Today we celebrate the first Sunday of 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. The lesson from Isaiah speaks to the desire for God to come down and make God’s presence known. Mark’s Gospel paints a picture of chaos and calamity as the coming day of the Lord approaches. Yet in the midst of this, Mark encourages those who are watching for the coming of the Son of Man to stay alert and awake.
Gathering
Carillon

Opening Voluntary

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 659, 660
Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685–1750)

Greeting and Call to Worship

*Opening Hymn | See hymns at the back of the worship guide.

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

*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.

*Greeting of 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

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

*All rise as able
Psalm 80:1–7

Shepherd of Israel, listen; lead Joseph as a flock.
You are enthroned upon the cherubim.
Shine on Ephraim, on Benjamin, Manasseh.
Rouse yourself in your power, and come to rescue us.
God, restore us and help us, and let your face shine brightly.
Lord of the armies of earth and sky,
how long will you fume while your people pray?
Will you feed us tears for bread,
and make us drink our cups of tears?
You make us fight with our neighbors, and our foes make fun of us.
God of heaven and earth, restore us;
let your face shine brightly and help us.

New Testament Lesson

1 Corinthians 1:3–9

*Gradual Hymn | Stanzas 1–2. See hymns at the back of the worship guide.

Come Now, O Prince of Peace

*Gospel Lesson

Mark 13:24–37

*Gradual Hymn | Stanzas 3–4. See hymns at the back of the worship guide.

Come Now, O Prince of Peace

Sermon

Hope in the Midst of Chaos
**Response**

**Choral Anthem (Virtual)**

Be Still, My Soul

Be still, my soul, for God is near;
The Great High Priest is with thee now;
The Lord of Life Himself is here,
Before whose face the angels bow.

To make thy heart His lowly throne
Thy Saviour God in love draws nigh.
He gives Himself unto His own,
For whom He once came down to die.

I come, O Lord, for Thou dost call
To blend my pleading prayer with Thine:
To Thee I give myself, my all,
And feed on Thee, and make Thee mine. Amen

*Text: W. D. Maclagan (1826–1910)*

**Affirmation of Faith**

We trust the voice that cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

—Adapted from Isaiah 40:3–5

**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

O Sapientia

plainsong; organ setting by Nico Muhly

O Sapientia, quae ex ore Altissimi prodiisti,
atingens a fine usque ad finem, fortiter suaviterque disponens omnia:
veni ad docendum nos viam prudentiae.

O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High,
reaching from one end to the other, mightily and sweetly ordering all things:
Come and teach us the way of prudence.

*Doxology

VENI EMMANUEL

Thanksgiving

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

*The Lord’s Prayer

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 hymns at the back of the worship guide.

Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying

WACHET AUF

Closing Voluntary

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 661

J. S. Bach
FREE VIRTUAL TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR ONLINE ‘MESSIAH’ CONCERT | Virtual tickets to this year’s online Messiah concert—which will livestream on Sunday, December 6, at 4:00 p.m.—are now available at no cost through the Duke Box Office website. This online presentation of Messiah will blend live performances of arias and recitatives with virtual, sing-along choruses created from recordings from last year’s concerts. The program will include all of Part I—the Christmas portion—plus the “Hallelujah” chorus. Click here to claim your virtual ticket.

RECORDING OF ONLINE STAFF MEMORIAL SERVICE | Earlier this month, Chapel and Duke University Hospital ministers and musicians led an online service of remembrance for recent and former faculty and staff members who have died during the last year. This half-hour service included music, candle lighting, and reading the names of those who have died. A recording of the service is available here.

ADVENT BOOK GROUP STARTS WEDNESDAY | Two book groups will explore the biblical texts surrounding the birth of Jesus as they read and discuss Light of the World by Amy-Jill Levine. The book groups will meet on Wednesdays December 2, 9, 16, and 23 at 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. by Zoom. Please contact congregation@duke.edu for Zoom links.
VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS FELLOWSHIP | Please plan to join others online to share some Christmas cheer on Sunday, December 13 at 5:00 p.m. Please watch for further details and contact congregation@duke.edu for the Zoom link.

PRACTICING TRUST | The Congregation is sponsoring a half-day New Year’s retreat on the topic of “Practicing Trust in Time of Transition” on Saturday, January 23 from 9:00 a.m. to 12-noon. Author and teacher Dr. Marilyn McEntyre will lead the retreat. Please register online or contact congregation@duke.edu for more information.

