Duke UNIVERSITY CHAPEL

BRIDGING FAITH & LEARNING

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Second Sunday after Epiphany
Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday
Sunday, January 18, 2026, 11:00 a.m.

Duke University Archives, photo of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. speaking in Page Auditorium on November 13, 1964.

Today, the Chapel honors the witness of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., recalling his conviction that "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." The service includes a litany remembering the prophetic witness of the Rev. Dr. King and asking for grace for all who continue to work toward God's justice on earth. Even as we remember the Rev. Dr. King, we are reminded through the scriptures of others who have cried out in truth about their life situations and about the God who comes to rescue and redeem. Isaiah and Paul both speak of the God who faithfully gives strength and helps accomplish the work to which God calls us. In the Gospel lesson, John the Baptist declares that Jesus is God's lamb who has come to take away the sins of the whole world.

Gathering

Carillon

Prelude

Symphony No. 3 in C Minor — Florence Beatrice Price (1887–1953)
II. Andante ma non troppo — transc. David Lim

Introit

Great Day — Moses Hogan (1957–2003)

Great day, the righteous marching,
marching up Zion's wall.

Chariot moved on the mountain top, brother,
God's gonna build up Zion's wall.
My God spoke and the chariot stopped, sister,
God's gonna build up Zion's wall.
This is the year of Jubilee, brother,
God's gonna build up Zion's wall.
My God set his people free, sister,
God's gonna build up Zion's wall.

Great day, the righteous marching,
marching up Zion's wall.

Great day, that morning, great day, come marching.
Great day, my brother, great day, my sister.
God's gonna build up Zion's wall.

—Black spiritual

Greeting and Call to Worship

***Gathering Hymn** | UMH 79. Stanzas 1–5.

Holy God, We Praise Thy Name — GROSSER GOTT

***All rise as able**

***Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance** | The minister offers words of confession in three biddings to which the congregation responds as follows:

Minister: Lord, have mercy.
People: Lord, have mercy.

Minister: Christ, have mercy.
People: Christ, have mercy.

Minister: Lord, have mercy.
People: Lord, have mercy.

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:

Revealing Lord, we rejoice in the light you have brought to our world and the light you have shed in our hearts through your incarnate Word. May your Spirit further reveal your word to us today; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson | OT page 638 in pew Bibles.

Isaiah 49:1–7

Lector: The word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Lesson | NT pages 155 in pew Bibles.

1 Corinthians 1:1–9

Lector: The word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

I Believe This Is Jesus — Undine Smith Moore (1904–1989)

I believe this is Jesus.
Come and see, come and see.

The light of God shines in his face.
He offers all his pardoning grace.

I believe this is Jesus.
Come and see, come and see.

—Black spiritual

***Gospel Lesson** | NT pages 86–87 in pew Bibles.

John 1:29–42

Lector: The word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Behold the Oneness of Humanity: The Beloved Community

Response

***Response Hymn** | UMH 140

Great Is Thy Faithfulness — FAITHFULNESS

Prayer Litany for Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Leader: God of all races and nations, we praise you for all your faithful servants who have done justice, loved mercy, and walked humbly with their God. For apostles, martyrs, leaders, and saints, and for humble folk whose names were never in the news but are recorded in your book of life,

People: We give you thanks, O God.

Leader: Especially this day, we thank you for Martin Luther King Jr., for his courage and conviction, for his passion for peace, and for his tireless quest of a nation that keeps faith with its promises,

People: We give you thanks, O God.

Leader: For the King family and the countless others who stood and marched in the front lines, integrated schools and restaurants, or sat in buses and refused to move,

People: We give you thanks, O God.

Leader: For nameless multitudes who suffered the tortures of slavery and the tyranny of oppression and who were beaten, raped, and lynched; and for the nameless multitudes today whose lives are stunted and cut short by economic and social structures of brutality.

People: We grieve and promise to work for justice, O God.

Leader: And for children, women, and men of every race who are denied education, health care, jobs, housing, and hope in our land,

People: We grieve and promise to work for justice, O God.

Leader: In the name of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

People: Amen.

Offertory Anthem

Dear Lord and Father of Mankind — C. H. H. Parry (1848–1918), arr. H. A. Chambers

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
forgive our foolish ways;
reclothe us in our rightful mind,
in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard
beside the Syrian sea
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word
rise up and follow thee.

Drop thy still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire
thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be numb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still, small voice of calm!

