The season of Advent is a time of waiting for the promises of God. The God who has drawn near to Israel will soon draw nearer still in the form of a baby. As we draw closer to Christmas Day, the scripture lessons emphasize the promises that are to be fulfilled. In 2 Samuel, God tells the Israelites that their wandering is over, and that they will be gathered to a place of safety and flourishing. Luke recounts the visit of the angel Gabriel to Mary and the surprising news of her holy pregnancy. Mary learns of her imminent participation in the promises of God in a way she never anticipated or imagined.
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

CHORAL PRELUDE

Come All Children, Join to Sing

J. Edmund Hughes

Alleluia Rejoice

Kenneth Lowenberg

(b. 1947)

The First Nowell

arr. Dan Forrest

(b. 1978)

Personent Hodie

arr. John Rutter

(b. 1945)

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*OPENING PROCESSION: HYMN 213

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

TRURO

*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)

Eternal God, as Mary and Joseph waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait to hear your word; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with them, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16
(OT pages 268–69 in the pew Bible)
Lector: This is the word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM
Puer Natus in Bethlehem
Josef Rheinberger (1839-1901)

A Child is born in Bethlehem;
Exult for joy, Jerusalem!
There, in a manger lowly, lies
He who reigns above the skies.
And kingly pilgrims, long foretold,
From East bring incense, myrrh, and gold.
And, from the serpent’s poison free,
He owned our blood and pedigree.
Our feeble flesh and his the same,
Our sinless kinsman he became.
That we, from deadly thrall set free,
Like him, and so like God, should be.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON—Romans 16:25–27 (NT page 155)
Lector: This is the word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

*GRADUAL HYMN 215 (stanza 1–3)
To a Maid Engaged to Joseph
(All turn to face the Gospel Procession.)

*GOSPEL LESSON—Luke 1:26–38 (NT page 53)
Lector: This is the word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

*GRADUAL HYMN (stanzas 4–6)
To a Maid Engaged to Joseph

SERMON—Birthing the Holy

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 employees of Facilities Management, and the ways they work for the upkeep and mending of the University.

In Durham, we remember those who experience food insecurity and who regularly go hungry. We pray that those who have plenty will reach out to those who have little.

OFFERTORY
Maria Walks Amid the Thorns

Maria walks amid the thorn, Kyrie eleison.
Which sev’n long years no leaf has born, Jesus and Maria.
What in her heart doth Mary bear? Kyrie eleison.
A little child doth Mary bear? Kyrie eleison.
Beneath her heart he nestles there, Jesus and Maria.
And as the two were passing near, Kyrie eleison.
Lo, roses on the thorn appear, Jesus and Maria.

*DOXOLOGY
VENI EMMANUEL

O come, De-sire of na-tions, bind in one the hearts of hu-man-kind;
O come, O come, Em-man-u-el, and ran-som cap-tive Is-ra-el,

bid thou our sad di-vi-sions cease, and be thy self our King of Peace.
that mourns in lone-ly ex-ile here un-til the Son of God ap-pear.

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)
**MINISTRY OF WORSHIP**

**Presiding Ministers**
- The Rev. Dr. Carol Gregg
- The Rev. Dr. Luke Powery

**Preacher**
- The Rev. Meghan Benson

**Lectors**
- Mr. Whitney Schwab
  - *Member of the Congregation at Duke Chapel*
- Ms. Karen Rivers
  - *Member of the Chapel Choir*

**Guest Musicians**
- The Cantabile Singers of Capital City Girls Choir, Raleigh, NC
  - Dr. Fran Page, Conductor
  - Ms. Pamela Stewart, Accompanist

**Organist**
- Mr. Christopher Jacobson

**Presiding Minister over Memorial Chapel Communion**
- The Rev. Brad Troxell

**Head Ushers**
- Dr. James Ferguson and Mr. Rick Wilfong

**Carillonneur**
- Mr. J. Samuel Hammond

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**SENDING FORTH**

*BENEDICTION*

*CLOSING PROCESSION: HYMN 202*

*People, Look East*

**ORGAN POSTLUDE**

*Ave Maris Stella, Op. 18, No. 9*

**CARILLON**

*All who are able may stand.*
**Chapel Announcements**

**Today’s Flowers**—The Advent Wreath is made possible by the Elizabeth Lucina Gotham Memorial Endowment, established by Dr. and Mrs. James H. Semans in loving memory of Elizabeth Gotham. The interior decorations and the wreaths on either side of the front entrance of the Chapel are given to the glory of God in celebration of the Christmas season by Dr. and Mrs. James G. Ferguson, Jr.

