Today we observe a festival normally celebrated on January 1, The Holy Name of Jesus. This festival commemorates the naming and circumcision of Jesus eight days after his birth, as described in Luke 2. The gospel is followed this morning by both a spoken homily and a musical one: J. S. Bach’s cantata *Lobe den Herrn, meine Seele*, BWV 143. In the Lutheran church of Bach’s era, cantatas such as this were considered a form of evangelical proclamation, a musical exegesis of the texts and themes for the day. As we honor the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, we pray that he would bless us and protect us in this new year.
Gathering

Prelude Music

Concerto for Two Horns and Strings  Georg Philipp Telemann
i. Largo-Allegro      ii. Siciliana    iii. Allegro
(1681–1767)

Chorale Prelude

Ein’ Feste Burg, BWV 720  Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685–1750)

Greeting and Call to Worship

*Opening Hymn 110

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God  ein' fest e burg

*Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance | In unison:

Almighty God, who sent a star to guide the magi to the holy child Jesus: we confess that we have not followed the light of your word. We have not searched for signs of your love in the world, or trusted good news to be good. We have failed to praise your Son’s birth, and refused his peace on earth. We have expected little, and hoped for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew in us all fine desires, so we may watch and wait and once more hear the glad story of our Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

The minister speaks words of assurance.

*Peace | All exchange signs and words of God’s peace.

  Minister:  The peace of Christ be with you.
  People:    And also with you.

Proclamation

Prayer for Illumination | In unison:

Eternal Father, you gave your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be a sign of our salvation. Plant in every heart the love of the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson

Genesis 17:9–13

  Lector:    This is the word of the Lord.
  People:    Thanks be to God.
Psalm 146

Praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord, O my soul!
I will praise the Lord as long as I live;
   I will sing praises to my God all my life long.
Do not put your trust in princes,
   in mortals, in whom there is no help.
When their breath departs, they return to the earth;
   on that very day their plans perish.
Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
   whose hope is in the Lord their God,
who made heaven and earth,
   the sea, and all that is in them;
who keeps faith forever;
   who executes justice for the oppressed;
who gives food to the hungry.
The Lord sets the prisoners free;
   the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.
The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
   the Lord loves the righteous.
The Lord watches over the strangers;
   he upholds the orphan and the widow,
   but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.
The Lord will reign forever,
   your God, O Zion, for all generations.
Praise the Lord!

Gradual Anthem

Lauda anima mea Dominum

Lauda, anima mea, Dominum:
laudabo Dominum in vita mea:
psallam Deo meo, quamdiu fuero, alleluia.

Praise the Lord, O my soul:
while I live will I praise the Lord:
I will sing praises unto my God while I have my being, alleluia.

Text: Psalm 146:1
*Gospel Lesson

Luke 2:15–21

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Homily

Cantata

Lobe den Herrn, meine Seele, BWV 143 J.S. Bach

(Praise ye the Lord, O my soul)

Response

Call to Prayer

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Minister: Let us pray.

Prayers of the People | The congregation responds to each petition:

People: Hear our prayer.

This morning we give thanks for the faculty of this university. We celebrate their dedication to scholarship and their commitment to students and the art of teaching.

Offertory Anthem

O admirabile commercium Hans Leo Hassler

(1564–1612)

O admirabile commercium!
Creator generis humili,
animatum corpus sumens,
de virgine nasci dignatus est:
et procedens homo sine semine,
largitus est nobis suam Deitatem.

O wondrous exchange!
The Creator of humankind,
taking our flesh upon him,

* All rise as able
deigns to be born of a virgin;
and, coming forth, without seed, as man,
bestows his Divinity upon us.

Text: Vespers Antiphon for the Feast of the Circumcision

Offertory Hymn 238
Angels We Have Heard on High

Thanksgiving
*Prayer of Thanksgiving

*The Lord's Prayer | All are encouraged to pray the Lord's Prayer in the language of their choosing.

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.

Sending Forth
*Benediction

*Closing Hymn 168
At the Name of Jesus

Closing Voluntary
In dulci jubilo, BWV 729

J.S. Bach
PRESIDING MINISTERS
Carol Gregg...............................Pastor, Congregation at Duke Chapel
Kenneth D. Moland......................Pastoral Assistant, Congregation at Duke Chapel

PREACHER
Lauren F. Winner........Associate Professor of Christian Spirituality, Duke Divinity School

LECTORS
Jack Steele..............................Member, Congregation at Duke Chapel
Phyllis Snyder........................Children's Pastor, Congregation at Duke Chapel

MUSICIANS
Duke Bach Ensemble....................Ensemble
Christopher Jacobson................Organist, Duke University Chapel

HEAD USHER
James Ferguson........................Member, Congregation at Duke Chapel

GUEST PREACHER | Today’s guest preacher is the Rev. Dr. Lauren F. Winner, associate professor of Christian Spirituality at Duke Divinity School. She writes and lectures widely on Christian practice, the history of Christianity in America, and Jewish-Christian relations. Her books include Girl Meets God, Mudhouse Sabbath, a study of household religious practice in eighteenth-century Virginia, A Cheerful and Comfortable Faith, Still: Notes on a Mid-Faith Crisis, and, more recently, a book on overlooked biblical tropes for God, Wearing God, and The Dangers of Christian Practice: On Wayward Gifts, Characteristic Damage, and Sin. Rev. Dr. Winner, an Episcopal priest, is vicar of St. Joseph’s Episcopal Church in Durham, North Carolina.

