

Cheyenne Boon:

Good morning and welcome to morning prayers. Today's service will begin with a responsive reading from the black Appleton Psalter book. Today, we'll be reading Psalm number 2, which you can find on page number one. Yes, and please stand as you are able. I'll read the regular text, and you can read the part in bold.

Cheyenne Boon:

Why do the nations conspire and the people's plot in vain?

Congregation:

The Kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together against the Lord and his anointed saying,

Cheyenne Boon:

Let us burst their bonds asunder and cast their chords from us.

Congregation:

He who sits in the heavens, laughs. The Lord has them in derision.

Cheyenne Boon:

Then he will speak to them in his wrath and terrify them in his fury saying,

Congregation:

I have set my king on Zion. My holy hill.

Cheyenne Boon:

I will tell of the decree of the Lord. He said to me, you are my son. Today I have begotten you.

Congregation:

Ask of me and I will make the nation's your heritage, and the ends of the Earth, your possession.

Cheyenne Boon:

You shall break them with a rod of iron, and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

Congregation:

Now, therefore, oh kings, be wise. Be warned, oh rulers of the Earth.

Choir:

(Singing)

Leslie Jiménez:

Buenos dias, good morning. My name is Leslie Jimenez, and I am a proud first gen alumni of the Harvard College and the Graduate School of Education. And today I am deeply honored and humbled to be here with you today and engage in morning prayer and reflection. And the scripture I chose to talk about today is Matthew chapter six, verse 34. So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. The reason why this scripture is so important is because I feel it can actually be applied to our everyday lives. Every day we are faced with challenges, and we also have faced them in the past. And with each challenge we face, our faith is also challenged, including our faith in ourselves, and in others, and in God.

But life is all about challenges. Challenges are what make us who we are today, and it is up to us to make a challenge an opportunity. I remember before I came to Harvard, before every single test, or if it was, for example, a family circumstance that I was going through, I would always pray to God. I would also say a silent prayer, and I would just say, "Please help me." And through each of these challenges, somehow I overcame them. But it was interesting because even when I came to college, that still didn't change. Before every single exam, before every single midterm, before every single paper I turned in, I would often get nervous. And again, I would just close my eyes and give a silent prayer to God.

And the interesting thing is that now I'm done with school, but even now at work, again, every time go into a super difficult meeting or I'm about to have a conversation, again, I say a silent prayer to God. And this reminds me again that every single challenge, again, that we're going to come, God will always be there with us. Sometimes we just need to close our eyes and give a silent prayer. So if I have anything to share with you today, it is this reflection. Make every day count. Take every challenge for what it is, a challenge for you to overcome. And take your faith and your relationship with God for what it is, a loving relationship, one in which he will always be there for you. And sometimes whenever you're scared or when that challenge comes again ... comes up again, just close your eyes, say a silent prayer.

Before you leave today, I encourage you to do just that. Today especially, in light of the pandemic and all of the other personal and professional challenges you're going through, just close your eyes and say a silent prayer, and make the best of that challenge. Thank you.

Cheyenne Boon:

Now please stand as you are able. Excuse me. And let us pray. Gracious God, grant us grace to be strong and wise in all things. Fill us with your generous love that we might more generously love ourselves and others. And now together, let us recite the prayer that Jesus taught us, saying our father who art in heaven, hallowed be the 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 and ever. Amen. And now let us sing the hymn, Give Us the Wings of Faith to Rise, number 84 found in your crimson Harvard hymnal.

Congregation:

(Singing)

Cheyenne Boon:

This transcript was exported on Nov 01, 2021 - view latest version [here](#).

As we go into this day, let us bless and keep one another. Let us be at peace. Let us be peacemakers.
May it be so, and may the church say amen.