In the third week of Advent, God’s promises of new life echo through the scriptures. In Isaiah, a new age is dawning—an age characterized by fertility of the land, the return of the exiles, and healing and safety for those who obey God. In the gospel of Luke, Mary speaks words of praise (often referred to as the *Magnificat*) in response to her newly revealed pregnancy, marveling at the mysterious works of God.
The congregation is asked to remain silent during the prelude as a time of prayer and meditation.

GATHERING

CARILLON

ORGAN PRELUDE
  Improvisation on woodlands

CHORAL INTROIT
  Conditor alme siderum
  Plainchant

Conditor alme siderum, aeterna lux credentium,
Christe redemptor omnium, exaudi preces supplicum.

Creator of the stars of night, thy people’s everlasting light,
Christ, Redeemer of us all, and hear thy servants when they call.

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 200
  Tell Out My Soul
  woodlands

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND WORDS OF ASSURANCE (in unison)
  Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways to the glory of your name. Amen.

The minister speaks words of assurance.

*PEACE
  (All exchange signs and words of God's peace.)

PROCLAMATION

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)
  God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: prepare us now as we hear your word; give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Isaiah 35:1-10 (OT page 623 in the pew Bible)
  Lector: This is the word of the Lord.
  People: Thanks be to God.
*GRADUAL HYMN (see hymn insert, stanza 1)  
Comfort, Comfort Now My People  
(All turn to face the Gospel Procession.)  

*GOSPEL LESSON—Luke 1:46-55 (NT pages 53-54)  
Lector: This is the word of the Lord.  
People: Thanks be to God.  

*GRADUAL HYMN (stanzas 2-3)  
Comfort, Comfort Now My People  

SERMON—The Surprise of Gladness  

RESPONSE  

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.”)  

OFFERTORY ANTHEM  
The Truth from Above  
Traditional English Carol  
arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)  

This is the truth sent from above,  
The truth of God, the God of love;  
Therefore don’t turn me from your door,  
But hearken all, both rich and poor.  

The first thing which I do relate  
Is that God did man create;  
The next thing which to you I tell,  
Woman was made with man to dwell.  

Thus we were heirs to endless woes,  
Till God the Lord did interpose,  
And so a promise soon did run  
That he would redeem us by his Son.  

And at that season of the year  
Our blest Redeemer did appear,  
He here did live, and here did preach,  
And many thousands he did teach.  

Thus He in love to us behaved,  
To show us how we must be saved;  
And if you want to know the way,  
Be pleased to hear what he did say.
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.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

This morning we give thanks for Duke’s Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) We celebrate its dedication to serving the Duke student community through its deep care for students struggling with various forms of brokenness. CAPS helps students find wholeness and healing in mind, body, and spirit. The ushers bring a CAPS brochure to the altar.

In Durham, we remember those who suffer from depression, loneliness, or quiet desperation. The ushers brings forward a personal journal.

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING
(Musical Setting A, found on page 17 in the hymnal)

*THE LORD’S PRAYER (number 895 in the hymnal, in unison)

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

All those who have become members of Christ’s body through baptism and seek to be united with God and at peace with their neighbors are invited to receive communion. Wine is used for communion. If you would prefer to receive grape juice, it is available upon request at the communion station near the main entrance of the Chapel, on the pulpit side. If you have a gluten allergy, those serving communion nearest to the Memorial Chapel will be ready to serve you gluten-free wafers and wine on request. You may also come forward to receive a blessing, indicated by crossing your arms over your chest.

If you would like to receive individual anointing with oil and prayers for healing, ministers will be in the Memorial Chapel during communion.

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION

HYMN 216 (sung by all)
Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming

COMMUNION ANTHEM

Gabriel’s Message

Basque Carol
arr. David Willcocks
(b. 1919)

The angel Gabriel from Heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
“All hail,” said he, “thou lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favored lady,” Gloria!

“For known a blessed mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honor thee,
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
Most highly favored lady,” Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
“To me be as it pleaseth God,” she said,
“My soul shall laud and magnify his holy Name,”
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
Most highly favored lady. Gloria!

*Prayer After Communion

Sending Forth

*Benediction

*Recessional Hymn 203
Hail to the Lord’s Anointed

*Choral Dismissal
Amen

Postlude
Improvisation on Ellacombe

Carillon

*All who are able may stand.

Ministry of Worship

Presiding Ministers
The Rev. Bruce Puckett
The Rev. Dr. Carol Gregg

Preacher
The Rev. Dr. Luke Powery

Lectors
Ms. Sarah Gauger
Member, Congregation at Duke Chapel
Mr. Jim Wisner
Member, Congregation at Duke Chapel

Organist
Dr. David Arcus

Guest Choir
Members of the Duke Vespers Ensemble

Conductor
Dr. Brian Schmidt

Ministers of Anointing
The Rev. Dr. Carol Gregg
The Rev. Meghan Feldmeyer
The Rev. Brad Troxell

Head Ushers
Dr. James Ferguson and Mr. Rick Wilfong
**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 to support the Chapel’s PathWays program, which offers students opportunities to discern God’s call for their lives through study, counsel, service, and community.

**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 website, [www.chapel.duke.edu](http://www.chapel.duke.edu).

**CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE**—The annual “Chapel by Candlelight” open house will be held on Thursday, December 19, from noon to 2:00 p.m. This free event features holiday music on three Chapel organs and the carillon, plus carols sung by members of the Duke Vespers Ensemble. Free Christmas cookies and hot cider will be served on the front lawn. All are welcome to come relax, listen to the music, and see the Chapel dressed in the splendor of the holidays.

