Today we celebrate the second Sunday of Advent. The scripture lesson from Philippians begins in thanksgiving. The Apostle Paul gives thanks in remembering, even as he looks toward the future that God is creating in God's people: “The one who began a good work in you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.” Luke's gospel portrays John the Baptist preaching repentance in the wilderness and calling people to “prepare the way of the Lord!” Throughout the season of Advent, we look to the future God is preparing for us in thanksgiving and repentance, even as we prepare to meet Jesus. The liturgical color of Advent is purple, which denotes penitence, a suitable mode for preparation to meet God.
Gathering
Prelude Music

Prelude on lauda anima  
John Goss (1800–1880)  
arr. John A. Behnke

In the Bleak Midwinter  
cranham, Gustav Holst (1874–1934)  
arr. Martha Lynn Thompson

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers!  
haf trones lampa färdig  
arr. Janet Linker (b.1938) and Jane McFadden

Greeting and Call to Worship

*Opening 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.

Minister:  The peace of Christ be with you.
People:  And also with you.

Proclamation
Prayer for Illumination  |  In unison:

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*  All rise as able
Old Testament Lesson

Malachi 3:1–4

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Psalmody | The congregation chants the verses in bold.

Luke 1:68–79 (The Benedictus)

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David.

As he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins.

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

New Testament Lesson

Philippians 1:3–11

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.
*Gradual Hymn 384 | Stanzas 1 and 2

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling  
beecher

*Gospel Lesson

Luke 3:1–6

Lector:  This is the word of the Lord.  
People:  Thanks be to God.

*Gradual Hymn 384 | Stanzas 3 and 4

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling  
beecher

Sermon

Confidence in Completion

Response

Response Music

Advent Carol  
veni emmanuel  
arr. Hal H. Hopson

*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.

* All rise as able
Prayers of the People | The congregation responds to each petition:

**People:** Hear our prayer.

This morning we remember Duke Human Resources and its management of employee recruitment, benefits, policies, and the training for both the university and health system.

Offertory Music

* Savior of the Nations, Come  
  nun komm, der heiden heiland  
  arr. Cathy Moklebust

*Doxology  
  veni emmanuel

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.

* All rise as able
Sending Forth

*Benediction

*Closing Hymn 66

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

lauda anima

Closing Voluntary

Chaconne in G Minor

Louis Couperin (1626–1661)

TODAY IN WORSHIP

PRESIDING MINISTERS
Luke A. Powery .......................................................Dean, Duke University Chapel
Carol Gregg .........................................................Pastor, Congregation at Duke Chapel

PREACHER
Bruce Puckett .............................................Assistant Dean, Duke University Chapel

LECTORS
Gregory Beck ..................................................Member, Congregation at Duke Chapel
Kiana Hertogh .... Intern for Worship and Student Engagement, Duke University Chapel; Divinity ’22

MUSICIANS
The Bell Ringers and Chamber Ringers........ First Baptist Church, Henderson, N.C.
Mark L. Hopper .................. Minister of Music, First Baptist Church, Henderson, N.C.
Robert Parkins ........................................................ University Organist, Duke University
Christopher Jacobson ..............................Chapel Organist, Duke University Chapel
Nora Burgard ..............................................Cantor; Staff Singer, Duke University Chapel

HEAD USHER
James Ferguson ..................................................Member, Congregation at Duke Chapel
ACCESSIBILITY | Large print hymnals and worship guides are available at the visitor relations desk. Hearing assistance units are available at the AV console in the rear of the Chapel.

TODAY’S OFFERING | All of today’s checks written to Duke University Chapel will be used to support the Chapel’s Development Fund for Mission and Ministry. You are invited to give online at chapel.duke.edu/offering. Send checks to: Duke University Chapel, Box 90974, Durham, NC 27708-0974.

TODAY’S MUSIC | Throughout Advent we are chanting responsive psalmody, employing the same melodic formula, called a tone, each week. But for the next three Sundays, the psalmody texts are not actually psalms! Although the Psalter is indeed the “hymnbook of the Bible,” there are a number of other scriptural texts that are intended for, or lend themselves to, singing. In Year C of the Revised Common Lectionary—the three-year cycle of readings that we follow at Duke Chapel— the second, third, and fourth Sundays of Advent use non-psalm texts. Today we sing Zechariah’s canticle, the Benedictus. Next week we will chant a passage from the prophet Isaiah, and on Advent 4 we will sing the Magnificat, Mary’s song.

GUEST MUSICIANS | One of the largest youth handbell programs in the United States, The Bell Ringers of The First Baptist Church of Henderson, North Carolina, have concertized and taken part in major handbell festivals from Florida to the Canadian border. First Baptist’s Minister of Music Mark L. Hopper directs the group. In addition to regular participation in the worship services of their own church, The Bell Ringers have made an annual appearance in Duke Chapel for over four decades. In recent years, The Ringers have performed in Hill Hall on the campus of UNC-Chapel Hill for the North Carolina Music Teachers Association, the Greensboro Coliseum for the annual meeting of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, and on several occasions in joint concerts with the North Carolina Boys Choir.

