A new world is coming. The scripture lessons for today carry a theme of promise and hope. Isaiah speaks tender words of comfort along with hope and promise that the Israelites’ time of suffering is over, and a new day is coming. Every valley shall be lifted up. The second letter to Peter emphasizes God’s enduring patience and his earnest desire that all come to repentance. Mark’s gospel focuses on John the Baptist, who was sent to prepare the way for Jesus. In Advent, we remember that all our waiting, yearning, and hoping for God is met by God’s waiting, yearning, and hoping for us.
The congregation is asked to remain silent during the prelude as a time of prayer and meditation. The Chapel welcomes families with children. If at any time during the service your child needs a place for active play, please know there is a nursery in the Chapel basement.

GATHERING

CARILLON

HANDBELL PRELUDE

A Ringing Christmas                        arr. Linda McKechnie  
UKRAINIAN CAROL and NOEL NOUVELET  
(b. 1941)

In the Bleak Midwinter                       arr. Cathy Moklebust  
CRANHAM                                    
(b. 1958)

When in Our Music God Is Glorified           arr. Hart Morris  
ENGLERBERG                                  
(b. 1946)

Festal                                       arr. Anna Laura Page  
cwm rhondda                                 
(b. 1943)

All Creatures of Our God and King       arr. Václav Nelhýbel  
lasst uns erfreuen                      
(1919-1996)

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*OPENING PROCESSION: HYMN 214
Savior of the Nations, Come       NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

*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.)
PROCLAMATION

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)
Almighty God, as your word is proclaimed in our midst, 
purify our hearts and minds, so that when your Son Jesus 
Christ comes again as judge and savior, we may be ready 
to receive him, who is our Lord and our God. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Isaiah 40:1–11 (OT page 627 in the pew Bible)
Lector: This is the word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM
Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
JEFFERSON

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON—2 Peter 3:8–15a (NT page 224)
Lector: This is the word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

*GRADUAL HYMN (stanza 1)
Prepare the Way, O Zion
HAF TRÖNE LAMPA FÄRDIG

(All turn to face the Gospel Procession.)

1. Pre-paring the way, O Zi-on, your Christ is draw-ing near!_Let ev-ery hill and val-ley
2. He brings God’s rule, O Zi-on; he comes from heav-en a bove._His rule is peace and free-dom,
3. Fling wide your gates, O Zi-on; your Sa-vior’s rule _em brace._His ti-dings of sal-va-tion

Oh, blest is Christ that, came__ in God’s most ho-ly name__

*GOSPEL LESSON—Mark 1:1–8 (NT pages 32–33)
Lector: This is the word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

*GRADUAL HYMN (stanzas 2–3)
Prepare the Way, O Zion
HAF TRÖNE LAMPA FÄRDIG

SERMON—Can We Begin Again?

RESPONSE

*THE 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: “Hear our prayer.”)
This morning we give thanks for the Duke Dance program—for the ways it trains students in artistic expression and communication incorporating mind, body, and spirit, and for the ways that dance, rhythm, and movement help us to understand and celebrate life.

In Durham we remember the elderly, those who live with and care for them, and especially those struggling in the face of illness, loneliness, and loss.

**Handbell Offertory**
Advent Carol
VENI EMMANUEL

(arr. Hal H. Hopson
(b. 1933)

*DOXOLOGY*  
VENI EMMANUEL

O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai’s height
O come, thou branch of Jesse’s tree, free them from Satan’s tyranny

in an-cient times didst give the law, in cloud, and ma-jes-ty and awe.
that trust thy might-y power to save, and give them vic-tory o’er the grave.

Re-joice! Re-joice! Em-man-u-el shall come to thee, O Is-ra-el!

**Thanksgiving**

*Prayer of Thanksgiving*

*The Lord’s Prayer (number 895 in the hymnal, in unison)*

**Sending Forth**

*Benediction*
Christmas Eve Services at Duke Chapel

Christmas Eve 2:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve Service for Children
This family-friendly worship service includes music and storytellers to announce the birth of Christ. The service lasts approximately 40 minutes.