MIDWEEK PRAYER | Please join us for a brief service of prayer on Wednesdays at 12-noon through December 16. To participate in this prayer time, please register for the Zoom call here.

CONFIRMATION CLASS | The Congregation will host a confirmation class for all youth in the 7th grade and older on Sunday mornings from 9:45-10:45 a.m., starting January 3. This class will help students deepen their response to the God’s invitation to be part of the body of Christ. Please indicate plans to attend this class by December 1 by contacting Matt Wright at matthew.r.wright@duke.edu

SIGN UP FOR EMAIL UPDATES | Receive regular email updates about Chapel services, concerts, and news by signing up here: chapel.duke.edu/email.

CARILLON LIVESTREAM | You are invited to participate virtually in an ongoing campus tradition. Listen live online to the playing of the Duke Chapel carillon bells weekdays at 5:00 p.m. on the Duke Chapel Facebook page at facebook.com/dukechapel.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SCHEDULE | Online and video classes for all ages are offered Sunday mornings from 9:45–10:45 a.m. New participants are always welcome. Please see the Congregation’s eNews for links or contact the Congregation office at congregation@duke.edu. Classes are:

- Wee Praise – Music and movement for children ages 0–3 with parents or caregivers
- Godly Play – Spiritual formation for children ages 4 through 5th grade
- Youth Bible Study – A study of Ezekiel-Malachi for students in 6th–12th grades
- Adult Forum – On Sunday, December 6 – Nathaniel Metz, Duke Divinity Student and Intern for the Congregation at Duke University Chapel, "Christ! The Terror from Beyond Space! Dietrich Bonhoeffer on Christ as a Stumbling Block"
Opening Hymn

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

1. Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear;
2. The watch-ers on the moun-tain pro-claim the bride-groom near;
3. The saints, who here in pa-tience their cross and suf-ferings bore,
4. Our hope and ex-pec-ta-tion, O Je-sus, now ap-pear;

The evening is ad-ven-cing, and dark-er night is near,
Go forth as he ap-proach-es with al-le-lu-ias clear.
Shall live and reign for-ev-er when sor-row is no more.
Arise, O Sun so longed for, o’er this be-night-ed sphere.

The bride-groom is ar-is-ing and soon is draw-ing nigh.
The mar-rriage feast is wait-ing; the gates wide o-pen stand.
A-round the throne of glo-ry the Lamb they shall be-hold;
With hearts and hands up-lift-ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

Up, pray and watch and wrest-le; at mid-night comes the cry.
A-rise, O heirs of glo-ry; the bride-groom is at hand.
in tri-umph cast be-fore him their di-a-dem of gold.
the day of earth’s re-demp-tion that sets your peo-ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907
Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune
Gradual Hymn

Come Now, O Prince of Peace

O sosō o sosō, pyong-hwa-ŭi - im-gŭm
1 Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one body.
2 Come now, O God of love, make us one body.
3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Savior.
4 Come, Hope of unity, make us one body.

 uri-ga han-mom i-ru-ge ha-sosō.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.

Text: Geonyong Lee, b. 1947; tr. Marion Pope
Music: OSOSO, Geonyong Lee, b. 1947
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Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying

1 Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing, the watch-men
2 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing, and all her
3 Glo - ri - a! Let heav'n a - dore you! Let saints and
4 on the heights are cry - ing; a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, a - rise!
5 heart with joy is spring - ing. She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.
6 an - gels sing be - fore you, with harp and cym - bal's clear - est tone.
7 Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es, and at the thrill - ing cry re -
8 Her dear friend comes down all glo - ri - ous, the strong in grace, in truth vic -
9 Gates of pearl, twelve por - tals gleam - ing, lead us to bliss be - yond all
10 joic - es: "Come forth, you maid - ens! Night is past. The bride - groom comes! A - wake!
11 to - rious: her star is ris'n, her light is come. Now come, O Bless - ed One,
12 dream - ing, with an - gel choirs a - round your throne. No eye has caught the light,
13 Your lamps with glad - ness take!" Al - le - lu - ia! Rise and pre -
14 Lord Je - sus, God's own Son. Sing hosan - na! Oh, hear the
15 ear the thun - d'ring might of such glo - ry. There we will
16 pare the feast to share; go meet the bride - groom who draws near.
17 call! Come one, come all, and fol - low to the ban - quet hall.
18 go: what joy we'll know! There sweet de - light will ev - er flow.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608; tr. composite.
Music: WACHET AUF, Philipp Nicolai.