—John Greenleaf Whitter (1807–1892)

***Doxology** LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia, Alleluia!
Praise God above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Alleluia, Alleluia,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Thanksgiving

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

***The Lord's Prayer** | All are encouraged to pray the Lord's Prayer in the language of their choosing. The English text can be found at 895 in the pew hymnal.

Sending Forth

Choral Benediction

Go in Peace — Sally Ann Morris

Go in peace. Go in love.
Go to seek. Go to serve.
Go in hope to work and pray,
and God goes with you all the way.

—Mary Louise Bringle

***Benediction**

***Sending Hymn** | UMH 580

Lead On, O King Eternal — LANCASHIRE

Postlude

Four Spirituals — Adolphus Hailstork
IV. Toccata on Great Day

Carillon

Memorial Chapel Communion | Immediately following the postlude, a brief communion service will be held in Memorial Chapel; worship guides for the service are available near the entrance. Following communion, the minister will be available to offer prayers and anointing.

TODAY IN WORSHIP

Presiding Ministers

Luke A. Powery. . . . . *Dean, Duke University Chapel*
Bruce Puckett . . . . . *Assistant Dean, Duke University Chapel*

Preacher

Benjamin Chavis. . . . . President and CEO, National Newspaper Publishers Association; *Divinity '80*

Lectors

Stephanie Ramkissoon . . . . . *Divinity '28*
Daniel Parham . . . . . *Congregation Divinity School Intern; Divinity '27*

Musicians

Duke Chapel Choir. . . . . *Choir*
Zebulon Highben. . . . . *Director of Chapel Music, Duke University Chapel*
Chad Fothergill. . . . . *Chapel Organist, Duke University Chapel*
David Lim . . . . . *Chapel Organ Scholar, Duke University Chapel*
Aaron Colston. . . . . *Chapel Carillonneur, Duke University Chapel*
Jaclyn Brown . . . . . *Soloist*

Head Usher

Ken Arneson . . . . . *Member, Congregation at Duke Chapel*
Pete Acker . . . . . *Member, Congregation at Duke Chapel*

Today's Guest Preacher | Today's Wilder guest preacher is the Rev. Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. A theologian, author, educator, and entrepreneur, Rev. Dr. Chavis is the president and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association. An ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, Rev. Dr. Chavis began his career in 1963 as a North Carolina youth coordinator for the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. From 1993 to 1994, he served as the executive director and CEO of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and remains an active supporter of the NAACP. In 1995, he was the national director and organizer of the Million Man March. The 2010 movie *Blood Done Sign My Name* depicts a true story from Chavis's early days in the Civil Rights Movement. He has authored books and other publications, including *Psalms from Prison* and *An African American Political Prisoner: Appeals for Human Rights*. Chavis earned a Master of Divinity from Duke Divinity School while he was serving a prison sentence as a member of "the Wilmington 10," whom Amnesty International declared political prisoners; the group was eventually pardoned. While in prison, he received permission to deliver a sermon at Duke Chapel for a 1979 service memorializing the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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. You are invited to give online at chapel.duke.edu/offering. You may also give directly to the Congregation at Duke University Chapel by check written to the Congregation at Duke University Chapel or online at congregation.chapel.duke.edu and access the giving link. Send checks to: Duke University Chapel, Box 90974, Durham, NC 27708-0974.

Today's Flowers | The flowers for the worship service today are given to the glory of God by the Elizabeth Lucina Gotham Memorial Chapel Endowment.

Liturgical Acknowledgments | **Prayer for Illumination**. Adapted from "Daily Office: Revealing Lord," Order for Baptist Ministry, ©2026. *Litany of Thanksgiving and Praise*: adapted from Presbyterian Peacemaking Program, www.pcusa.org/peacemaking.

ACCESSIBILITY

Hearing assistance technology, as well as large-print worship guides and hymnals, is available at the AV console in the rear of the Chapel. For other accommodations, please approach a minister or usher.

RESTROOMS

For public restrooms, exit the Chapel through the main front doors and turn left to enter the Divinity School. Restrooms are along the Divinity School hallway.

TOURS

Meet a docent outside in front of the Chapel immediately following the service for a free, forty-five minute tour of Duke Chapel's history, architecture, and life.

LEARN MORE AND ENGAGE

Scan the QR codes to learn more about the missions and ministries of Duke Chapel and the Congregation at Duke University Chapel. Also, read this week's announcements, see upcoming events, and find out how to engage with the Chapel and the Congregation.

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