As we enter Holy Week, we hear scripture lessons weaving together ancient prophecy, a reflection on Jesus’s humility, and a triumphal entry fit for a king. The highlight is the story of all of Jerusalem coming out to welcome one of their own; they acclaim him “King of the Jews.” Yet in the background, forces are already at work to bring about a painful end to the week, foreshadowed by the prophecies heard in the lesson from Isaiah. The epistle reassures us that despite the praise and adulation of the crowd, Jesus remains humble and obedient to God’s will—even to the point of death. We rejoice in the famous “Christ Hymn” that proclaims because of Jesus, in the end, every knee will bend to the glory of God the Father.
Greeting and Call to Worship

*Blessing of the Palms | Please stand as you are able.

Leader: Saving God, your Son Jesus entered Jerusalem hailed as Messiah, willing to suffer and to die;
People: Let these palms be for us signs of his victory.
Leader: Grant that we who bear these palms in his name may ever hail him as our King;
People: And give us grace to follow him in the way that leads to eternal life. Amen.

Choir: Pueri Hebraeorum, portantes ramos olivarum, obviaverunt Domino, clamantes et dicentes: Osanna in excelsis!

The Hebrew children, carrying branches of olive, went out to meet the Lord, crying out and saying: Hosanna in the highest!

*Processional Hymn | UMH 280

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

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

Eternal God: In Jesus Christ you entered Jerusalem willing to die for our sins. We confess that we have not hailed you as King, or gone before you in the world with praise. For brief faith that fades in trouble, for enthusiasms that fizzle out, for hopes we parade but do not pursue, have mercy on us. Forgive us, God, and give us such trust in your power that, in every city, we may live for your justice and tell of your loving-kindness; for the sake of our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.
*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:

Ever-living God, grant that we may heed our Savior’s lessons of humility and come to share in his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson | OT page 640 in pew Bibles.

Isaiah 50:4–9a

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

Anthem

Agnus Dei

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

—Ordinary of the liturgy

New Testament Lesson | NT pages 186 in pew Bibles.

Philippians 2:5–11

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

*All rise as able
Anthem

Hosanna to Our Savior King
Hosanna to our Savior King!
Hosanna let us ever sing!
Hosanna now and evermore!
Hosanna sing in this glad hour!

Blessed is he who comes from God.
Blessed are we his way to trod.
Blessed shall be his reign of love.
Blessed are those he came to save.

Christ, whom we praise, came down to live
in humble form like us, to give
gracious forgiveness for our sin,
and died that we might live again.

Our God above has honored him,
giving a name above all names,
that when we hear his name we sing
praise and hosannas to our King!

Wave now on high your banners bright!
Wave now the palms in God’s own sight!
Wave now your arms in joyous praise!
Wave palms and sing, your voices raise!

—John A. Clausen

*Gospel Lesson | NT pages 21–22 in pew Bibles.

Matthew 21:1–11

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

So It Comes to This
Response
*Response Hymn | UMH 451

Be Thou My Vision

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.

Offertory Anthem

Pueri Hebraeorum

Pueri Hebraeorum, portantes ramos olivarum, obviaverunt Domino, clamantes et dicentes: Osanna in excelsis Deo!

The Hebrew children, carrying branches of olive, went out to meet the Lord, crying out and saying: Hosanna to God in the highest!

—medieval antiphon

*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 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 | See printed hymn at the end of worship guide.

Ride On, Ride On in Majesty!

Closing Voluntary

Improvisation

Carillon

TODAY IN WORSHIP

Presiding Ministers
Kathryn Lester-Bacon ................... Director of Religious Life, Duke University Chapel
Carol Gregg ................................. Pastor, Congregation at Duke Chapel

Preacher
Sam Wells ................................. Vicar, St. Martin-in-the-Fields, London

Lectors
Jun Tan ................................. Trinity ’26
Isabella Taylor ............................. Chapel Scholar, Pratt ’25
Musicians
Duke Chapel Choir ................................................................. Choir
Durham Children’s Choir ..................................................... Guest Choir
Zebulon Highben ....................................................... Director of Chapel Music, Duke University Chapel
Dena Byers .......................................................... Director, Durham Children’s Choir
Robert Parkins ...................................................... University Organist, Duke University
Chad Fothergill ...................................................... Interim Chapel Organist, Duke University Chapel

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

Today’s Guest Preacher | The Reverend Dr. Sam Wells is Vicar of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, a unique configuration of commercial, cultural, and charitable initiatives rooted in a vibrant congregational life. Wells is a widely known preacher, pastor, writer, broadcaster, and theologian. He co-founded the HeartEdge movement and co-authored the Being With enquirers’ course. He has served as a Church of England parish priest for 25 years. He also spent 7 years in North Carolina, where he was Dean of Duke University Chapel. Wells is also visiting professor of christian ethics at King’s College London. He has published 44 books, including academic studies and textbooks on Christian ethics and explorations of liturgy, preaching, faith, welfare, apologetics, and mission. Among his most recent books is Humbler Faith, Bigger God (Eerdmans, 2022).

Today’s Guest Musicians | The Durham Children’s Choir is a community organization that seeks to provide exceptional choral education to children regardless of race, creed, or socio-economic station. Founded in 2004 by Scott Hill and now under the leadership of Artistic Director Dena Byers, the Durham Children’s Choir performs music from various cultures and genres and shares that music with the community at public and private events. The choir enjoys local collaborations with area music educators, composers, and arts organizations, including their participation in an annual Martin Luther King, Jr. event. They have performed internationally and nationally; most recently, they opened for Grammy Award-winning musician Lauren Daigle and performed in Carnegie Hall. These ventures enable the choir to have a greater presence in the community and provide the children with invaluable learning opportunities. For more information, please visit their website at durhamchildrenschoir.org.