**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.

**About Today’s Guest Musicians**—Cantabile Singers is the advanced choir of the Capital City Girls Choir, a vocal and music training program for girls from Raleigh and the surrounding communities. CCGC is associated with the community outreach program of the School of Music at Meredith College. The choir has performed extensively in the United States, Europe, and Canada.

**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 22, and a required rehearsal at 9:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve. The choir will sing several anthems, including the Hallelujah Chorus from Messiah.

**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.

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**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 Worship with 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.

SUNDAY EDUCATION—All Sunday morning classes meet in the lowest level of Duke Divinity School from 9:45–10:45 a.m. There are three classes for children and youth and two classes for adults. All of these classes are open to the public and new participants are welcome at any time. Classes for all ages will resume on Sunday, January 4. There will be no Sunday morning classes on December 28.

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.

FEEDING OUR FRIENDS—Volunteers are welcome to assist the Antioch Baptist’s Church ministry of providing a meal, gifts, coats, and fellowship to 300 guests on Christmas Day. Volunteers will set up for the meal on Wednesday, December 24, from 9a.m.–noon, then serve the meal on Thursday, December 25, from 10:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. The location is 1415 Holloway St, Durham.

FELLOWSHIP EVENT NEXT SUNDAY—All are invited to remain after worship next Sunday, December 28, for a time of fellowship and refreshment in the Chapel Lounge. Coffee will be provided; please bring a plate of cookies to share. Cookies may be dropped off in the lounge prior to worship. Enjoy the season with friends new and old!

MONTHLY SHELTER DINNER—The Congregation serves dinner once a month at the Urban Ministries Shelter in downtown Durham. The next opportunity to serve is Sunday, January 11, at 5:45 p.m. The meal is prepared at the shelter kitchen (salad, fruit cocktail, buttered rolls, cookies and lemonade), but the most important ingredient is the volunteer. Volunteers provide the “main course,” nourishment for the body (each server/couple brings two cooked party-size lasagnas) and for the spirit, through fellowship with the shelter residents and connection with other members and friends of the Congregation. Shelter residents do all the clean-up. First timers are welcome! Ten volunteers and twenty cooked lasagnas are needed each month. Please contact Cricket Scovil if you would like to be part of this ministry: scovilj@aol.com or 919-286-0556.

eNEWS—The Congregation at Duke Chapel publishes a weekly email announcing programs and events of the Congregation. If you would like to receive this weekly newsletter, please email congregation@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

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<tr>
<th>Ministry</th>
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<td>The Rev. Dr. Luke Powery</td>
<td>Dean of the Chapel</td>
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<td>Dr. Christy Lohr Sapp</td>
<td>Associate Dean for Religious Life</td>
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<td>The Rev. Meghan Benson</td>
<td>Director of Worship</td>
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<td>Dr. Adam Hollowell</td>
<td>Director of Student Ministry</td>
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<td>The Rev. Bruce Puckett</td>
<td>Director of Community Ministry</td>
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<td>Mr. Joshua Lazard</td>
<td>C. Eric Lincoln Minister for Student Engagement</td>
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<td>Ms. Gerly Ace</td>
<td>Staff Assistant for Student Ministry</td>
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<td>Dr. Rodney Wynkoop</td>
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<td>Dr. Robert Parkins</td>
<td>University Organist</td>
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<td>Mr. Christopher Jacobson</td>
<td>Chapel Organist</td>
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<td>Dr. Brian Schmidt</td>
<td>Assistant Conductor and Administrative Coordinator of Chapel Music</td>
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<td>Mr. John Santoiaanni</td>
<td>Curator of Organs and Harpsichords</td>
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<td>Mr. J. Samuel Hammond</td>
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<td>Ms. Beth Gettys Sturkey</td>
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<td>Ms. Joni Harris</td>
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<td>Ms. Adrienne Koch</td>
<td>Communications Specialist</td>
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<td>Mr. James Todd</td>
<td>Multimedia Manager for Media Ministry</td>
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<td>Ms. Sara Clark</td>
<td>Chapel Events and Wedding Coordinator</td>
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<td>Ms. Lisa Moore</td>
<td>Accounting Specialist and Office Coordinator</td>
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<td>Mr. Andrew Klumpp</td>
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<td>Mr. Oscar Dantzler and Ms. Beverly Jordan</td>
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Staff of the Congregation at Duke University Chapel

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