On this fourth Sunday of Advent, the Scripture readings point to the faithful responses of God’s people as they await their coming Savior, Jesus Christ. The psalmist cries out to the Lord for the restoration of God’s people, faithfully anticipating the coming Shepherd of Israel. Matthew’s Gospel shines light on Joseph’s righteousness. He is unwilling to expose Mary to public shame and is also obedient to God’s instructions. Joseph’s grace and faithfulness are powerful and allow God’s story to continue to the birth of Jesus, our Emmanuel—God with us.
The congregation is invited to reflect silently during the prelude as a time of prayer and meditation.

GATHERING

CARILLON

BRASS PRELUDE

Six Christmas Carols arr. Rob Roy MacGregor
God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen (b. 1943)
Greensleeves
O Tannenbaum
We Three Kings
Once in Royal David’s City
Angels We Have Heard on High

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 213 (found in the hymnals located in the pew racks)
   Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

*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)
   Heavenly Father, as we await the coming of your Son, send your Holy Spirit to illuminate our lives and your holy word; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Psalm 80:1–7, 17–19 (OT page 511)
   Lector:  This is the word of the Lord.
   People:  Thanks be to God.
*Gradual Hymn 215 (stanzas 1–3)
To a Maid Engaged to Joseph
(All turn to face the Gospel Procession.)

*Gospel Lesson—Matthew 1:18–25 (NT page 1)
Lector: This is the word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

*Gradual Hymn 215 (stanzas 4–6)
To a Maid Engaged to Joseph

Sermon—Extending Grace

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 Wexford Carol arr. J.A.C. Redford (b. 1953)

*Doxology

O come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of human-kind;
O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
bid thou our sad divisions cease, and be thy self our King of Peace.
that mourns in lone-ly ex-ile here un-till the Son of God ap-pear.
Re-joice! Re-joice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

Thanksgiving and Communion

*The Great Thanksgiving
(Musical setting A, found on page 17 in the hymnal.)

*The Lord’s Prayer
(All are encouraged to pray the Lord’s Prayer in the language of their choosing. The English version is number 895 in the hymnal.)
Sharing of the Bread and Wine

All who love Christ, earnestly repent of their sins, and seek to be at peace with God and neighbor 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, there is a server near the Memorial Chapel who will be ready to serve you gluten-free wafers and wine. If you will not receive Communion, you are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing, indicated by crossing your arms over your chest.

Music During Distribution

Hymn 206
I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Communion Anthem
Christmas Day

Sending Forth

*Post-Communion Prayer

*Benediction

*Closing Processional Hymn 202
Peoples, Look East

Singing directions: Stanza 1: All, 2: Pulpit-side, 3: Lectern-side, 4: All

Postlude
My Spirit Be Joyful

Postlude
My Spirit Be Joyful

Carillon

*All who are able may stand.
Ministry of Worship

Presiding Ministers
The Rev. Dr. Luke Powery
Dr. Christy Lohr Sapp

Preacher
The Rev. Meghan Feldmeyer Benson

Lectors
Dr. Rendon Nelson
Member of the Congregation at Duke Chapel
Ms. Deb Hackney
Member of the Congregation at Duke Chapel, MACP '16

Organist
Mr. Christopher Jacobson

Guest Musicians
Amalgam Brass

Ministers of Anointing
The Rev. Andrew Phillips
Ms. Lauren Wright

Head Ushers
Dr. James Ferguson and Mr. Rick Wilfong

Carillonneur
Mr. J. Samuel Hammond

Christmas 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
This traditional Lessons and Carols service features a large community choir, Scripture, and choral music.
Prelude begins at 10:30 p.m.

Christmas Day 11:00 a.m.
Service of Worship
The Sunday morning service focuses on the retelling of the Christmas story and favorite Christmas carols.

4 p.m. Carillon Christmas Music Recital
A maximum of 1600 persons will be admitted to each service: no overflow seating available.
Doxology in Advent: O Come, O Come Emmanuel

There are seven great Advent prayers (antiphons) that have been prayed since the seventh century. Each Antiphon begins with “O” and addresses Jesus with a unique name, which comes from the prophecies of Isaiah in the Old Testament.

Each O Antiphon begins with an invocation of the expected Messiah. When read backwards from the bottom up, they form an acrostic for the Latin “Ero Cras” which means, “Tomorrow I shall be with you.” Today the O Antiphons are most familiar to us in the hymn “O come, O come Emmanuel” sung to the tune veni emmanuel.

Sapientia—O come, thou Wisdom from on high...
Adonai—O come, O come, thou Lord of might...
Radix Jesse—O come, thou Root of Jesse’s tree...
Clavis David—O come, thou Key of David...
Oriens—O come, thou Dayspring from on high...
Rex Gentium—O come, Desire of nations...
Emmanuel—O come, O come, Emmanuel...

As the O Antiphons (and subsequently the stanzas of veni emmanuel) tell the Advent story of Christ’s coming, we will sing the story of God’s coming to dwell with us not all at once, but progressively and patiently over the course of four Sundays.

