Today we celebrate the First Sunday in Advent. Advent is Latin for “coming.” It celebrates the most important news about the past and the most important news about the future: Christ has come, and Christ is coming back. Just as the coming of Christ as a baby in Bethlehem took everyone by surprise, although it had long been predicted, so the coming of Christ in glory will no doubt take everyone by surprise, although it too has long been predicted. At Duke Chapel, we hang a large wreath above the center aisle to represent the four Sundays of Advent and the central moment of Christmas. The First Sunday of Advent commemorates the longing of Israel for the Kingdom of God.
Gathering
Carillon

Opening Voluntary

Aria in Classic Style  
Marcel Grandjany  
(1891–1975)

Greeting and Call to Worship

Old Testament Lesson | OT page 594 in pew Bibles.

Isaiah 2:1–5

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

*Processional Hymn | UMH 108

God Hath Spoken by the Prophets  
EBENEZER

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

God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom; we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world. 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.

*All rise as able
Prayer for Illumination | In unison:

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Psalmody | Sung by the choir.

I rejoiced as they were saying to me,
   “We are going to the house of Adonai.”
Our feet were standing within your gates, O Jerusalem—Jerusalem, which is built as a city that is joined closely together, to which tribes ascend, the tribes of Yah—a testimony for Israel—to acclaim the name of Adonai.
For there they sit on thrones for judgment, thrones of David’s house.
Pray for the shalom of Jerusalem:
   May they prosper who love you!
May there be shalom within your walls, prosperity among your towers.
For the sake of my kin and my companions, I must say: “Peace be within you.”
For the sake of the house of Adonai our God, I will seek out good for you.

—trans. Ellen F. Davis

New Testament Lesson | NT page 152 in pew Bibles.

Romans 13:11–14

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

Keep Your Lamps

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
the time is drawing nigh.
Children, don’t get weary ’til your work is done.
Christian journey soon be over,
the time is drawing nigh.

—Black spiritual

*Gospel Lesson | NT page 26 in pew Bibles.

Matthew 24:36–44

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

Sermon

Forging Hope

Response
*Response Hymn | UMH 730

O Day of God, Draw Nigh

*Advent Creed

We believe in one God, who is Creator,
maker of all we see and all we don’t see.
Who is Ruler of the universe: Source of all creation!

We believe in one God, who is Jesus Christ,
God from God, Light from Light, true God and true human.
He is one with the Creator;
the Word made flesh, our Messiah: Savior of all creation!
We believe in one God, who is Holy Spirit,
Breath of God moving among us;
Who is one with the Creator; one with the Christ;
our Comforter and our Guide: Mentor of all creation!

—Lisa Frenz

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 | Please sign and pass the attendance pads located in the pew at the center aisle.

Nun komm der Heiden Heiland, BWV 659 Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

*Doxology

Praise to God the Father sing, praise to God the Son, our King,
praise to God the Spirit be ever and eternally.

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 hymn printed at the end of worship guide.

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You \( \text{WARUM SOLL ICH} \)

Closing Voluntary

Andante (Violin Sonata No. 2) \( \text{J. S. Bach} \)

Carillon

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

TODAY IN WORSHIP

Presiding Ministers
Carol Gregg .......................... \textit{Pastor, Congregation at Duke Chapel}
Bruce Puckett .......................... \textit{Assistant Dean, Duke University Chapel}

Preacher
Rhonda Parker .............. \textit{Senior Director of Ministerial Formation and Student Life, Duke Divinity School; Trinity ’91, Divinity ’06}
Lectors
Max Miller.................................................................................. Divinity ’24
Rosemary Nye McNish......................................................... Member, Congregation at Duke Chapel

Musicians
Schola Cantorum ................................................................. Choir
Zebulon Highben.............................................................. Director of Chapel Music, Duke University Chapel
Chad Fothergill................................................................. Interim Chapel Organist, Duke University Chapel
Daniel Jacky................................................................. Organ Scholar, Duke University Chapel
Melody Tzang................................................................................ Harp
Mitchell Eithun................................................................. Chapel Carillonneur, Duke University Chapel

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

Today’s Guest Preacher | The Rev. Rhonda Parker serves Duke Divinity School
as the senior director of ministerial formation and student life. Her work focuses on
the intersection of human, spiritual, and vocational formation with an emphasis on
creation care. Raised in Wilmington, North Carolina, Rev. Parker studied sociology at
Duke University, theology at Duke Divinity School, and higher education leadership at
Appalachian State University. Prior to joining Duke Divinity, she served in a wide variety
of educational contexts including government, church, and nonprofit organizations. She
has visited, taught, and preached in many settings around the world where Duke Divinity
students serve, and she especially enjoys designing and teaching about environmental
stewardship and practices of faith. She is an ordained elder in the North Carolina Annual
Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Today’s Offering | All of today’s cash offerings and checks written to Duke University
Chapel will support human service organizations in the greater Durham area. Send
checks to: Duke University Chapel, Box 90974, Durham, NC 27708-0974. You are
invited to give online at chapel.duke.edu/offering.