MUSIC ACKNOWLEDGMENT | For today’s psalmody: Evangelical Lutheran Worship tone 8 © 2006 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-725399.
STAY AFTER WORSHIP TODAY | Please stay after worship today for an outdoor holiday gathering on the lawn between the Chapel and Divinity School. Hot beverages and Christmas goodies galore will be provided. Plan to share some holiday cheer with other worshipers.

TOUR AFTER THE SERVICE | Learn about the history, architecture, and life of Duke Chapel on a tour immediately following the service. The tour is free and lasts about forty-five minutes. Meet the docent outside in front of the Chapel.

TICKETS FOR ONLINE PRESENTATION OF HANDEL'S 'MESSIAH' | Tickets are sold out for today’s in-person performance of Handel’s Messiah; however tickets are still available for the online presentation of the concert, which will be available for viewing December 12–26. The approximately ninety-minute performance will include all of Part I of Messiah (the Christmas portion) plus selected movements from Parts II and III. To purchase tickets for the virtual concert, contact the Duke Box Office at tickets.duke.edu or 919-684-4444.

MIDWEEK PRAYER SERVICE FOR GRIEF AND HEALING | This Wednesday, December 8, at 11:00 a.m., the Chapel will hold a service for grief and healing in Memorial Chapel. Over the past two years, through COVID-19 and other causes, many people have lost loved ones to death. People have lost their jobs, their homes, their sense of security, etc. This service is meant to offer a moment in the midst of the holidays— which are triggering for many— to pause and allow ourselves as a community to “mark the moment.” Acknowledging our lament and praising God amidst the storm reminds us to hope in the Lord. What is more hopeful than giving our grief to God in the midst of awaiting Emmanuel, God Among Us? The service will include corporate prayer, song, times for silent prayer/individual prayer through writing, candle lighting, and a benediction.

ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS | The Chapel’s Vespers Ensemble will lead a service of Advent Lessons and Carols this Thursday, December 9, at 7:00 p.m. Vespers services will resume on Thursday, January 6, at 7:00 p.m. with a special service for Epiphany.

CHORAL EVENSONG NEXT SUNDAY | Rich with music spanning from the Renaissance to the present day, Choral Evensong next Sunday, December 12, at 4:00 p.m. features sung prayers, psalms, and canticles. Distinct from the noisy world around us, this service offers a place for quiet contemplation.

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE DEC. 15 | Welcome the splendor of the season at the annual Duke Chapel Christmas Open House on Wednesday, December 15, from 12-noon to 2:00 p.m. All are invited to see Duke Chapel by candlelight, fully decorated for the Christmas season, and listen to familiar Christmas music. There is no cost to attend and no tickets or reservations are required.
The Choral Society of Durham presents its holiday concert, “And On Earth Peace,” on Sunday, December 19, at 4:00 p.m. at the Chapel. The concert celebrates the arrival of a season of peace into a troubled world. John Rutter’s joyous *Gloria* is interlaced with expressive texts set in a variety of twentieth and twenty-first century musical traditions. Tickets are available through the Duke Box Office at [tickets.duke.edu](http://tickets.duke.edu).

The Chapel will hold these Christmas Eve worship services on Friday, December 24:

- **2:00 p.m.**, a family-friendly service, lasting about forty-five minutes, with favorite hymns and carols, as well as a brief homily preached jointly by Chapel Dean Luke Powery and Assistant Dean Bruce Puckett;
- **5:00 p.m.**, a service with music from the Durham Children’s Choir and Amalgam Brass, and a joint sermon from Deans Powery and Puckett;
- **8:00 p.m.**, a service with music from the Amalgam Brass Ensemble and soloists, as well as a joint sermon from Deans Powery and Puckett;
- **11:00 p.m.**, the Chapel’s traditional *Service of Nine Lessons and Carols* with a choir, harp and organ music, scripture readings and Christmas carols.

Free parking will be available in the Bryan Center Parking Garage. Face masks are required. The Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols service at 11:00 p.m. will be broadcast statewide by Spectrum News 1 on Spectrum cable channel 1, as well as on the radio on WDNC, 620 AM. All four of the Christmas Eve services will be livestreamed on the Duke Chapel website and broadcast on channel 12 of the Duke Hospital TV system.

Have you ever wanted to read scripture for a Chapel worship service? Are you interested in serving communion on a Sunday morning? Would you be interested in welcoming people into worship and inviting them into the praise of God? If you answered yes to any of these questions, please write Rev. Bruce Puckett, the Chapel’s assistant dean, at bruce.puckett@duke.edu. All are invited to serve.

Volunteers are needed to bring two party-sized baked lasagnas (12-serving size) to Urban Ministries, 410 Liberty Street, Durham to provide dinner for hungry neighbors. Volunteers will meet donors in the parking lot to take the lasagnas to the kitchen. The donation of lasagnas is needed on Wednesday, December 15, at 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, January 9, at 5:00 p.m. Please contact congregation@duke.edu to sign up and for more detailed information.
The Congregation at Duke Chapel joyfully welcomes all persons regardless of age, race, class, origin, sexual orientation, or any other distinction and invites membership and participation in all of its ministries.

Please email congregation@duke.edu to receive the weekly eN ews.