



John August Swanson, *Festival of Lights*, detail, 2000.

## A Service of Lessons & Carols

*Advent at Duke University Chapel*

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2023, 7:00 P.M.

# A Service of Lessons and Carols

*This Service of Lessons and Carols heralds the Advent coming of Christ, both celebrating Jesus' incarnate birth and awaiting his second coming in majesty. Through scripture and music, we will hear the promises of God echoing down the ages through the biblical prophets. These promises are fulfilled in Jesus, who is Emmanuel, God with us.*

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## Organ Voluntary

Prélude et Choral varié sur “Veni redemptor gentium”

Margaretha Christina de Jong

## Introit

Pan fo'r stormydd garwa'n curo

John Raymond Williams  
(1928–2018)

Pan fo'r stormydd garwa'n curo, Arglwydd Iôr  
Tyred a gostega ymchwydd gwyllt y môr  
Fel y gallom ninnau uwch terfysgoedd byd  
Glywed dros y tonnau lais dy gariad drud.

Pan fo'r nos heb seren, a phob bron yn brudd  
Tyred Di â'r awen, wna ein nos yn ddydd  
Fel y gallom weled llwybrau'r nefoedd wen  
A chael nerth i gerdded atat ti, Amen.

*When the harsh storms rage, O Lord,  
Come and silence the wild surge of the sea—  
So that we ourselves, above the tumults of the world,  
Hear, across the waves, the voice of thy precious love.*

*When the night is without stars, and when sadness reigns  
Come, and make our night into day:  
So that we may see paths to heaven,  
And that we may have the strength to walk to thee.  
Amen.*

—Gwynne Williams

\*Carol

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

FREU DICH SEHR



1. Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus  
2. Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert  
3. Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er



saith our God; com - fort those who sit in dark - ness  
far and near, call - ing us to new re - pent - ance  
pla - ces plain; let your hearts be true and hum - ble,



mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem  
since the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey!  
as be - fits his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord



of the peace that waits for them; tell her that her  
Now pre - pare for God a way; let the val - leys  
now o'er earth is shed a - broad; and all flesh shall



sins I cov - er, and her war - fare now is o - ver.  
rise to meet him and the hills bow down to greet him.  
see the to - ken that the word is nev - er bro - ken.

\*Bidding Prayer

Beloved in Christ, as we await the great festival of Christmas,

let us prepare ourselves so that we may be shown its true meaning.

Let us hear in Holy Scripture how the prophets of Israel foretold that God would come among and redeem the Lord's waiting people.

\*All rise as able

Let us rejoice, in our carols and hymns,  
that the good purpose of God is being mightily fulfilled.  
Let us celebrate the promise that our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,  
will bring all who believe in him into the glory of God's eternal kingdom.  
The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf  
hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the Gospel preached to them.  
But first, let us pray for the world that God so loves, for those who have not heard the  
good news of the Gospel, or who do not believe; for those who walk in darkness and  
the shadow of death; and for the Church in this place and everywhere, that it may in  
pure joy lift up the light of the love of God.  
These prayers and praises let us humbly offer to God,  
in the words that Christ himself taught us.

\*The Lord's Prayer | In unison:

**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.**

First Lesson | Isaiah 40:1-8

*To God's people in exile in a faraway land, the prophet Isaiah announces good news:  
God is returning and bringing the exiles home.*

Anthem

Adam lay ybounden

Frank Ferko

Adam lay ybounden,  
Bounden in a bond;  
Foure thousand winter  
Thought he not too long.

And all was for an apple  
An apple that he took,  
As clerkes finden  
Written in their book.

Ne had the apple taken been,  
The apple taken been,  
Ne had never our lady  
A been Hevene Queen.

Blessed be the time  
That apple taken was,  
Therefore we moun singen,  
Deo gracias.

—*Anonymous, 15th cent.*

## Second Lesson | Jeremiah 23:5-8

*The prophet Jeremiah offers hope for a righteous branch  
in the line of David, a just King who is yet to come.*

## Anthem

The only Son from Heaven (*adapted from Cantata 22*)

Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685–1750)

The only Son from Heaven,  
foretold by ancient seers,  
by God the Father given,  
in human form appears.

No sphere His light confining,  
no star so brightly shining  
as He, our Morning Star.

—*Elisabeth Cruciger (1500–1535); tr. Arthur T. Russell (1806–1874), alt.*

## Third Lesson | Zechariah 9:9-17

*Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem is prophesied,  
heralding God's coming reign of justice and peace.*

\*Carol | See hymn on following page.

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

MERTON

1. Hark! a thrill - ing voice is sound - ing: "Christ is nigh," it seems to say;  
 2. Wak - ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond - age let us rise;  
 3. Lo! the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, comes with par - don down from heav'n;  
 4. so when next he comes with glo - ry, and the world is wrapped in fear,  
 5. Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son,

"Cast a - way the works of dark - ness, O ye child - ren of the day."  
 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn - ing skies.  
 let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all to be for - giv'n;  
 may he with his mer - cy shield us, and with words of love draw near.  
 with the ev - er - last - ing Spir - it while un - end - ing a - ges run.

Fourth Lesson | Isaiah 9:2-7

*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light:  
 Jesus, who has come to break the powers of sin, evil, and death.*

Anthem

How Brightly Shines the Morning Star

Philipp Nicolai (1556–1608)

arr. David Nield

How brightly shines the Morning Star  
 With radiant splendour from afar,  
 And cheers us with its shining.

