

(organ playing)

- Good morning and welcome to Duke Chapel. This is a very special day for us for a number of reasons. First of all, this is employee Sunday here at Duke University. It follows a weekend of activities recognizing Duke's many employees and the contributions they make to university and community throughout the year. This is also special because here in Durham, here at Duke, this is cancer survivorship day. We welcome all of you who are visiting who are taking part in this program. Appropriately, our lector for the day is Dr. Bill Shingleton who is director emeritus of the Duke Comprehensive Cancer Center. He will be reading the lessons for us today and we welcome you and wish you the best during your many activities this weekend. Please know that if you're a cancer survivor that prayers are regularly offered here in this chapel for healing and for the struggle against illnesses and we welcome you among us today. Also this weekend has been the choir alumni weekend. We've had a number of choir alumni back here, alumni from the class of 1935 on have been filling the chapel with music all weekend and they shall also lead us in worship today and we welcome all of our choir alumni back. After this weekend, our choral director, Dr. Rodney Wynkoop and our assistant, Donna Sparks, shall both be traveling to the Soviet Union with the Durham City Choral where they will be singing there and we wish them well. We're glad that you're here this morning. And now let us worship God. ♪ Beautiful savior ♪ ♪ Lord of the nations ♪ ♪ Son of God and son of man ♪ ♪ Glory and honor ♪ ♪ Praise, adoration ♪ ♪ Now and forevermore be thine ♪ ♪ Now and forevermore be thine ♪ (organ music) ♪ All creatures of our God and King ♪ ♪ Lift up your voice and with us sing ♪ ♪ Oh praise him, alleluia ♪ ♪ Thou burning sun with golden beam ♪ ♪ Thou silver moon with softer gleam ♪ ♪ Oh praise him, oh praise him ♪ ♪ Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia ♪ (congregation singing) ♪ Oh praise him, alleluia ♪ (congregation singing) ♪ Oh praise him, oh praise him ♪ ♪ Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia ♪ (congregation singing) ♪ Alleluia, alleluia ♪ (congregation singing) ♪ Oh praise him, oh praise him ♪ ♪ Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia ♪ (congregation singing) ♪ Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia ♪ (congregation singing) ♪ Oh praise him, oh praise him ♪ ♪ Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia ♪ (congregation singing) ♪ Alleluia, alleluia ♪ (congregation singing) ♪ Oh praise him, oh praise him ♪ ♪ Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia ♪ (organ playing) ♪ Let all things their creator bless ♪ ♪ And worship him in humbleness ♪ ♪ Oh praise him, alleluia ♪ ♪ Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son ♪ ♪ And praise the Spirit, three in one ♪ ♪ Oh praise him, oh praise him ♪ ♪ Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia ♪

- Oh weaver woman God, you've rooted over the face of the deep and gave birth to a magnificent creation. Help us, your children created in your own image, to see your goodness in all things and in all people. May confidence that you abide with us develop our capacity to listen to you and to one another, to live in peace and to welcome opportunities to minister in your world, amen. You may be seated.

- Let us pray together the prayer of illumination.

- [William And Congregation] Open our hearts and minds, oh God, by the power of your Holy Spirit so that as

the words are read and proclaimed, we may hear your message with joy this day, amen.

- This reading, from the first two chapters of Genesis tell the story of the creation. In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was formless, void, and darkness covered the face of the deep. While a wind from God swept over the face of the water. Then God said, "Let there be light." And there was light and God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light day, and the darkness he called night. And there was evening, and there was morning the first day. And God said, "Let there be a dome "in the midst of the waters "and let it separate the water from the water." So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters from that above the dome, and it was so. God called the dome sky and there was evening, and there was morning the second day. And God said, "Let the waters under the sky "be gathered together into one place, "and let dry land appear," and it was so. God called the dry land earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation plants, "yielding seeds and fruit trees of every kind "on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it," and it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seeds of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening, and there was morning the third day. And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky "to separate the day from the night. "And let them be for signs and for seasons, "and for days and years, and let them be lights "in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. God made the two great lights, the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night, and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. There was evening, and there was morning the fourth day. And God said, "Let the waters bring forth "swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly "above the earth across the dome of the sky." So God created the great monsters and every living creature that moves of every kind with which the water swarmed and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply "and fill the waters and the seas, "and let birds multiply on the earth." And there was evening, and there was morning the fifth day. And God said, "Let the earth bring forth "living creatures of every kind, "cattle and creeping things and wild animals "of the earth of every kind," and it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind and God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let us make man, humankind in our image, "according to our likeness, "and let them have dominion over the fish in the sea, "and over the birds in the air, and over the cattle "and over all the wild animals of the earth, "and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them. Male and female he created them. God blessed them and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, "and fill the earth and subdue it." "And have dominion over the fish in the sea "and over the birds of the air "and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed "that is upon the face of the earth "and every tree with seed and fruit, "you shall have them for food. "And to every beast of the earth "and to every bird of the air "and to everything that creeps on the earth, "everything that has the breath of life, "I have given evergreen plants for food," and it was so. God saw everything that he had made and indeed it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished in all of their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done and he rested on the seventh day from all of the work that he had done. So God

