A new world is coming. The scripture lessons for today each carry a theme of promise and hope. In Isaiah a healthy shoot emerges from the people who were seemingly cut dry by political upheaval, and there is hope of a new ruler to come. In his letter to the Romans, Paul gives hope to the Gentiles who will be grafted onto God’s covenant people through Christ. Matthew’s gospel reveals the radical message of John the Baptist, who calls people to repentance and offers baptism as a sign of cleansing and new life.
Gathering

Choral Prelude

Magnificat (first movement) Francesco Durante (1684-1755)

Magnificat anima mea Dominum et exultavit spiritus meus in Deo salutari meo. Quia respexit humilitatem ancillae suæ: ecce enim ex hoc beatam me dicent omnes generationes. Quia fecit mihi magna, qui potens est, et sanctum nomen eius.

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name.

Greeting and Call to Worship

*Opening Hymn 203

Hail to the Lord’s Anointed ELLACOMBE

*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:

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Old Testament Lesson | OT page 602-603 in the pew Bible

Isaiah 11:1-10

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

* All rise as able
Anthem

Alma Redemptoris Mater

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina

(1525-1594)

Alma Redemptoris Mater, quae per via caeli porta manes,
et stella maris, succurre cadenti surgere qui curat populo:
Tu quae genuisti, natura mirante, tuum sanctum Genitorem:
Virgo prius ac posterius, Gabrieliis ab ore sumens illud Ave, peccatorum
miserere.

Mother of Christ! Hear thou thy people’s cry,
Star of the deep, and portal of the sky!
Mother of Him Who thee from nothing made,
Sinking we strive and call to thee for aid;
Oh, by that joy which Gabriel brought to thee,
Thou Virgin first and last, let us thy mercy see.

New Testament Lesson | NT page 153 in the pew Bible

Romans 15:4-13

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

*Gradual Hymn

On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry

PUER NOBIS

1. On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry announces
2. Then cleansed be ev’ry life from sin; make straight the way
3. We hail you as our Savior, Lord, our refuge and great reward; with your grace we rise
4. Stretch forth your hand, our health restore, and make us that the Lord is nigh; awake and hearken,
   and let us all our heart prepare for Christ to come and enter there.
5. All praise to you, eternal Son, whose advent for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings!
   has our freedom won, whom with the Father waste away like flow’rs that wither and decay.
   on us shine and fill the world with love divine.
   we adore, and Holy Spirit, ever more.
*Gospel Lesson* | NT pages 2-3 in the pew Bible

Matthew 3:1-12

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Hope of the Nations

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:

People: Hear our prayer.

Mission of the Month

Offertory Anthem

Ave Maria

Franz Biebl (1906-2001)

Angelus Domini nuntiavit Mariae et concepit de Spiritu sancto. 
Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum. Benedicta tu in mulieribus, et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Iesus.

Maria dixit: Ecce ancilla Domini. Fiat mihi secundum verbum tuum. 

Et Verbum caro factum est et habitavit in nobis.

The angel of God visited Mary and she conceived of the Holy Spirit. 
Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. 

Maria said: Bebold the servant of the Lord. May it be with me according to your word. 

And the Word became flesh and lived among us.

*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 majesty and awe. 
that trust thy might y power to save, and give them vic- to ry 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 | All are encouraged to pray the Lord's Prayer in the language of their choosing. The English version is number 895 in the hymnal.*

Sending Forth

*Benediction*

*Closing Hymn*

Hark, the Glad Sound!

Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes, the Savior

promised long; let ev'ry heart prepared

fore him burst, the iron fetters yield.

organ postlude

Fantasy in G Minor, BWV 542/1

Johann Sebastian Bach

(1685-1750)

Memorial Chapel Communion | Immediately following today's worship service, a brief communion service will be held in Memorial Chapel. Following communion, the pastor will be available to offer prayers and anointing.
TODAY IN WORSHIP

PRESIDING MINISTERS
The Rev. Kathryn Lester-Bacon .......................... Director of Religious Life at Duke Chapel
The Rev. Breana van Velzen ................................ Community Minister of Duke Chapel

PREACHER
The Rev. Dr. Luke A. Powery ................................. Dean of Duke Chapel

LECTORS
The Rev. Carl King .................................. Associate Director of Development, Duke Divinity School
Ms. Taylor Plett ..................................................... Chapel Scholar, Trinity ’21

MUSICIANS
Providence High School Choir ................................... Choir
Ms. Kristen M. Johnson .................................. Choral Director, Providence High School Choir
Dr. Robert Parkins .................................. University Organist
Mr. Bryan Tong .................................................. Pianist

MISSION OF THE MONTH
Ms. Janet Xiao ........................................ Co-Director, Community Empowerment Fund

MEMORIAL CHAPEL COMMUNION
The Rev. Daniel Corpening .......................... Director of Field Education, Duke Divinity School

HEAD USHERS
Dr. James Ferguson ........................................ Member of the Congregation at Duke Chapel
Ms. Acelynn Barefoot ................................ Chapel Scholar, Member of the Congregation at Duke Chapel

TODAY’S FLOWERS | Today’s flowers are made possible by the generosity of the Elizabeth Lucina Gotham Fund.

