Laetare! This Latin word, meaning rejoice, is used by many Christian traditions to name this Sunday in Lent, often characterized by a brief lifting of the dark color of the season with a change from purple to rose. Surely a note of joy is also found in the lessons for today. The Old Testament lesson tells of Samuel chosen and anointed as the prophet of the Lord, the Psalm reassures us of the Good Shepherd’s constant care, and we are reminded in the Epistle of the promise of resurrection. But what greater joy could be found than in the Gospel story of the man, blind since birth, healed by Christ and suddenly able to see the world around him? Laetare—rejoice in God!
Gathering

Carillon

Choral Prelude

Bogoroditse Devo

Sergei Rachmaninoff
(1873–1943)

Rejoice, virgin mother of God,
Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb,
for you have borne the Savior of our souls.

—transl. Barry Johnston

Greeting and Call to Worship

*Lenten Entrance Rite and Confession

Most holy and merciful God...
...let your anger depart from us.

Cantor, then all:

Rejoice, e-le-i-son.

Holy and compassionate God...
...reconcile us through Christ.

Cantor, then all:

Rejoice, e-le-i-son.
Holy and sustaining God...
...awaken us to the gifts of your Spirit.

*Cantor, then all:*

Ky - ri - e e - le - i-son.

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:

Holy God, you guide us along right paths and embrace us in goodness and mercy. Inspire us to lives of joy and delight, proclaiming your praises throughout the world. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson | OT page 248 in pew Bibles.

1 Samuel 16:1–13

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

Anthem

Vox Populi

Vox populi, vox Dei.
Homo homini amicus est.
Ubi concordia ibi victoria.

Giedrius Svilainis

The voice of the people is the voice of God.
All are friends to all.
Where there is unity, there is victory.
**Gospel Lesson** | NT page 96–97 in pew Bibles.

John 9:1–41

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

Sermon

Seeing God

Response

*Response Hymn* | UMH 138

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

Recognition of New Members | New members stand before the congregation. All worshipers are invited to respond to the questions of faith. We welcome these people as the newest members of the Congregation at Duke Chapel: Pete and Dale Ackers, Robin Diehl, Myla Gorham, Jamee Lynch, Luke Oliver, Carolyn Stoe, and Amanda Wu.

Minister: Do you believe that God has reached out to us with love and forgiveness?
People: We do.

Minister: Will you seek to grow in faith through participating in worship, study, service, and our life together?
People: We will.

Minister: Will you strive to embody Christ’s compassion and holiness?
People: We will.

Call to Prayer

Minister: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Minister: Let us pray.
Prayers of the People | We respond to each petition in song.

Mission of the Month

Offertory Anthem

O Salutaris Hostia

Edward Elgar
(1857–1934)

Doxology

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

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

*The Lord’s Prayer | All are encouraged to pray 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

*Choral Benediction

The Twenty-Third Psalm

Bobby McFerrin

The Lord is my Shepherd, I have all I need, she makes me lie down  
in green meadows, beside the still waters she will lead.  
She restores my soul, she rights my wrongs, she leads me  
in a path of good things, and fills my heart with songs.  
Even though I walk through a dark and dreary land,  
there is nothing that can shake me, she has said  
she won’t forsake me, I’m in her hand.  
She sets a table before me, in the presence of my foes,  
she anoints my head with oil and my cup overflows.  
Surely goodness and kindness will follow me all the days  
of my life, and I will live in her house forever, forever and ever.  
Glory be to our Mother and Daughter and to the holy of  
holies, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.

*Benediction

*Recessional Hymn | UMH 670

Go Forth for God
Closing Voluntary

Improvisation on “Laetare Jerusalem”

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Laetare Jerusalem} \\
\text{AETÁ-} \\
\text{RE} \\
\text{Je-rú-sa-len}
\end{align*}
\]

Carillon

Memorial Chapel Communion | Immediately following today’s worship service, a brief communion service will be held in Memorial Chapel. Following communion, the minister will be available to offer prayers and anointing.