blessed the seventh day and hallowed it because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation. This is the word of the Lord.

- [William And Congregation] Thanks be to God. (organ playing) (choir singing)

- Today's Psalm is number 46 verses one through seven found on page 780 in the hymnal. Please stand and sing the psalm and the Gloria responsively. (organ playing) ♪ God is our refuge and strength ♪ ♪ A very present help in trouble ♪ ♪ Therefore we will not fear though the earth give way ♪ ♪ And the mountains fall into the sea ♪ ♪ Though its waters roar and foam ♪ ♪ Though the mountains tremble with its tumult ♪ ♪ There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God ♪ ♪ The holy place where the most high dwells ♪ ♪ God is in the midst of the city which shall not be moved ♪ ♪ God will help it at the dawn of the day ♪ ♪ Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall ♪ ♪ God lifts his voice, the earth melts ♪ ♪ The Lord of hosts is with us ♪ ♪ The God of Jacob is our fortress ♪ ♪ All glory be to you, creator ♪ ♪ And to Jesus Christ our savior ♪ (congregation singing) ♪ As it was ere time began ♪ ♪ Is now and will be forevermore ♪

- This reading is from the 28th chapter of the gospel according to St. Matthew, beginning with the 16th verse. Now the 11 disciples went to Galilee to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, "baptizing them in the name of the Father "and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, "and teaching them to obey everything "that I have commanded you." "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." This is the word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God. (choir singing) ♪ Alleluia ♪ ♪ Amen ♪ ♪ Amen ♪ ♪ Amen ♪ ♪ Amen ♪

- It was in a seminary preaching class, we had asked the students to preach a sermon from one of the first chapters of the book of Genesis. He was from the Midwest, quiet, unassuming, never opened his mouth in class and he chose to preach from Genesis seven. He began his sermon by reading the text that we read today from Genesis one, then he read from Genesis seven the story of the great flood and Noah. Reading in monotone, in a voice so low we could hardly hear him, the story of how after creation, not long after God's creation of the world, the rain came down and the waters rose, immeasurably rose until life was snuffed out of every living thing. Then, he began to preach and his sermon was a story. He told about how the summer before he had had a job as a counselor at an exclusive camp up in the Michigan woods and there at the camp he had gotten to know another college student, a young man who he realized was a kindred spirit. So much so that they used to take, after their chores were done at the camp, they would take these long walks in the woods, in the woods where the flowers were blooming and the dark canopy of green over them and they shared things and sometimes they would just walk, not needing to talk, such close spirits were they. He painted for us a, a primal image of, of, of a, of an Eden, of an Arcadia that was lush and green and beautiful as these two people walked and talked. But I thought to myself, well, that's all fine but what does that have to do with the scripture? Then he said, "One week, "I was invited to my friend's house, "and we went and it was a little farm house, "white frame, white picket fence around it, "white barn out back, an idyllic-looking picture also." And after dinner his friend said to him, "I've discussed something with my parents "and