Christmas Eve 4:00 p.m.
Service of Carols and Holy Communion
This afternoon service includes Christmas carols and Holy Communion, the Durham Children’s Choir, and a sermon from Dean Luke Powery.

Christmas Eve 6:00 p.m.
Service of Worship
This evening service includes Christmas carols, the Amalgam brass ensemble, and a sermon from Dean Luke Powery.

Christmas Eve 11:00 p.m.
Service of Lessons and Carols
Traditional Lessons and Carols service with a large community choir, scripture, and choral music.
Prelude begins at 10:30.

A maximum of 1600 persons will be admitted to each service.
Many of the regular weekly services are finished until the spring semester.

**Communion and Healing** - The Tuesday service will resume on January 13.

**Mid-Week Prayer** - The final service of the semester is Wednesday at noon in the Memorial Chapel. Mid-Week prayer will resume on January 7.

**Choral Vespers** - The Vespers service will resume on January 15.

**Chapel Announcements**

**Today’s Flowers**—The wreaths on both sides of the front entrance of the Chapel, the Advent Wreath, and the red poinsettias that adorn the balustrade are made possible by the Elizabeth Lucina Gotham Memorial Endowment, established by Dr. and Mrs. James H. Semans in loving memory of Elizabeth Gotham.

**Today’s Offering**—All of today’s cash offerings and undesignated checks will be used for the Chapel Development Fund. The Chapel’s current focus is to upgrade the Chapel cameras and video capabilities to digital and high definition in order to better serve the thousands of worshippers locally, in Duke Hospital, and around the globe who tune in weekly.

**About Today’s Guest Musicians**—Today marks the 41st year that the Bell Ringers of First Baptist Church in Henderson, NC, have played for a worship service in Duke Chapel. An important part of the music ministry of First Baptist Church, they have also given concerts and taken part in major handbell festivals across the US. The seventh- through twelfth-graders who make up the group have many years of experience and training in handbell ringing. Their bell collection is among the largest collections in the country.

**Participating in Worship**—If you would like to participate in Chapel worship over the holidays, the Chapel would welcome any who are interested in reading scripture, serving communion, ushering, or carrying the cross and candles in worship. Training is provided. Please contact director of worship, the Rev. Meghan Benson, at meghan.benson@duke.edu if you are interested.

**Sermons Available**—Copies of today’s sermon are available in the communication stands at either side of the narthex, just inside the front doors of the Chapel. A downloadable PDF, podcast, and webcast of sermons each week are available on the Chapel’s website, www.chapel.duke.edu.

**Messiah**

The Duke Chapel Choir, soloists, and orchestra will perform Handel’s *Messiah* this afternoon at 3:00 p.m., in Duke Chapel. Tickets are $20 for adults, $5 for non-Duke students, and free for the first 300 Duke students. Tickets are available at the Duke Box Office by calling 684-4444 or at www.tickets.duke.edu
The following Congregation opportunities are open to all.

Sunday Education—All Sunday morning classes meet in the lowest level of Duke Divinity School from 9:45–10:45 a.m. New participants are welcome at any time. Classes include:

- **Wee Praise** for infants through children age 3 with parents or caregivers in 0014 Westbrook
- **Godly Play** for 4-year olds through 5th graders in 0050 Langford
- **Youth Sunday School** for youth in 6th–12th grades in 0013 Westbrook
- **Adult Bible Study** focused on the theme of worship in 0011 Westbrook
- **Adult Forum**: Next Sunday, December 14, The Rev. Dr. Fred Westbrook, Associate for Communications and IT for the Congregation, will present an “Introduction to Christian Mystics” in 0012 Westbrook.