Music Acknowledgment | The antiphon setting of “Pueri Hebraeorum” sung during the Blessing of the Palms was composed by Franz Schubert (1797–1828), from *6 Antiphonen zum Palmsonntag*, D. 696. It was composed in 1820 and published posthumously.

Today’s Offering | All of today’s checks written to Duke University Chapel will be used to support the Chapel’s Student Engagement programs. Give online at chapel.duke.edu/offering. Send checks to: Duke University Chapel, Box 90974, Durham, NC 27708-0974.

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

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 Religious 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.

Listen-Assist Smartphone App | The Chapel is testing a new smartphone app that lets you use your own phone and earbuds to listen to services in the pews. For people who sometimes have difficulty hearing what is said during the services, this is an easy way to use your own smartphone to listen. To use the app, stop by the AV console in the sanctuary on the way into a service. It’s an easy two-step process of downloading the app and then scanning a QR code to connect to the sound system.

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.
Holy Week and Easter | The Chapel will move through the passion, death, and resurrection of Christ during the remainder of Holy Week and Easter with worship services and concerts. Learn more at chapel.duke.edu/HolyWeek.

Evensong Singers Concert | Today at 4 p.m. 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.

Stations of the Cross | During Holy Week, the Chapel is displaying the paintings of the Stations of the Cross by Margaret Adams Parker. The series of fourteen panels depicts Christ’s journey to the cross with contemporary figures rendered in muted browns. Parker focuses in these paintings on Christ’s strength in the face of suffering and the intimacy of his encounters with others on his Via Dolorosa (“Way of Suffering”).

CROP Hunger Walk | All are invited to join the Durham CROP Hunger Walk on this afternoon to raise funds to fight hunger in our community and around the world. Hundreds of Durham residents of all ages join together for this annual event. The walk starts and ends on the front lawn of Duke Chapel. Registration begins at 1:30 p.m. and, after music, greetings, and 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.

Vespers Ensemble’s Holy Saturday Concert | On Holy Saturday, the Duke Chapel Vespers Ensemble will present a concert of seven hundred years of musical settings of the medieval poem “Stabat mater dolorosa,” which portrays Mary lamenting the crucifixion of her son Jesus. The concert, free and open to the public, is on Saturday, April 8, at 4:00 p.m. in Goodson Chapel in Duke Divinity School. Dr. Philip Cave, the Chapel’s conductor-in-residence, will direct the performance of soloists and chorus, accompanied by lute, viola da gamba, viola, cello, and organ.
Student Photo Exhibition to Examine Muslim Identity | Selected by Duke Chapel as this year’s C. Eric Lincoln Fellow in Theology and Arts, graduate student Shiraz Ahmed explores how and why local Muslim men wear beards in his exhibition The Beards of Muslim Men. The exhibition, which will be on display in the Chapel beginning the week of April 9, places photographic portraits of bearded Muslim men on stylized backgrounds. The series of images can be viewed when the Chapel is open to the public daily from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., except during private ceremonies.

Spring Oratorio: Music for Troubled Times | On Sunday, April 23, at 4:00 pm, the Chapel’s choirs join forces with the Mallarmé Chamber Players to present a program of choral music for anxious times. The program will include Felix Mendelssohn’s cantata “Hear My Prayer” and the Missa in Angustiis (“Lord Nelson” Mass) by Franz Joseph Haydn, considered one of the most evocative mass settings of the Classical era. Tickets ($30 general seating; $18 for employees; free for Duke students) are available through the Duke Box Office at tickets.duke.edu.

Saturday Service Project | Volunteers are needed for gardening work at Urban Community AgriNomics (UCAN) on Saturday, April 22, from 9:00 a.m. to 12-noon. UCAN’s mission is to empower Durham families with access to resources for growing healthy food using sustainable practices in a supportive environment. The UCAN farm, established in 2016, is located approximately 20 minutes from Duke at 2080 Sawmill Creek Parkway. For more information, contact congregation@duke.edu.

Back Pew Collection | Urban Community AgriNomic’s Catawba Trail Farm welcomes donations of gardening supplies for growing healthy food using sustainable practices in a supportive environment. Needed items are all sizes of garden and work gloves, small hand tools for gardening, and bird seed/food. Donations may be placed on the back pew on Sundays, April 23 and 30.

Sunday Morning Classes | Sunday morning Christian Education classes are available for all ages on most Sundays of the year. There will be no classes on Easter morning, April 9. All classes will resume on April 16.
Ride On, Ride On in Majesty!

1. Ride on, ride on in maj es ty!
2. Ride on, ride on in maj es ty!
3. Ride on, ride on in maj es ty!
4. Ride on, ride on in maj es ty!

Hear all the tribes ho-san-na cry;
In low-ly pomp ride on to die.
The hosts of an-gels in the sky
In low-ly pomp ride on to die,

O Sav-ior meek, your road pur-sue,
O Christ, your tri-umphs now be-gin
look down with sad and won-d’ring eyes
bow your meek head to mor-tal pain,

with palms and scat-tered gar-ments strewed.
o’er cap-tive death and con-quered sin.
to see the ap-proach-ing sac-ri-fice.
then take, O Christ, your pow’r and reign!


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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 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, 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.