they've given me permission to share with you "something that means a lot to us "since we've become such good friends." And he took him out behind the farmhouse and out to the barn out back and they pushed open the big barn door and late afternoon sunlight revealed inside the barn stacks of books, and there were posters, and there were signs, pictures of Hitler, posters with swastikas on them, stacks of hate literature about Jews and about blacks. And, the student stood there paralyzed. And as his friend took one of the automatic weapons there and pulled back open its chamber he said, "We're storing these weapons here "for the coming revolution when we plan "to take this country back from the Jews and the [N-Word]." And he said it was just like the waters surged forth and they rose higher until they obliterated every living thing. The veil between creation and chaos was drawn back and the chaos surged forth. In the beginning, Genesis says, the earth was a formless void and darkness was over the face of the deep. And in Genesis, this word which is translated "formless void" in Hebrew is the (speaking foreign language) "chaos", that nothing beneath the something, even if you don't speak Hebrew, you already know what this word means, (speaking in a foreign language). Even the word sounds chaotic, forbidding, distorted, muddled. There was nothing but this (speaking in a foreign language) until there was God. God breathed over this dismal, swirling nothingness, this (speaking in a foreign language). God spoke, there was light, it was good. God separated the waters from the earth, there was dry land and it was good. And the land brought forth plants and fruits and just swarmed with living creatures. And then God made humanity and let humanity share in the tending of this good garden. And then God gave us a day of rest, the Sabbath so that we might gather and tell this ancient story of how, in the primal days of creation, God brought forth from this seething, bubbling mass the (speaking in a foreign language), God brought forth creation. But as you know, if you've ever heard this story before, you know that was not the end of the story. No, man and woman are given care of this good garden but we weren't satisfied to be creatures. We wanted to be like gods. And so we are expelled from the garden and we wander in a rocky, dusty world of thistles and briars and it's the (speaking in a foreign language) all over again. And a few chapters later humanity's become so rebellious it makes God wish he'd never even gotten into the creation business. And the rains come down and the waters come up and the (speaking in a foreign language) just surges forth and the waters rise, inextricably rise until they snuff out every living thing. I think this is saying that God's creation is decisive but it is not conclusive. Chaos, the (speaking in a foreign language), is pushed back, it's contained, it's formed but it is not destroyed. This is not creation ex-nihilo of the theologians. It's not creation out of nothing, it's creation out of something that feels like nothing, the (speaking in a foreign language). Out of this formless, dark void God creates something beautiful and ordered. But it is something which always threatens to bubble back up to the surface on some June afternoon back behind a well-ordered, nice little white, fenced in farm house when the door to to barn is opened and the (speaking in a foreign language) gushes forth and life is in peril. I think Genesis is attempting to talk about those times in your life when you're going along on some pleasant, sunny June day and then when your world is in order and things are as they should be and then the telephone rings and there's this official voice which says, "I'm sorry, I've got some bad news for you." Now how does that moment feel? Remember, how does it feel? You're paralyzed, you're in shock, you put back the phone on the, down the receiver and you, you stagger, you look out the window. And suddenly the world has been transformed. It's no longer a bright, sunny day in June. What once seemed an ordered, idyllic world is slowly sinking in the (speaking in a foreign language). How could the creation which seemed so good just five minutes ago seem such chaos? The (speaking in a foreign language) is only one phone call away from each of us. I think this is a story in Genesis about that. Here's how scholars think we got this first chapter of