Brightness of God, that breaks our night  
 And fills the darkened souls with light,  
 Who long for truth were pining!

Thy word, Jesu, Inly feeds us,  
 Rightly leads us, Life bestowing.  
 Praise, o praise such love o'erflowing.

O praise to Him who came to save,  
Who conquered death and burst the grave;  
Each day new praise resoundeth,

To Him, the Lamb who once was slain,  
The friend whom none shall trust in vain,  
Whose grace for aye aboundeth.

Sing ye heavens,  
tell the story of His glory,  
Till His praises  
Flood with light earth's darkest places.

—*Johann Adolf Schlegel*

Fifth Lesson | Isaiah 7:10–15

*The prophet Isaiah declares a sign to the house of David:  
a young woman will bear a child and call him Immanuel.*

Anthem

Alma Redemptoris Mater

Felicio Anerio  
(c. 1560–1614)

Alma Redemptoris Mater, quae pervia caeli  
Porta manes, et stella maris, succurre cadenti,  
Surgere qui curat, populo: tu quae genuisti,  
Natura mirante, tuum sanctum Genitorem  
Virgo prius ac posterius, Gabrielis ab ore  
Sumens illud Ave, peccatorum miserere.

*Sweet Mother of the Redeemer, the passage to the heavens,  
the gate of the spirits of the dead, and the star of the sea, aid the falling.  
Mother of Him who cares for the people: you who brought forth  
the wonder of Nature, your Creator.  
Virgin before and after, who received of Gabriel  
with joyful greeting, have pity on us sinners.*

—*Hermanus Contractus (1013–1054)*

\*Carol | See hymn on following page.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

STUTTGART

1. Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;  
 2. Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;  
 3. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king,  
 4. By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.  
 dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.  
 born to reign in us for ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.  
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

## Anthem

Rejoice in the Lord Alway

Anon., 16th cent.

Rejoice in the Lord alway,  
 and again I say, rejoice.  
 Let your softness be known unto all men:  
 the Lord is at hand.  
 Be careful for nothing:  
 but in all prayer and supplication,  
 let your petitions be manifest unto God with giving of thanks.  
 And the peace of God,  
 which passeth all understanding,  
 shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesu. Amen.

—*Philippians 4:4–7*



*The angel Gabriel announces to the virgin Mary that she will give birth to a ruler whose reign will never end.*

## Anthem

### The Angel Gabriel

BASQUE CAROL, arr. Malcolm Archer

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 know a blessed Mother thou shalt be,  
all generations laud and honour 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!

*—Traditional Basque Carol; para. Sabine Baring Gould (1834–1924)*

*John the Baptist proclaims the coming of Jesus, who is anointed by his Father to bring the good news of the Gospel.*

\*Carol

On Jordan's Bank

WINCHESTER NEW



1. On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -  
2. Then cleansed be ev - 'ry breast from sin; make  
3. For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our  
4. To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and  
5. All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose



noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,  
straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -  
re - fuge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we  
bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy  
ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.  
pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.  
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.  
we a - dore and Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Prayers | The people respond to each petition:

Leader: Maranatha.

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Advent Prayer | In unison:

Merciful Father, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation. Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may celebrate aright the commemoration of the nativity and may await with joy the coming in glory of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

\*Carol

Lo! He Comes, With Clouds Descending

HELMSLEY



1. Lo! he comes with clouds de - scend - ing, once for  
2. Ev - 'ry eye shall now be - hold him, robed in  
3. Those dear tok - ens of his pas - sion still his  
4. Yea, a - men! let all a - dore thee, high on



our sal - va - tion slain; thou - sand thou - sand  
dread - ful ma - jes - ty; those who set at  
daz - zling bo - dy bears, cause of end - less  
thine e - ter - nal throne; Sa - vior, take the



saints at - tend - ing swell the tri - umph of his  
nought and sold him, pierced, and nailed him to the  
ex - ul - ta - tion to his ran - somed wor - ship -  
pow'r and glo - ry; claim the king - dom for thine



train: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
tree, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing,  
ers; with what rap - ture, with what rap - ture,  
own: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.  
deep - ly wail - ing, shall the true Mes - si - ah see.  
with what rap - ture gaze we on those glo - rious scars!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone.

Postlude

Fugue sur "Veni redemptor gentium"

Margaretha Christina de Jong

# TODAY IN WORSHIP

## Presiding Minister

Kathryn Lester-Bacon ..... *Director of Religious Life, Duke University Chapel*

## Lectors

Takudzwa Chikepe.....*Divinity '24*

Anders Holmen..... *Divinity '25*

Katherine Johnson ..... *Organ Scholar, Duke University Chapel*

Natalie Rushing .....*Divinity '26*

Griffin Storm ..... *Trinity '26*

Ella Taylor ..... *Pratt '25*

Jessy Williams .....*Divinity '26*

## Musicians

Duke Chapel Vespers Ensemble..... *Choir*

Philip Cave ..... *Conductor-in-Residence, Duke University Chapel*

Katherine Johnson ..... *Organ Scholar, Duke University Chapel*

Susan Fancher.....*Soprano Saxophone; Lecturing Fellow of Music, Trinity College*



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