ♪ Bid my anxious fears subside ♪ ♪ Death of death and hell's destruction ♪ ♪ Land me safe on Canaan's side ♪ ♪ Songs of praises, songs of praises ♪ ♪ I will ever give to thee ♪ ♪ I will ever give to thee ♪ ♪ Amen ♪

- You may be seated. I would like to extend a welcome to Gray and Caroline Goldman and their children who are soon to be baptized and invite the congregation to follow with us now with the inserts that are provided in the bulletin. The congregation will be asked at a part in that service to declare their support for Christian

nurture for these children. And please, when it is time for that, make that declaration as the people of God. That they be brought up in the Christian faith. And that they be taught the Holy Scriptures. And that they learn to give reverent attention upon private and public worship to God. And do you endeavor to keep these children under the ministry and guidance of the church until they, by the power of God, to accept for themselves the gift of salvation? And be confirmed as full and responsible members of Christ's holy church? Jesse Gray, I baptize thee in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, amen. Anna Marks, I baptize thee in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, amen. Brothers and sisters of the household of faith I command to your love and care, these children, who we, this day, recognize as members of the family of God. Will you endeavor so to live that they may grow in the knowledge and love of God the Father through our Savior Jesus Christ, will you? (congregation responding) Let us pray. Almighty God, grant that these children may grow in years and may also grow in grace and the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, by the restraining and renewing influence of the Holy Spirit, they may ever be true children of God, serving Thee faithfully all their days. Also guide and uphold the parents of these children that by loving care and wise counsel and holy example they may leave them into that life of faith whose strength is righteousness and whose truth is everlasting joy and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, amen. God the Creator, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit bless, preserve and keep you now and forever, amen. Let us affirm what we believe. We believe in God who has created and is creating, who has come in the truly human Jesus to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by his spirit. We trust God who calls us to be the church, to celebrate life and its fullness, to love and to serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone, thanks be to God. The Lord be with you. Let us pray. Holy God, our Creator and Sustainer, we praise you for the beauty of the earth and we pray for your guidance in our task of being good stewards of all that you have given to us. We thank you for the love of families and for the joy of children. Help us as the church to be good stewards also of the precious resource of young people who are growing and discovering their talents for service. We pray for our country and its people. Grant that we may yearn for more than prosperity and security. Make us hungry for justice and sensitive to the ways in which our lives affect the lives of people in other lands. We pray especially for those who are being imprisoned and tortured for their religious or their political views. For those who are sick we invoke the presence of your healing and comforting spirit. For the lonely and brokenhearted and despairing ones we pray this, be with us so that by your grace for those persons we might show forth the love and compassion of our risen Lord. Help us in all that we do to serve you and to rely upon you for our strength and courage. All this we pray in the name of Jesus the Christ, who taught us when we pray to say. 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 forever, amen. (classical organ music) ♪ Rejoice in the Lord always ♪ ♪ And again I say, rejoice ♪ ♪ Rejoice in the Lord always ♪ ♪ And again I say, rejoice ♪ ♪ Rejoice in the Lord always ♪ ♪ And again I say, rejoice ♪ ♪ Rejoice in the Lord always ♪ ♪ And again I say, rejoice ♪ ♪ Let all creation make known unto God ♪ ♪ The Lord is our path, the Lord is our path ♪ ♪ Rejoice in the Lord always ♪ ♪ And again I say rejoice ♪ ♪ Rejoice in the Lord always ♪ ♪ And again, again, again, I say rejoice ♪ ♪ Again I say rejoice ♪ ♪ Again I say rejoice ♪ ♪ Be careful for nothing ♪ ♪ But in everything by prayer ♪ ♪ And supplication with thanksgiving ♪ ♪ Let your requests be made known unto God ♪ ♪ Be careful for nothing ♪ ♪ But in everything by prayer ♪ ♪ And supplication with thanksgiving ♪ ♪ Let your

requests be made known unto God ♪ ♪ And the peace of God, which passeth understanding ♪ ♪ Shall keep your hearts and minds ♪ ♪ Through Jesus Christ, our Lord ♪ ♪ And the peace of God, which passeth understanding ♪ ♪ Shall keep your hearts and minds ♪ ♪ Through Jesus Christ, our Lord ♪ ♪ Through Jesus Christ, our Lord ♪ ♪ Rejoice in the Lord always ♪ ♪ And again I say rejoice ♪ ♪ Rejoice in the Lord always ♪ ♪ And again I say rejoice ♪ ♪ Rejoice in the Lord always ♪ ♪ And again I say rejoice ♪ ♪ Rejoice in the Lord always ♪ ♪ And again, again, I say rejoice ♪ ♪ And again, again, I say rejoice ♪ ♪ Again I say rejoice ♪ ("All Creature of Our God and King" on organ) ♪ All creatures of our God and King ♪ ♪ Lift up your voice and with us sing ♪ ♪ Alleluia, alleluia ♪ ♪ Thou burning sun with golden beam ♪ ♪ Thou silver moon with softer gleam ♪ ♪ O praise him, O praise him ♪ ♪ Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia ♪ ♪ Amen ♪ Lord God, help us to remember that all that we have is yours and to be used in your service. Keep us sensitive to the needs of others. Help us to love you in insightful ways. Help us to tend and feed your sheep and to follow our master. In his name we ask it. Amen. ("Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken" on organ) ♪ Glorious things of thee are spoken ♪ ♪ Holy city of our God ♪ ♪ He whose word cannot be broken ♪ ♪ Formed thee for His own abode ♪ ♪ On the Rock of Ages founded ♪ ♪ What can shake thy sure repose ♪ ♪ With salvation's walls surrounded ♪ ♪ Thou may'st smile at all thy foes ♪ ♪ See the streams of living waters ♪ ♪ Springing from eternal love ♪ ♪ Well supply thy blessed members ♪ ♪ And all fear of want remove ♪ ♪ Who can faint, when such a river ♪ ♪ Ever flows their thirst to assuage ♪ ♪ Grace which, like the Lord, the giver ♪ ♪ Never fails from age to age ♪ ♪ Blessed inhabitants of Zion ♪ ♪ Purchased by the Savior's blood ♪ ♪ Jesus, whom their souls rely on ♪ ♪ Makes them kings and priests to God ♪ ♪ While in love his Saints he raises ♪ ♪ With himself to reign as King ♪ ♪ All, as priests, his solemn praises ♪ ♪ For thank-offerings freely bring ♪ ♪ Amen ♪ May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be and abide with you now and forever, amen. ♪ Amen, amen ♪ (classical organ music)
(people chatting)