Genesis. We believe that this story about how God created the world out of the, the chaos and the formless void, the (speaking in a foreign language), this story we believe dates from about the Sixth Century B.C. Israel, having once been established in the Promised Land, has become the victims of these hords that have swept through and burned and pillaged their cities and taken their people and shipped them off into exile. It was Bosnia, it was Serbia, it was Somalia. It was social economic (foreign language) sixth century B.C., and to those for whom their world was literally falling apart, Genesis told this story of how God did wrestle with the (foreign language) and made something out of nothing. In Sarajevo, the site of the Olympics, the TV showed a man who just a year before had been an attorney. And this man was down on his knees ripping apart a little shrub. It was growing in front of the ruins of what used to be a multi-million dollar tourist hotel. And he was ripping apart this little shrub just to get some twigs to try to keep his family warm for one night. Oh, we're taught to call it civil unrest of the results of a failure of international negotiations, Genesis names it (speaking in a foreign language). We're talking about those times like when the prophet Jeremiah says that he looked upon the world and disaster overtakes disaster. The land is laid waste. "I looked upon the earth and lo, it was," the Hebrew word (speaking in a foreign language). Cancer, I read recently, cancer is basically the normal reproductive processes of the body gone crazy for some inexplicable reason. Normal cells go crazy, normal cellular checks and balances malfunction and the destruction begins. Your doctor called it melanoma, Genesis names it (speaking in a foreign language). After your annual physical, you know, the one that is always so hard to work into your schedule, you come home, the phone rings, the doctor says, "A little something showed up "in the blood work, nothing over which to be alarmed. "But could you come in first thing tomorrow morning?" And though your doctor shows a studied lack of alarm, you can smell it, you can smell it creeping up through the planks in the floor, the silent rumbling underneath. And what began as a normal, orderly day, it is the dreaded (speaking in a foreign language). How can a day that seems so definite and orderly, such a clockwork, cause effect universe, begin to malfunction as gears grind and things fall apart and we are impressed with the utter fragility of it all? In moments like that, when the earth shakes and mountains crumble and chaos bubbles forth, we are rendered into vulnerable, fragile children and it's in times like this that, as children we ought to turn to a story that we learned in childhood by heart as children, the story of the day when there was nothing but the (speaking in a foreign language). But God created the heavens and the earth and the earth was just a formless void and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was and it was good. And did you know that this, in the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth can also be rendered, when God began creating the heavens and the earth? When God began creating, in other words, it can also be rendered that creation is not something that is fixed, finished a billion years back like Carl Sagan says. No, creation is just going on now. It is right here, God never stops being creative, never stops wrestling with the (speaking in a foreign language). Keeps bringing creation out of chaos. Jews in exile having lost everything they had, having had the whole world pull lose, needed to be reminded that God was still God, still battling chaos in all of its forms, still wrestling with the dark (speaking in a foreign language). And therefore this story was told. And I'm saying this morning that you need to be reminded, you, almost breathing easy again after your fourth successive good report since your cancer surgery, you on whom the sun shines this June day, but for whom darkness is only a telephone call away. You need to hear the message of God's continuing creativity. That this earth, your life would degenerate into a watery abyss if it not for the good God. And the good news is, God didn't just create the world and then walk off and leave it like a clock. God continues to create, it's still going on in your life and mine and the (speaking in a foreign

language) is no match for a living God. Here is a story that says in all days in your life, whether they be sunny or dark, we should be able to sing with the psalmist, God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though mountains shake into the heart of the sea, though waters roar and foam, though mountains tremble, the Lord of hosts is with us. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, Amen. (organ music) (congregation singing)

- The Lord be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

- Let us pray. Almighty God, the Alpha and the Omega, mysterious indeed is this vast universe into which you have ushered us. As you brooded over the face of the deep, you overwhelmed darkness with light and brought order out of chaos. We stand in awe before your power which is beyond our ability to measure. Yet even as we fail to comprehend the magnitude of your glory, we acknowledge you have known us and loved us since you knit us together in our mothers' wombs. Therefore we lift these prayers unto you, trusting in your power to prevail over chaos in its myriad forms. Most gracious God, you call us into the church that with women and men of different races, color, language, experiences and traditions, we may be one body to the glory of Christ on earth. Inspire our witness to him, that all may know the power of his forgiveness and the hope of his resurrection. Let the church always be faithful, oh God. Lord, in your mercy.

- [Speaker And Congregation] Hear our prayer.

- Let us pray for peace in our world. Disarm weapons and silence ancient hate that smolders around the globe. Create goodwill among every nation, religion, and race and enlighten the leaders of our world governments with a vision for living together in harmony. Bring peace to earth, oh God. Lord, in your mercy.

- [Speaker And Congregation] Hear our prayer.

- Let us pray for those who have survived or continue to battle life-threatening illness. Strengthen them in their times of weakness, encourage them in their times of doubt. Especially we pray for cancer survivors gathered here for worship this day. Open their eyes to the beauty of your creation which surrounds us, that every day might be a day of thanksgiving for your loving care. Care for those who turn to you for help, oh God. Lord in your mercy.

- [Speaker And Congregation] Hear our prayer.

- Let us pray for the dying who face the final mystery. May they enjoy light and life intensely. Preserve their dignity and greet death unafraid. Have mercy on the dying, oh God. Lord in your mercy.

