

John August Swanson, Festival of Lights, detail, 2000.

A Service of Lessons & Carols

Advent at Duke University Chapel

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2023, 7:00 P.M.

A Service of Lessons and Carols

This Service of Lessons and Carols heralds the Advent coming of Christ, both celebrating Jesus' incarnate birth and awaiting his second coming in majesty. Through scripture and music, we will hear the promises of God echoing down the ages through the biblical prophets. These promises are fulfilled in Jesus, who is Emmanuel, God with us.

Organ Voluntary

Prélude et Choral varié sur "Veni redemptor gentium"

Margaretha Christina de Jong

Introit

Pan fo'r stormydd garwa'n curo

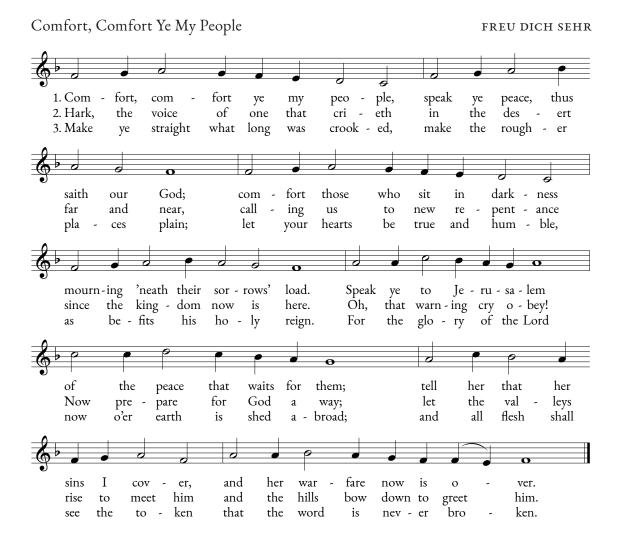
John Raymond Williams (1928–2018)

Pan fo'r stormydd garwa'n curo, Arglwydd Iôr Tyred a gostega ymchwydd gwyllt y môr Fel y gallom ninnau uwch terfysgoedd byd Glywed dros y tonnau lais dy gariad drud.

Pan fo'r nos heb seren, a phob bron yn brudd Tyred Di â'r awen, wna ein nos yn ddydd Fel y gallom weled llwybrau'r nefoedd wen A chael nerth i gerdded atat ti, Amen.

When the harsh storms rage, O Lord, Come and silence the wild surge of the sea— So that we ourselves, above the tumults of the world, Hear, across the waves, the voice of thy precious love.

When the night is without stars, and when sadness reigns Come, and make our night into day:
So that we may see paths to heaven,
And that we may have the strength to walk to thee.
Amen.



*Bidding Prayer

Beloved in Christ, as we await the great festival of Christmas, let us prepare ourselves so that we may be shown its true meaning. Let us hear in Holy Scripture how the prophets of Israel foretold that God would come among and redeem the Lord's waiting people.

Let us rejoice, in our carols and hymns,

that the good purpose of God is being mightily fulfilled.

Let us celebrate the promise that our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, will bring all who believe in him into the glory of God's eternal kingdom.

The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the Gospel preached to them.

But first, let us pray for the world that God so loves, for those who have not heard the good news of the Gospel, or who do not believe; for those who walk in darkness and the shadow of death; and for the Church in this place and everywhere, that it may in pure joy lift up the light of the love of God.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer to God, in the words that Christ himself taught us.

*The Lord's Prayer | In unison:

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.

First Lesson | Isaiah 40:1-8

To God's people in exile in a faraway land, the prophet Isaiah announces good news: God is returning and bringing the exiles home.

Anthem

Adam lay ybounden

Frank Ferko

Adam lay ybounden, Bounden in a bond; Foure thousand winter Thought he not too long. And all was for an apple An apple that he took, As clerkes finden Written in their book. Ne had the apple taken been, The apple taken been, Ne had never our lady A been Hevene Queen. Blessed be the time That apple taken was, Therefore we moun singen, Deo gracias.

-Anonymous, 15th cent.

Second Lesson | Jeremiah 23:5-8

The prophet Jeremiah offers hope for a righteous branch in the line of David, a just King who is yet to come.

Anthem

The only Son from Heaven (adapted from Cantata 22)

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

The only Son from Heaven, foretold by ancient seers, by God the Father given, in human form appears.

No sphere His light confining, no star so brightly shining as He, our Morning Star.

-Elisabeth Cruciger (1500-1535); tr. Arthur T. Russell (1806-1874), alt.

Third Lesson | Zechariah 9:9–17

Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem is prophesied, heralding God's coming reign of justice and peace.

*Carol | See hymn on following page.

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

MERTON



Fourth Lesson | Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light: Jesus, who has come to break the powers of sin, evil, and death.

Anthem

How Brightly Shines the Morning Star

Philipp Nicolai (1556–1608) arr. David Nield

How brightly shines the Morning Star With radiant splendour from afar, And cheers us with its shining. Brightness of God, that breaks our night And fills the darkened souls with light, Who long for truth were pining!

Thy word, Jesu, Inly feeds us, Rightly leads us, Life bestowing. Praise, o praise such love o'erflowing. O praise to Him who came to save, Who conquered death and burst the grave; Each day new praise resoundeth, To Him, the Lamb who once was slain, The friend whom none shall trust in vain, Whose grace for aye aboundeth.

Sing ye heavens, tell the story of His glory, Till His praises Flood with light earth's darkest places.

—Johann Adolf Schlegel

Fifth Lesson | Isaiah 7:10-15

The prophet Isaiah declares a sign to the house of David: a young woman will bear a child and call him Immanuel.