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

Liturgical Acknowledgments | Advent Creed: Lisa Frenz, from Word of God Come Be
With Us: An Advent Order for Holy Communion; © Lisa Frenz; all Rights Reserved; used
with permission. Doxology: NUN KOMM DER HEIDEN HEILAND, attr. Johann
Walter (1496–1570), Geistliche Gesangbüchlein, 1524. Psalm 122: Translation by Ellen F.
Davis, © 2022; Used with permission.
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 Duke School of Nursing.

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.

Attendance Register | This morning worshipers are invited to indicate their presence using the attendance register located on the pews at the center aisle. The purpose of this is to help the Chapel and Congregation better understand who worships with us on Sunday mornings. In addition, this registration will allow those who share a pew to greet each other by name.

Choral Evensong This Sunday | Today at 4:00 p.m., the Chapel will hold a service of Choral Evensong, which will include special music for the First Sunday in Advent. Following the Book of Common Prayer, the liturgy draws upon stirring choral and organ music of the English cathedral tradition, led by the Chapel’s Evensong Singers.

Young Adult Gathering | University graduate students, other young adults, and their partners are invited to dinner and Bible study tomorrow evening, November 28, at 6:30 p.m. in the kitchen located in the lower level of the Chapel. Come for a light supper and good conversation. This fall, the group is exploring the book of Exodus. Please contact laura.wilson@duke.edu for additional information.
**Duke Chorale Christmas Concert** | The Duke Chorale, directed by Allan Friedman, will present holiday music sung by the Chorale in English and Spanish as well as carols for all to sing. There will also be stories and treats for children. This family holiday event this Tuesday, November 29, at 7:00 p.m. in Duke Chapel is a long-standing tradition for many area residents. The cost of admission is one non-perishable food item for Urban Ministries of Durham.

**Guest Preacher Next Sunday** | During our 11:00 a.m. service next Sunday, we will welcome as our guest preacher Bishop William Willimon, a former dean of Duke Chapel and current professor of the practice of Christian ministry at Duke Divinity School. After serving as dean of the Chapel for twenty years, he was the bishop of the North Alabama Conference from 2004 to 2012. Bishop Willimon is the author of over seventy books; more than a million copies of them have been sold. His sermon next Sunday will be related to his recent book *Listeners Dare: Hearing God in the Sermon*.

**Advent Lessons and Carols Dec. 8** | This year, the Chapel’s Service of Advent Lessons and Carols will be on Thursday, December 8, at 7:00 p.m. The Chapel’s Vespers Ensemble leads the music for the service.

**Christmas Open House Dec. 14** | The annual “Duke Chapel by Candlelight: Christmas Open House” will be on Wednesday, December 14, from 12-noon to 2:00 p.m. It’s a chance to see the splendor of the Chapel decorated for the Christmas season. Take in the sights, and listen to music for Advent and Christmas! Admission is free, and free parking is available for the event in the Bryan Center Garage.

**Christmas Eve Services** | The Chapel will hold Christmas Eve services at 2:00, 5:00, 8:00, and 11:00 p.m. We will also have a Christmas Day service at 11:00 a.m. For details, see [chapel.duke.edu/christmas](http://chapel.duke.edu/christmas).
Growing Thru Grief | The holiday season can be particularly difficult for those who have recently lost a loved one. Growing Thru Grief offers small group support to those who are grieving. The meetings are held on Tuesdays from 4:30–6:00 p.m., with registration beginning at 4:15 p.m. Meetings are held at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, 1200 West Cornwallis in Durham. For more details, please contact admin@growingthrugrief.org. Growing Thru Grief is supported by a coalition of area congregations, including the Congregation at Duke Chapel.

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. New participants are welcome at any time. Please contact congregation@duke.edu for additional information.

   Wee Praise: Music and movement for children ages 0–3 with parents or caregivers in person in room 0011 Westbrook.
   Godly Play: Spiritual formation for children ages 4 through 5th grade in person in room 0050 Langford.
   Youth Bible Study: Youth in 6th–12th grades will explore Exodus in person in room 0015 Westbrook.
   Adult Bible Study: Adults will explore the book of Genesis in room 0013 Westbrook and over Zoom.
O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

1. O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you a-right?
2. I lay in fetters, groaning; you came to set me free.
3. Love caused your in-car-na-tion; love brought you down to me.
4. Re-joice, then, you sad-heart-ed, who sit in deep-est gloom,

Your peo-ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart’s de-light!
I stood, my shame be-moan-ing; you came to hon-or me.
Your thirst for my sal-va-tion pro-cured my lib-er-ty.
who mourn your joys de-part-ed and trem-ble at your doom.

Oh, kin-dle, Lord most ho-ly, your lamp with-in my breast
A glo-rious crown you give me, a trea-sure safe on high
Oh, love be-yond all tell-ing, that led you to em-brace
All hail the Lord’s ap-pear-ing! O glo-rious Sun, now come,

to do in spir-it low-ly all that may please you best.
that will not fail or leave me as earth-ly rich-es fly.
in love, all love ex-cel-ling, our lost and fall-en race.
send forth your beams so cheer-ing and guide us safe-ly home.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676; tr. composite.
Reprinted from Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2006), Hymn 241.
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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. 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.

Duke University Chapel

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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.

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