- [Speaker And Congregation] Hear our prayer.

- Let us pray for all who labor. Grant a sense of fulfillment to any who feel empty, frustrated, or alone. We

pray for those whose work has ended by retirement, illness, or other circumstances. And for those who are unable to find employment due to lack of opportunity. Today we pray in thanksgiving especially for all employees of Duke University, that their contributions may be duly recognized and rewarded. Give us meaningful work, oh God. Lord, in your mercy.

- [Speaker And Congregation] Hear our prayer.

- Let us pray for all who bear witness to their faith through artistic expressions, especially as we worship you through music in this holy place. We thank you for those students, faculty, and community members who have given freely of their talents to glorify you as members of our chapel choir. Through their offerings, may we be restored to the hope of perfection which will be ours as we stand before your glory. Bless those who witness to your greatness through music, oh God. Lord in your mercy.

- [Speaker And Congregation] Hear our prayer.

- All these things and whatever else you see that we need, grant us oh God, for the sake of him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever, amen. (organ playing) (choir singing) God has created a beautiful world and entrusted it to our care. Therefore let us offer the gifts of our life and our labor unto the Lord with thanksgiving. (organ playing) ♪ Hallelujah ♪ ♪ Hallelujah ♪ ♪ Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah ♪ ♪ Hallelujah ♪ ♪ Hallelujah ♪ ♪ Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah ♪ ♪ For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth ♪ ♪ Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah ♪ ♪ Hallelujah ♪ ♪ For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth ♪ ♪ Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah ♪ ♪ Hallelujah ♪ ♪ For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth ♪ ♪ For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth ♪ ♪ Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah ♪ ♪ For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth ♪ ♪ And He shall reign forever Jesus shall reign forever ♪ ♪ And He shall reign forever ♪ ♪ And He shall reign forever ♪ ♪ And He shall reign forever and ever ♪ ♪ Hallelujah ♪ ♪ He shall reign ♪ ♪ Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah ♪ ♪ Hallelujah ♪ ♪ He shall reign ♪ ♪ Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah ♪ ♪ Hallelujah ♪ ♪ King of kings ♪ ♪ Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah ♪ ♪ Hallelujah ♪ ♪ And Lord of Lords ♪ ♪ Hallelujah, hallelujah ♪ ♪ Hallelujah, hallelujah ♪ ♪ King of kings ♪ ♪ Hallelujah, hallelujah ♪ ♪ Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah ♪ ♪ King of kings ♪ ♪ And Lord of Lords ♪ ♪ He shall reign ♪ ♪ He shall reign ♪ ♪ He shall reign forever ♪ ♪ King of kings ♪ ♪ Hallelujah, hallelujah ♪ ♪ And Lord of Lords ♪ ♪ Hallelujah, hallelujah ♪ ♪ King of kings and Lord of Lords ♪ ♪ King of kings and Lord of Lords ♪ ♪ King of kings and Lord of Lords ♪ ♪ And he shall reign forever ♪ ♪ Hallelujah, hallelujah ♪ ♪ Hallelujah, hallelujah ♪ ♪ Hallelujah, hallelujah ♪ ♪ Hallelujah, hallelujah ♪ ♪ Hallelujah ♪ (organ playing) (congregation singing) ♪ Alleluia, alleluia ♪ (congregation singing) ♪ Alleluia, alleluia ♪ ♪ Alleluia, alleluia ♪ ♪ Alleluia ♪

- Eternal God, creator of the universe, you have called the world into being and the creatures which inhabit it and you have pronounced it good. So we pray that we too may acknowledge the goodness of your world and learn to cherish it as a divine gift from you. We thank you for your entire creation and for the opportunities for service which it affords us, singing hallelujah, king of kings and Lord of Lords, accept these gifts as signs of our gratitude and our endless longing for you. This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray with confidence.

- [Speaker And Congregation] 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, the power, and the glory forever, amen. (organ playing) (congregation singing)

- May the grace of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you now and always. ♪ Amen ♪ ♪ Amen ♪ ♪ Amen ♪ ♪ Amen ♪ ♪ Amen ♪ ♪ Amen ♪ ♪ Amen ♪ (organ playing)