Anthem

Alma Redemptoris Mater

Felicio Anerio (c. 1560–1614)

Alma Redemptoris Mater, quae pervia caeli Porta manes, et stella maris, succurre cadenti, Surgere qui curat, populo: tu quae genuisti, Natura mirante, tuum sanctum Genitorem Virgo prius ac posterius, Gabrielis ab ore Sumens illud Ave, peccatorum miserere.

Sweet Mother of the Redeemer, the passage to the heavens, the gate of the spirits of the dead, and the star of the sea, aid the falling. Mother of Him who cares for the people: you who brought forth the wonder of Nature, your Creator.

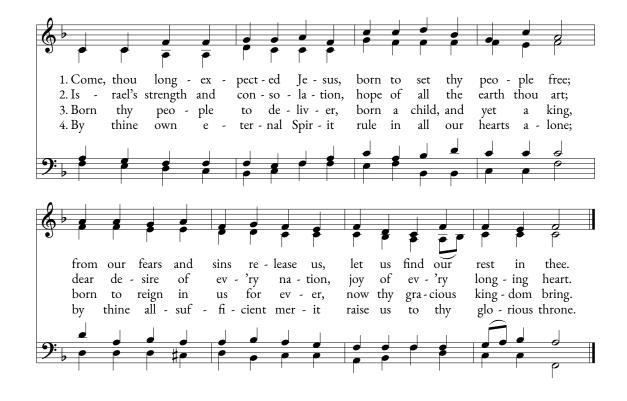
Virgin before and after, who received of Gabriel with joyful greeting, have pity on us sinners.

—Hermanus Contractus (1013–1054)

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

STUTTGART

^{*}Carol | See hymn on following page.



Anthem

Rejoice in the Lord Alway

Anon., 16th cent.

Rejoice in the Lord alway, and again I say, rejoice.
Let your softness be known unto all men: the Lord is at hand.
Be careful for nothing: but in all prayer and supplication, let your petitions be manifest unto God with giving of thanks. And the peace of God,

which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesu. Amen.

The angel Gabriel announces to the virgin Mary that she will give birth to a ruler whose reign will never end.

Anthem

The Angel Gabriel

BASQUE CAROL, arr. Malcolm Archer

The angel Gabriel from heaven came, his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame; "All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden, Mary, most highly favored lady," Gloria!

"For know a blessed Mother thou shalt be, all generations laud and honour thee, thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold, most highly favored lady," Gloria!

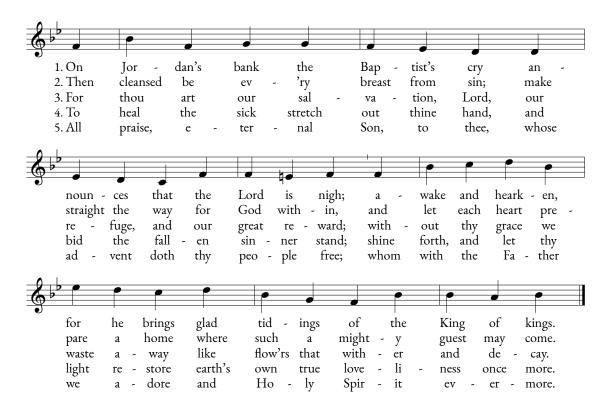
Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head, "To me be as it pleaseth God," she said, "my soul shall laud and magnify His holy Name, most highly favored lady," Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn, and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say "most highly favored lady," Gloria!

—Traditional Basque Carol; para. Sabine Baring Gould (1834–1924)

Seventh Lesson | Mark 1:1-15

John the Baptist proclaims the coming of Jesus, who is anointed by his Father to bring the good news of the Gospel.



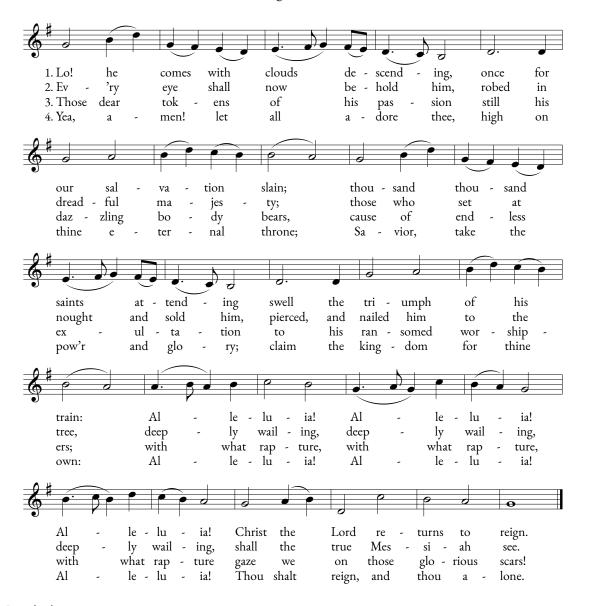
Prayers | The people respond to each petition:

Leader: Maranatha.

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Advent Prayer | In unison:

Merciful Father, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation. Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may celebrate aright the commemoration of the nativity and may await with joy the coming in glory of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



Postlude

TODAY IN WORSHIP

Presiding Minister

Tr. 1	
Kathryn Lester-Bacon	Director of Religious Life, Duke University Chapel
Lectors	
Takudzwa Chikepe	
Anders Holmen	Divinity '25
Katherine Johnson	Organ Scholar, Duke University Chapel
Natalie Rushing	Divinity '26
	Trinity '26
Ella Taylor	Pratt '25
Jessy Williams	Divinity '26
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Musicians	
Duke Chapel Vespers Ensemble	
Philip Cave	Conductor-in-Residence, Duke University Chapel
•	Organ Scholar, Duke University Chapel
	Saxophone; Lecturing Fellow of Music, Trinity College



Box 90974 | 401 Chapel Dr. Durham, NC 27708 919-681-9488

chapel.duke.edu









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