**COMMUNITY CHOIR AT THE 11:00 P.M. CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**—All are invited to come and sing in the community choir for the 11:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols service on Christmas Eve. There is a rehearsal at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, December 23, and a required rehearsal at 9:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve. The choir will sing six anthems, including the Hallelujah Chorus from *Messiah*.

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**Christmas Eve Services at Duke Chapel**

**Christmas Eve 2:00 p.m.**  
**Christmas Eve Service for Children**  
*Join the children of the Congregation for this participatory worship service including drama and music in which children and storytellers announce the birth of Christ.*

**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,
The following Congregation opportunities are open to all.

**Christian Education**—Christian Education classes will not meet on the Sundays of December 22 and December 29. Classes for all ages will resume on Sunday, January 5. A New Member Class for adults and a Confirmation Class for youth will begin on January 12.

**Young Adult Christmas Party**—Young adults in their 20s and 30s will gather after worship today in the Chapel kitchen for a Christmas party. All young adults are welcome.

**Back Pew Collection**—Up to 300 guests will be part of Antioch Baptist Church’s 12th annual “Feeding our Friends” Christmas dinner. Guests will enjoy a Christmas dinner, singing, and gifts. You may support this special outreach through the donation of clean, winter coats of all sizes and warm socks for men, women, and children today as part of our “back pew” collection today. If you prefer, you may make a monetary donation with a check written to the Congregation with the notation “Feeding Our Friends.” If you would like to help serve the meal starting at 10:30 a.m. on Christmas Day, please contact Marilyn Christian by December 20th at christian2@nc.rr.com or 919-361-1974.

**Two Opportunities with Urban Ministries of Durham:**

**Dinner for Neighbors**—The Congregation will next provide and serve dinner at Urban Ministries, 410 Liberty St., Durham, on Sunday, January 12. Volunteers are needed to donate lasagnas and to serve the meal. Hot lasagnas are to be dropped off at 5:45 p.m. on Sunday, January 12. The time commitment for those who serve is approximately 90 minutes. If you wish to bring food or help serve, please call Ned Arnett at 919-489-4133 or e-mail edward.arnett@duke.edu.

**Service Project for College Students**—On Monday, December 23, college students who are in town will join together for service and fellowship. This will be a great time for students who have been away at college to connect with each other again or to meet new friends. Students will meet at Urban Ministries at 2:00 p.m. After the project finishes at 5:00 p.m., the group will go to Bull City Burger for dinner. For more information or to RSVP, please email Brad Troxell at brad.troxell@duke.edu.

**Alternative Gift Market**—Throughout the Advent season, the Congregation youth will host a ZOE Ministry Alternative Gift Market on the Chapel lawn following worship. Active in Rwanda, Kenya, Zimbabwe, and Malawi, ZOE has developed as a three-year model in which orphans and vulnerable children move from abject poverty to complete self-sufficiency and come to know of God’s great love. Since 2007, over 30,000 orphans and vulnerable children have transformed their lives. Please consider giving your family and friends an “alternative gift” of seeds, tools, or livestock, which will improve the lives of ZOE children.
1 "Comfort, comfort now my people; Tell of peace!" So says our God.
2 For the herald’s voice is crying In the desert far and near,
3 Straight shall be what long was crooked, And the rougher places plain!

Comfort those who sit in darkness Mourning under sorrow’s load.
Calling us to true repentance, Since the Kingdom now is here.
Let your hearts be true and humble, As befits his holy reign!

To God’s people now proclaim That God’s pardon waits for them!
Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way!
For the glory of the Lord Now on earth is shed abroad,

Tell them that their war is over; God will reign in peace forever!
Let the valleys rise to meet him, And the hills bow down to greet him!
And all flesh shall see the token That God’s word is never broken.

Text: Johann Olearius, 1611–1684; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829–1878, alt.
Tune: Trente quatre psaumes de David, Geneva, 1551
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.
† 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.
† Prayer requests may be placed in the prayer box.
† 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.
† Children’s bulletins are available from the ushers.

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  
Associate Dean for Religious Life  
The Rev. Meghan Feldmeyer  
Director of Worship  
Dr. Adam Hollowell  
Director of Student Ministry  
The Rev. Bruce Puckett  
Interim Black Campus Minister  
Ms. Kennetra Irby  
Staff Assistant for Student Ministry  
Ms. Gerly Ace

Music  
Dr. Rodney Wynkoop  
Director of Chapel Music  
Dr. Robert Parkins  
University Organist  
Dr. David Arcus  
Chapel Organist and Associate University Organist  
Dr. Brian Schmidt  
Assistant Conductor and Administrative Coordinator of Chapel Music  
Mr. John Santoianni  
Curator of Organs and Harpsichords  
Mr. J. Samuel Hammond  
University Carillonneur  
Mr. Michael Lyle  
Staff Assistant for Chapel Music

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Mr. Oscar Dantzler and Ms. Beverly Jordan  
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Staff of the Congregation at Duke University Chapel  
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Pastor  
The Rev. Brad Troxell  
Associate Pastor  
Ms. Phyllis Snyder  
Children’s Pastor  
Ms. Mary Ann Manconi  
Administrative Assistant