

ANNUAL MARINE CORPS

WORSHIP SERVICE

"But If Not"

Sunday, November 8, 2026

REAR ADMIRAL ROBERT R. CHRISTIAN

22nd Chaplain of the Marine Corps

Featuring 'The President's Own' United States Marine Band

Order of Worship

4:00 p.m. • Sunday, November 8, 2026

“But If Not”

Prelude

“The President’s Own” United States Marine Chamber Orchestra

Captain Darren Y. Lin, conducting

Fanfare for the Common Man - Aaron Copland (1900–90)

Andante moderato from String Quartet in G - Florence Price (1887–1953)

Largo from Symphony No. 9 in E minor, Opus 95, From the New World
Antonín Dvořák (1841–1904)

ALL STAND (if able)

Processional Hymn

Posting of the Colors

Color Guard, Marine Barracks, Washington, DC

Liberty Fanfare

John Williams (b. 1932)

The National Anthem — “The Star-Spangled Banner”

O say can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there;
O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

Benediction and Closing Music

Benediction

Rear Admiral Robert R. Christian, 22nd Chaplain of the Marine Corps

“Taps” — General Daniel Butterfield (1831–1901)

The Marines’ Hymn, Apotheosis — Sammy Nestico (1924–2021)

Recessional Music

Edward Hewes, Associate Director of Music and Cathedral Organist, Washington National Cathedral

Postlude

Prelude and Fugue in C minor — Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

Closing Hymn

ALL STAND (if able)

"Eternal Father, Strong to Save"

John B. Dykes (1823–1876)

Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep,
Its own appointed limits keep,
O hear us when we cry to Thee,
For those in peril on the sea!

Eternal Father, grant, we pray,
To all Marines, both night and day,
The courage, honor, strength, and skill,
Their land to serve, Thy law fulfill;
Be thou the shield forevermore,
From every peril to the Corps.

Processional Hymn

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

Joachim Neander (1680)

Praise to the Lord! the Almighty, the King of Creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near,
Join me in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord! who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth;
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been
Granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord! who doth prosper thy work and defend thee,
Surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee;
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do
If with his love he befriend thee!

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the "Amen" sound from his people again
Gladly for aye we adore him

Greeting

ALL SEATED

Greeting

Provost Jan Cope, Washington National Cathedral

Words of Address

General Eric M. Smith, 39th Commandant of the Marine Corps

Opening Scripture

Psalm 46

Mr. Ryan Higgins, Senior Advisor to the Secretary of War, Office of Religious Affairs

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth give way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling. Selah

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns. The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts.

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Selah

Come, behold the works of the Lord, how he has brought desolations on the earth. He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the chariots with fire. "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Invocation

Mr. Ryan Higgins

Special Music — "Amazing Grace"

Staff Sergeant Hannah Davis, soprano; arr. LtCol Ryan Nowlin

New Testament Reading

Matthew 5:13–16

CAPT Stephen Coates, Deputy Chaplain of the Marine Corps

"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven"

Message: "But If Not"

Rear Admiral Robert R. Christian

22nd Chaplain of the Marine Corps

Hymn in Preparation for Prayer

"Be Thou My Vision"

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day and by night;
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my great Father, I thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise;
Thou mine inheritance, now and always.
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of Heaven, my victory won,
May I reach Heaven's joys, O bright Heav'ns Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Pastoral Prayer

LT Eric Ibarra, Command Chaplain, HQMC, HQBN

Anthem — "My Soul, There is a Country"

The Cathedral Choir - Hubert Hastings Parry (1848–1918)

Conducted by Jared Johnson, Director of Music

Old Testament Reading

Daniel 3:1–29

Sgt Maj. Carlos A. Ruiz, 20th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps

King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits and its breadth six cubits. He set it up on the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon. Then King Nebuchadnezzar sent to gather the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces to come to the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. Then the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces gathered for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. And they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

And the herald proclaimed aloud, "You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, that when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, you are to fall down and worship the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. And whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace."

Therefore, as soon as all the peoples heard the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, all the peoples, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

Therefore at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and maliciously accused the Jews. They declared to King Nebuchadnezzar, "O king, live forever! You, O king, have made a decree, that every man who hears the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, shall fall down and worship the golden image. And whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into a burning fiery furnace. There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These men, O king, pay no attention to you; they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

Old Testament Reading • Continued

Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought. So they brought these men before the king. Nebuchadnezzar answered and said to them, "Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image that I have set up? Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, to fall down and worship the image that I have made, well and good. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you out of my hands?"

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with fury, and the expression of his face was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He ordered the furnace heated seven times more than it was usually heated. And he ordered some of the mighty men of his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace. Then these men were bound in their cloaks, their tunics, their hats, and their other garments, and they were thrown into the burning fiery furnace. Because the king's order was urgent and the furnace overheated, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell bound into the burning fiery furnace.

Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up in haste. He declared to his counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the fire?"

They answered and said to the king, "True, O king."

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Old Testament Reading • Continued

He answered and said, "But I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods."

Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the door of the burning fiery furnace; he declared, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out, and come here!"

Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire. And the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king's counselors gathered together and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men. The hair of their heads was not singed, their cloaks were not harmed, and no smell of fire had come upon them.

Nebuchadnezzar answered and said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants, who trusted in him, and set aside the king's command, and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God . . . for there is no other god who is able to rescue in this way."