TODAY IN WORSHIP

Presiding Ministers
Carol Gregg ......................... Pastor, Congregation at Duke Chapel
Racquel Gill ..................... Minister for Intercultural Engagement, Duke University Chapel
Mitchell Eithun ................. Intern for Worship and Student Engagement, Divinity ’25

Preacher
Luke A. Powery .................. Dean, Duke University Chapel

Lectors
Lucy Worth ....................... Member, Congregation at Duke Chapel
Gregory Beck .................... Member, Congregation at Duke Chapel

Ministry of the Month
Tom Wollin ....................... Operations Director; StepUp Durham

Musicians
Millbrook High School ............. The Millbrook High School Madrigals
Eddie Adams ....................... Conductor, Millbrook High School Choir
Chad Fothergill .................... Interim Chapel Organist, Duke University Chapel
Mitchell Eithun ................... Chapel Carillonneur, Duke University Chapel

Head Usher
James Ferguson .................... Member, Congregation at Duke Chapel

**Today’s Arrangements** | The beautification of the Chapel for all of Lent is provided by the generosity of the Elizabeth Lucina Gotham Memorial Chapel Endowment.

**Today’s Musicians** | The Millbrook High School Madrigals (Raleigh, NC) is an auditioned mixed ensemble with 25–35 singers. These singers are sophomores, juniors, and seniors who are dedicated to the ensemble, participating in daily rehearsals all year. The ensemble has performed at Duke University Chapel before and in New York; Georgia; Washington, D.C.; and Chicago. In addition, they have sung for notable conductors and composers, including Simon Carrington, Z. Randall Stroope, Daniel Bara, and Eric Nelson. The Madrigals consistently receive superior ratings at adjudicated festivals and have performed at important statewide gatherings of music educators and choral conductors.

**Mission of the Month** | All of today’s cash offerings and checks written to Duke University Chapel will be used to support the Chapel’s Mission of the Month: StepUp Durham. The job market is changing, access to employment is not equitable across communities, and there is a skills gap for many low-to-moderate-income individuals. StepUp Durham partners with individuals in historically underinvested communities, providing job readiness training, employment placement and retention services. To date, of those they have served, 51% have been system-impacted (with or without incarceration), 24% have been in substance-use recovery, 22% have disclosed having mental health challenges, and 51% have lived in a shelter or transitional home. Approximately 97% live below the poverty line.

**ENGAGE**

**University Prayer of Thanksgiving** | Each week, we focus on a different campus unit, school, or department for whom to give thanks to God for their service and contributions to the wider university community and beyond. Today, we give thanks for the Department of Art, Art History, and Visual Studies.

**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.
Restrooms in Divinity School | Public restrooms are available in the Divinity School. To access them, exit the Chapel through the main front doors, turn to the left, and enter the Divinity School. Restrooms are along the hallway in the Divinity School.

Congregation Is Hiring | The Congregation at Duke Chapel is now accepting applications for part-time positions involving teaching Bible studies to youth, young adults, and adults as well as engaging in other ministries. Please contact Pastor Carol Gregg, carol.gregg@duke.edu, for additional information.

Dedicatory Piano Recital Today | To celebrate the arrival of the Chapel’s new Bösendorfer 225 grand piano, pianist Cole Burger will give a dedicatory recital today at 5:00 p.m. The performance will feature repertoire by Albéniz, Alexina Louie, Bach, and more. Burger teaches piano at Bowling Green State University and the Lutheran Summer Music Academy and Festival. He has performed, taught, and presented in the U.S., Europe, and Asia. Admission is free.

Jazz Vespers Service March 23 | The Chapel’s Jazz Vespers service this Thursday, at 7:00 p.m. will combine the liturgical traditions of Vespers with the musical improvisation of jazz. With a theme of hope, the service is led by Chapel and community ministers. Musical leadership is provided by the John Brown Little Big Band, a professional jazz ensemble specializing in works from the Great American Songbook as well as contemporary arrangements.

A Lenten Retreat March 25 | The Congregation will host a reflective Lenten retreat on Saturday, March 25. The day-long retreat, “Listening for God,” will include reflective presentations, sessions on various prayer methods, and, most importantly, time for individual reflection. The cost is $10 per person, which offsets the cost of the catered lunch. For additional information and to register, please contact congregation@duke.edu.