DUKE BACH ENSEMBLE | The Duke Bach Ensemble performs cantatas and instrumental music by J.S. Bach and his contemporaries. The singers consist of both local and visiting artists, and accompaniment is provided by the Mallarmé Chamber Players on period instruments. Normally performing in concert, today they are offering music in its original context, as part of worship. The cantata and accompanying motets are based on the day’s lectionary readings, and serve to amplify the message therein. Please refer to the accompanying insert for further details.

TODAY’S OFFERING | All of today’s cash offerings and checks written to Duke University Chapel will be used to support the Chapel’s Development Fund for Mission and Ministry. Give online at chapel.duke.edu/offering. Send checks to: Duke University Chapel, Box 90974, Durham, NC 27708-0974.

ACCESSIBILITY | Large print hymnals and worship guides are available at the visitor relations desk. Hearing assistance units are available at the AV console in the rear of the Chapel.

TOUR AFTER THE SERVICE | Learn about the history, architecture, and life of Duke Chapel on a tour immediately following the service. The tour is free and lasts about forty-five minutes. Meet the docent outside in front of the Chapel.

HOLIDAY HOURS | The Chapel is open to visitors daily from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. with these exceptions over the winter break: today, January 2, and tomorrow, January 3, the building closes at 5:00 p.m. Since the Chapel is occasionally closed for private ceremonies, before planning a visit, please confirm the building schedule at chapel.duke.edu or by calling 919-681-9488.

EPHANY SERVICE | A special Choral Vespers service marks the Feast of the Epiphany on Thursday, January 6, at 7:00 p.m. The Chapel’s Vespers Ensemble leads this service of hymns, anthems, prayer, and scripture readings.

STUDENT PREACHER SUBMISSIONS | This spring semester, we will continue our tradition of having an undergraduate student preach for our 11:00 a.m. worship service. If you are a student, maybe you’ve never thought about preaching at the Chapel, but you feel compelled to give voice to what the Spirit of God is stirring in you? Or, perhaps you have considered what it would be like to preach in the pulpit at the Chapel? If so, apply by January 31 by submitting a sermon manuscript to the Rev. Bruce Puckett at bruce.puckett@duke.edu.

PATHWAYS FELLOWSHIP | Bridging faith and learning does not stop with graduation—the PathWays Fellowship not only gives recent alumni the tools they need to discern their vocational and spiritual direction, but it also gives them opportunities for exploration, leadership, mentorship, service, and formation deeply rooted in the local community and their Christian traditions. This is a one-year residential discernment program designed for recent Duke graduates. Learn more and apply by January 28: chapel.duke.edu/PathWays.

INTERFAITH LIVING-LEARNING COMMUNITY | Partnering with the Department of Religious Studies and Housing and Residential Life, the Chapel has formed “Eruditio et Religio,” a living-learning community committed to growing in “knowledge and faith.” Students can learn more and apply at chapel.duke.edu/llc.

JANUARY BOOK GROUP | For four Wednesdays in January and February, book groups will meet at 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. to discuss Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion by Gregory Boyle. Through lively stories and humor, Boyle, a Jesuit priest and founder of Homeboy Industries, shows the power of compassion in working with former gang members. Groups will meet virtually starting on Wednesday, January 12. His inspirational work will be an encouragement for the new year. For the zoom link or additional information, please contact congregation@duke.edu.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CEREMONY | The Chapel will host the university’s Martin Luther King, Jr. ceremony on Sunday, January 16, at 3:00 p.m. with Keanga-Yamahtta Taylor. Join members of the Duke and Durham community in honoring the life and work of Rev. Dr. King. Learn more at mlk.duke.edu.
We would like to get to know you. What are your questions? What is your story? Take a moment to fill out a very brief form and a Chapel minister or other staff member will contact you soon. Scan the QR code or visit chapel.duke.edu/connect.

The Congregation at Duke University Chapel joyfully welcomes all persons regardless of age, race, class, origin, sexual orientation, or any other distinction and invites membership and participation in all of its ministries. Please email congregation@duke.edu to receive the weekly eNews.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASSES | The Congregation provides weekly Sunday morning Christian education from 9:45–10:45 a.m. for all ages. Classes, which are held both in person and virtually, are open to the public. New participants are welcome at any time. Please contact congregation@duke.edu for Zoom link. Classes are as follows:

- Wee Praise: Music and movement for children ages 0–3 with parents or caregivers (available virtually).
- Godly Play: Spiritual formation for children ages 4 through 5th grade (available virtually).
- Adult Bible Study: A study of Ephesians for adults in 0015 Westbrook and by Zoom starting January 16.
- Adult Forum: On January 9, the Rev. Dr. Christian Wilson, retired Methodist minister and Congregation member, will speak on “Hail, Antiochus Epimanes: The Apocrypha, 1 Maccabees, and the Maccabean Revolt.”

LET’S BE IN TOUCH

chapel.duke.edu/congregation.chapel.duke.edu
919-684-3917

Let’s be in Touch