



# Duke UNIVERSITY CHAPEL

BRIDGING FAITH & LEARNING

## SERVICE OF WORSHIP

First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, November 30, 2025, 11:00 a.m.



Peter Koenig, *Swords into Ploughshares*, 20th c.

Today, we celebrate the First Sunday of Advent, which 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 will come again. This morning’s scripture readings recognize this future of Christ’s coming. The reading from Isaiah prophesies a coming peace, and the readings from Romans and Matthew speak of a coming salvation.

# Gathering

## Carillon

### Prelude

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645

Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685–1750)

### Introit

Savior of the Nations, Come

Nancy M. Raabe

Savior of the nations, come;  
virgin's son, make here your home.  
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,  
God has chosen such a birth.

Not by human flesh and blood,  
but the mystic Breath of God,  
was the Word of God made flesh,  
fruit of woman, blossom fresh.

From God's heart the Savior speeds,  
back to God his pathway leads  
out to vanquish death's command,  
back to reign at God's right hand.

—*Ambrose of Milan; Martin Luther*

### Greeting and Call to Worship

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

The Advent of Our God

DUX DELUBRUM

**\*All rise as able**

**\*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.**

## Proclamation

**Prayer for Illumination** | In unison:

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

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.**

## Anthem

On That Day (*The Vision of Isaiah*)

Craig DeAlmeida

On that day, the mountain of the Lord's house  
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,  
and shall be raised above the hills;  
all the nations shall stream to it.

They shall beat their swords into plowshares,  
and their spears into pruning hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war anymore.

—*Isaiah 2:1, 4b*

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.**

\*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

Advent Anticipations

Response

\*Response Hymn | UMH 196

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

\*Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth:**

**And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

### 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

Salvation Is Nearer

Virgil T. Ford  
(1922–2005)

Salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.

Sing and rejoice; I come, says the Lord.  
I come, I come and will dwell in the midst of you.

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all flesh shall see it.

—Romans 13:11b; Zechariah 2:10; Isaiah 40:5

### \*Doxology

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND



Praise to God the Fa - ther sing, praise to God the Son, our King,  
praise to God the Spir-it be ev - er and e - ter - nal - ly.

# 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

**\*Sending Hymn** | UMH 213

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

TRURO

### Postlude

Wachet Auf

Emma Lou Diemer  
(1927–2024)

### 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.

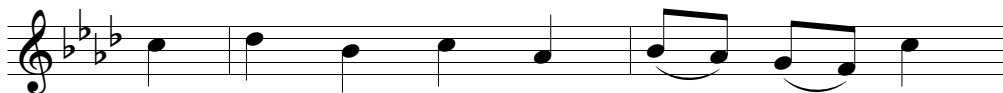
# GATHERING HYMN | The Advent of Our God



1. The ad - vent of our God  
2. The ev - er - last - ing Son  
3. O Zi - on's daugh - ter, rise  
4. As judge, on clouds of light,  
5. Then e - vil flees a - way  
6. All glo - ry to the Son,



we greet with song and prayer.  
in - car - nate stoops to be  
to meet your low - ly king,  
he soon will come a - gain  
be - fore the ris - ing dawn.  
who comes to make us free,



We wait the com - ing reign of Christ,  
our ser - vant, in a ser - vant's form  
nor let your faith - less heart de - spise  
and all his scat - tered saints u - nite  
The sin - ful self is cast a - side,  
with Fa - ther, Spir - it, ev - er One



and ea - ger - ly pre - pare.  
to set all peo - ple free.  
the peace he comes to bring.  
with him on high to reign.  
the new self is put on.  
through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: Charles Coffin (1676–1749);  
trans. John Chandler (1806–1876); adapt. Zebulon M. Highben  
Music: Zebulon M. Highben

DUX DELUBRUM  
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# TODAY IN WORSHIP

## Presiding Ministers

Ryan Wilson ..... *Senior Pastor, Congregation at Duke Chapel*  
Daniel Parham ..... *Congregation Divinity School Intern; Divinity '27*

## Preacher

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

## Lectors

Tamela Davis..... *Member, Congregation at Duke Chapel*  
Gregory Beck..... *Member, Congregation at Duke Chapel*

## Musicians

Duke Chapel Schola Cantorum..... *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*  
Mitchell Eithun ..... *Chapel Carillonneur, Duke University Chapel*  
Alissa Roca ..... *Soloist*  
Gwen Hyland ..... *Soloist*

## Head Usher

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

**Advent Flowers** | The flowers for the worship service today and the Advent wreath are given to the glory of God and made possible by the Elizabeth Lucina Gotham Memorial Chapel Endowment, established by Dr. and Mrs. James H. Semans in loving memory of Elizabeth Gotham.

**Liturgical Acknowledgments | Prayer for Illumination.** Adapted from *Common Worship: Collects and Post Communions*, © 2000, The Archbishops’ Council, Church House Publishing.  
**Praise to God the Father Sing.** Text: traditional Doxology. Music, NUN KOMM DER HEIDEN HEILAND: attr. Johann Walter (1496–1570), *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein* (1524).



**Today's Offering** | All of today's cash offerings and checks written to Duke University Chapel will be used to support mission trips sent out from the Chapel. You are invited to give online at [chapel.duke.edu/offering](https://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](https://congregation.chapel.duke.edu) and access the giving link. Send checks to: Duke University Chapel, Box 90974, Durham, NC 27708-0974.

## ACCESSIBILITY

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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

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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

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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

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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.



[chapel.duke.edu](http://chapel.duke.edu)  
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*The Congregation  
at Duke Chapel*

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