Zoe Gift Market—The ZOE alternative gift market, staffed by the Congregation youth, will be offered after worship today and December 14 on the Chapel lawn. Serving children in several African countries, ZOE’s unique empowerment program brings orphans and vulnerable children from extreme poverty to self-reliance in just three years. At the gift market, you may honor your loved ones with a donation to ZOE. For more information, contact Brad Troxell at brad.troxell@duke.edu.

Young Adult Christmas Potluck—Young adults and their families are invited to attend a Christmas potluck lunch, next Sunday, December 14, after worship at the home of Bruce and Renee Puckett. A main dish of honey baked ham will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert for ten to share. For questions, please contact Brad Troxell at brad.troxell@duke.edu.

Saturday Service Project—Volunteers are needed on Saturday, December 20, from 2:00–4:00 p.m. to wrap gifts and organize a coat closet in preparation for Antioch Baptist Church’s Christmas “Feeding our Friends” program. The program welcomes 300 people for a Christmas day celebration which provides a meal, coat, and gift to guests. Volunteers should meet at Antioch Baptist Church, 1415 Holloway St., Durham. For more detailed information, please contact the Congregation office at 919-684-3917.

Winter Break Service Project—College-aged students are invited to spend some of their winter break in service to others. On Monday, December 22, from 9:00 a.m. to noon, volunteers will assist the Durham Crisis Response Center with work such as painting, cleaning, providing new linens, moving furniture, and some yard work. When the work is done, the group will have lunch together in downtown Durham. Please email Brad Troxell for details at brad.troxell@duke.edu.
FOR WORSHIPERS & VISITORS
† Prayer requests may be placed in the prayer box located by the Memorial Chapel.
† For a tour of Duke Chapel, meet today’s docent near the front steps of the Chapel following the service.
† Hearing assist units and a Braille hymnal are available at the attendant’s desk at the entry way of the Chapel. See the Chapel attendant if you would like to use one of our large-print Bibles or hymnals for the worship service this morning.

FOR FAMILIES & CHILDREN
† Children 4 and younger are welcome to visit the nursery (capacity limited), located in the Chapel basement, beginning at 10:50 a.m. each week. Pagers are available for parents to keep with them during worship. Parents needing a place to feed, quiet, or change infants are also welcome.
† Activity Bags are available at the rear of the Chapel for children 5 or younger. Please return the bags at the end of the service. Children’s bulletins are available from the ushers.

We invite you to consider joining the Congregation at Duke Chapel. The Congregation is an interdenominational church with a variety of vibrant ministries, including discipleship and spiritual formation (for children, youth, and adults), mission and outreach, and pastoral care. If you would like to receive the weekly eNews from the Congregation or have any questions, please email congregation@duke.edu or call 919-684-3917.

STAFF OF DUKE UNIVERSITY CHAPEL

The Rev. Dr. Luke Powery
Dean of the Chapel

Ministry
Dr. Christy Lohr Sapp
The Rev. Meghan Benson
Dr. Adam Hollowell
The Rev. Bruce Puckett
Mr. Joshua Lazard
Ms. Gerly Ace

Music
Dr. Rodney Wynkoop
Dr. Robert Parkins
Mr. Christopher Jacobson
Dr. Brian Schmidt
Mr. John Santoiaanni
Mr. J. Samuel Hammond
Mr. Michael Lyle

Administration
Ms. Beth Gettys Sturkey
Ms. Joni Harris
Ms. Adrienne Koch
Mr. James Todd
Ms. Sara Clark
Ms. Lisa Moore
Mr. Andrew Klumpp
Ms. Lucy Hart Peaden Taylor
Mr. Oscar Dantzler and Ms. Beverly Jordan

Staff of the Congregation at Duke University Chapel
The Rev. Dr. Carol Gregg
Pastor
The Rev. Brad Troxell
Associate Pastor
Ms. Phyllis Snyder
Children’s Pastor
Mr. Nelson Strother
Administrative Assistant