MISSION OF THE MONTH | The Community Empowerment Fund offers one-on-one, relationship-based support to community members experiencing homelessness and financial insecurity in Durham and Orange Counties. CEF was co-founded ten years ago by a team of shelter residents and Duke and UNC students. Annually, 1,100+ Members work side-by-side with 200+ volunteer Advocates from Duke and UNC to secure and sustain affordable housing, gain income, set and reach savings goals, connect to community resources, and build financial wellbeing. Last year, 121 Members obtained employment and 138 Members secured housing. Through CEF’s Safe Savings program, Members have collectively saved over $1.2 million!

GUEST CHOIR | Today’s guest choir is the The Choir of Providence High School, Charlotte, NC. It is led by Choral Director Kristen M. Johnson.

FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN | Children age four and younger are welcome to visit the nursery (capacity limited), located in the Chapel’s lower level, beginning at 10:45 a.m. each week.

ACCESSIBILITY | Large print hymnals and bulletins are available at the visitor relations desk. Hearing assistance units are available at the AV console in the rear of the Chapel.
WELCOME TO DUKE CHAPEL | Students, staff, visitors, and community members are always welcome at Duke Chapel. For more information, please see the websites listed on the back page and sign-up for weekly e-newsletters.

CHAPEL TOUR | For a tour of Duke Chapel, meet today’s docent near the front steps of the Chapel following the service.

ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET TODAY | Your Christmas gifts can make a difference in the lives of vulnerable children. After worship today and next Sunday, December 15, there will be an alternative gift market for Zoe Empowers, 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 telling the recipient that their Gift of Help is empowering a child in Africa or India. The Congregation is currently sponsoring two groups of children in Zimbabwe. Please stop by the table in the narthex following worship today.

DINNER FOR GRAD STUDENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS | University graduate students, other young adults, and their partners are invited to gather for dinner and discussion on Monday, December 9, at 6:30 p.m. in the Duke Chapel kitchen, located on the lower level of the Chapel. Conversation is focused on the book of Isaiah. All questions and perspectives are welcome. Please contact the Congregation Office for additional information.

SECOND WEDNESDAY LUNCH | Informal conversation and fellowship in a local restaurant is the only agenda for the Second Wednesday Lunch. On December 11 at 12-noon, participants will gather at Fairview Dining Room at the Washington Duke Inn, 3001 Cameron Blvd., Durham. Each person will purchase their own meal. If you plan to attend, please email the Congregation Office or call 919-684-3917 by Monday, December 9.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT DUKE CHAPEL | The seasons of Advent and Christmas at the Chapel are full of music and worship, hope and community. Events at the Chapel during the two seasons include: Advent Lessons and Carols on December 12 at 7:00 p.m.; a Christmas Open House on December 18 at 12 noon; and Christmas Eve Services at 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, and 11:00 p.m. Learn more at chapel.duke.edu/christmas.

DEAN Powery’s SABBATICAL SPRING 2020 | As previously announced, Chapel Dean Luke A. Powery will take a sabbatical leave from January 1 to June 30, 2020. During his sabbatical he will be a visiting associate professor in the
The Congregation at Duke Chapel

Department of Africa, African American, and Diaspora Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences at UNC-Chapel Hill. He will do research for a book on the Spirit, race, and the church and invites the prayers of the Chapel community for a fruitful and refreshing sabbatical. While he is on leave, the Rev. Bruce Puckett, the Chapel’s assistant dean, and Amanda Hughes, the Chapel’s director of development and strategy, will assume day-to-day leadership of the Chapel.

THE MARVEL OF THIS NIGHT BROADCAST | *The Marvel of This Night: Christmas at Duke University Chapel*, a service of music and readings, will be broadcast nationally on the CBS Television Network on Christmas Eve, December 24, at 11:35 p.m. local time. This hour-long special, produced by the Chapel and campus partners, features beloved Christmas carols accompanied by three of the Chapel’s organs as well as traditional scripture readings. In it, all of the Chapel’s choirs and a sixteen-piece orchestra perform music from around the world. The program will also be available on the Chapel’s YouTube channel from December 26 through January 6.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASSES | Classes for all ages will meet throughout the summer at 9:45 a.m. in the lowest level of the Westbrook building, Duke Divinity School. Refreshments and fellowship begin at 9:30 a.m. Classes are:

- **Wee Praise**: For children ages 0-3 with parents or caregivers in 0011 WB
- **Godly Play**: For children ages 4 through 1st graders in 0054 Langford
- **Godly Play Advanced**: For children in 2nd–5th grade in 0050 Langford
- **Youth Bible Study**: For youth in 6th–12th grade in 0013 Westbrook
- **Adult Forum**: On December 15 – Dr. Brian Stratton, Associate Professor of Philosophy, UNC-Pembroke, will discuss “Socrates and Moses on Discerning the Divine Call” in 0012 Westbrook.

For a complete listing of events, please visit chapel.duke.edu/events or sign up to receive weekly emails at chapel.duke.edu/email