Today’s Flowers—Flowers for today’s worship service are given to the glory of God by Jim and Ellie Ferguson.

Today’s Offering—All of today’s cash offerings and undesignated checks will be given to the Chapel’s Annual Fund for Mission and Ministry.

Today’s Guest Preacher—The Rev. Meghan Feldmeyer Benson became chaplain of Duke Divinity School in July 2015. Originally from Colorado, she is an ordained elder in the Rocky Mountain Conference of the United Methodist Church. She has degrees in religious studies and psychology (1998) from Southern Methodist University (Dallas, Texas), and an M.Div. from Duke Divinity School (2002). Prior to working at the Divinity School, Chaplain Benson worked for nine years as director of worship at Duke Chapel. She is married to Adam, and she loves the mountains, liturgy, beagles, Durham, good food, and traveling.

Year of Celebration Music—Upcoming events include:

• This evening, at 5:00 p.m.—A German Christmas is the latest in the J.S. Bach: Complete Organ Works series.

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 from 7:00–9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 21, and a required rehearsal at 9:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve. The choir will sing several anthems, including the Hallelujah Chorus from Messiah.
The following Congregation opportunities are open to all.

**Christian Education Classes**—Weekly Sunday morning Christian Education classes for all ages will resume on January 8. There will be no classes on December 25 and January 1.

**ZOE Gift Market**—After worship today there will be a gift market for ZOE, a global mission partner which empowers vulnerable children to move out of poverty and become independent in three years. When a gift is purchased, the giver will receive an attractive card or bookmark. This could be given to someone on your Christmas list who would like to know that a Gift of Help is empowering a child in Africa, India, or Central America.

**Youth Christmas Celebration**—Youth in 6th to 12th grade are invited to attend a Christmas dinner and celebration tonight, Sunday, December 18, from 5:00–7:00 p.m. Please contact Andrew Phillips at 919-684-3917 or andrew.phillips@duke.edu for detailed information.

**Support the Community Choir**—Worshipers are invited to show their appreciation for the Christmas Eve Choir by providing refreshments on Saturday, December 24. Volunteers are needed to provide an assortment of goodies. Additionally, two volunteers are needed to help with setup and cleanup. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Cindy Gass at cynthia.gass@gmail.com or call the Congregation office.

**Serve Dinner at Urban Ministries**—Volunteers are needed every month to assist with serving a lasagna dinner at Urban Ministries in downtown Durham. For more information and to volunteer, contact Cricket Scovil at scovilj@aol.com or the Congregation office at 919-684-3917.

**Growing Thru Grief**—Growing Thru Grief, which offers to help with the journey through the grieving process, meets every Tuesday, gathering at 4:00 p.m. for coffee and cookies. The meeting runs from 4:30–6:00 p.m. at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, 1200 West Cornwallis Rd., Durham. New participants are welcome at any time. Growing Thru Grief is a coalition of area religious and civic organizations, including the Congregation at Duke Chapel.

**Save the Dates**—The Congregation’s Winter Retreat will be Saturday, February 11 with Dr. Mickey Efird leading a discussion of apocalyptic literature. The Overnight Retreat will be Saturday, June 3–Sunday, June 4 with Dr. Norman Wirzba leading on the topic of food and faith.

**eNews**—The Congregation at Duke Chapel publishes a weekly email announcing fellowship events, service opportunities and Christian education classes. If you would like to receive this weekly newsletter, please email congregation@duke.edu.
Duke Chapel is a Christian church of an unusually interdenominational character, with a tradition of stirring music, preaching, and liturgy. It is also a grand building, suitable for hosting major events in the life of the University and its members; it further acts as a moderator for the diversity of religious identity and expression on campus. We welcome you to our life of worship, learning, dialogue, and service.

chapel.duke.edu • Box 90974, Durham, NC 27708 • 919-684-2572

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Dr. Adam Hollowell
The Rev. Joshua Lazard
Ms. Gerly Ace
Associate Dean for Religious Life
Director of Student Ministry
C. Eric Lincoln Minister for Student Engagement
Staff Specialist for Student Ministry

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University Carillonneur
Curator of Organs and Harpsichords
Office Coordinator for Chapel Music
Staff Specialist for Chapel Music

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Ms. Ann Hall
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Chapel Wedding Director
Visitor Relations Assistant
Visitor Relations Assistant

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Communications Specialist
Accounting Specialist and Office Coordinator
Staff Assistant for Development
University Housekeeper
University Housekeeper

Staff of the Congregation at Duke University Chapel
The Rev. Dr. Carol Gregg
The Rev. Andrew Phillips
Ms. Phyllis Snyder
Mr. Nelson Strother
Pastor
Assistant Pastor
Children’s Pastor
Financial and IT Administrator

Next Week in Worship at Duke Chapel
Preacher—Our preacher will be the Rev. Bruce Puckett, Director of Worship and Community Ministry.