LGBTQ+ Fellowship March 26 | Members of the LGBTQ+ community and their allies are invited to attend the monthly fellowship gathering next Sunday, March 26, from 12:15–1:15 p.m. in the Congregation Office and over Zoom. The Congregation Office is located in the lower level of the Chapel. For more information or the Zoom link, please contact congregation@duke.edu.
Organ Recital March 26 | In his recital this year on Sunday, March 26, at 5:00 p.m., University Organist Dr. Robert Parkins will feature the Brombaugh and Flentrop organs in works by early Portuguese composers, Bach, Bovet, Brahms, Frescobaldi, Heiller, and Mozart. A professor of the practice of music at Duke, Dr. Parkins’s solo recordings have appeared on the Calcante, Gothic, Loft, Musical Heritage Society, and Naxos labels. Admission is free.

Young Adult Gathering March 27 | University graduate students, other young adults, and their partners are invited to dinner and Bible study on March 27, at 6:30 p.m. in the kitchen located in the lower level of the Chapel. Come for a light supper and good conversation. Participants will discuss the Letter to the Romans. Please contact laura.wilson@duke.edu for additional information.

Labyrinth at Duke Chapel | Visitors are invited to walk the labyrinth in the Chapel on Monday, March 27, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. and on Tuesday, March 28, from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Walking the labyrinth, a forty-foot circle containing a winding path, is an ancient spiritual tradition in many faiths. It is self-guided and takes thirty minutes to an hour to complete.

Lecture on ‘Marc Chagall and the Bible’ March 29 | Author Vivian R. Jacobson will give a lecture on the exhibition Marc Chagall and the Bible, which is currently on display on the Chapel. The talk will be on Wednesday, March 29, at 12:30 p.m. in 0014 Westbrook in the Divinity School. An associate of Chagall, Jacobson worked closely with him on major international projects during the last eleven years of his life. Based on her experiences with Chagall, she wrote Sharing Chagall: A Memoir. In 2001, Jacobson was appointed a speaker on Chagall for the North Carolina Humanities Council Forum in conjunction with the National Endowment of the Arts.

Chapel Evensong Singers Concert April 2 | The Duke Chapel Evensong Singers, directed by the Chapel’s Dr. Philip Cave and accompanied by organ scholar Daniel Jacky, present their annual concert “The Legacy of Love,” featuring three masterful contemporary compositions for choir and organ with themes of sacrifice and offering. Admission is free.
CROP Hunger Walk April 2 | All are invited to join the Durham CROP Hunger Walk, Sunday, April 2, to raise funds to fight hunger in our community and around the world. Durham residents of all ages join together for this annual event that starts and ends on the front lawn of Duke Chapel. Registration begins at 1:30 p.m. After music, greetings, activities, and a group picture for Chapel walkers, the 5K CROP Hunger Walk starts at 2:30 p.m. To join the Congregation’s walking team or contribute financially, please contact congregation@duke.edu.

Holy Week Services | Join us April 2–9 as we move through the passion, death, and resurrection of Christ with worship services and a concert during Holy Week and Easter. Find service details at chapel.duke.edu/HolyWeek.

Chapel Flowers | If you would like to honor a loved one and the worshipping community of Duke Chapel with a gift of flowers to decorate the chancel for Sunday worship, please contact Angela Flynn, coordinator of worship and ministry, at angela.flynn@duke.edu.

Sunday Morning Classes | Sunday morning Christian Education classes are available for all ages. These classes are offered from 9:45–10:45 a.m., with coffee and refreshments provided at 9:30 a.m. Classes meet in the lowest level of the Westbrook building. Please contact congregation@duke.edu for the Zoom links.

Wee Praise: Music and movement for children ages 0–3 with parents or caregivers in 0011 Westbrook
Godly Play: Spiritual formation for children ages 4 through 5th grade in 0050 Langford
Youth Program: Youth in 6th–12th grades will discuss New Testament letters in 0015 Westbrook
Lenten Study for Adults: An exploration of forgiveness to deepen understanding and practice of this spiritual discipline in 0012 Westbrook and over Zoom.
ACCESSIBILITY

Large-print worship guides are available at the visitor relations desk. Hearing assistance units are available at the AV console in the rear of the Chapel. Please let us know if you need other accommodations by approaching a minister or usher, or email us at dukechapel@duke.edu.

LET’S KEEP IN TOUCH

We would like to get to know you. What are your questions? What is your story? Take a moment to fill out a 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 Chapel joyfully welcomes all persons regardless of age, race, class, origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other distinction and invites membership and participation in all of its ministries.

Please email congregation@duke.edu to receive the weekly eNews.