



Duke
UNIVERSITY
CHAPEL

BRIDGING FAITH & LEARNING

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 17, 2023, 11:00 a.m.



El Bautismo de Cristo (The Baptism of Christ), Jorge Cocco Santángelo, 2016.

This week, we light the rose-colored Advent candle as we celebrate what many traditions call Gaudete Sunday, from the Latin word for ‘Rejoice!’ With this reminder of the joy that the season of Advent precedes, the lessons this week offer messages of hope: Isaiah rejoices in the justice of the Lord and the righteousness that God will bring to the nations; John the Baptist affirms his role as the harbinger of the Messiah; and Mary sings a beautiful affirmation of God’s strength and goodness. Mary’s song—the Magnificat—reflects God’s blessings to the young singer and the promises God has made and continues to keep throughout the ages. This is a week befitting “Gaudete—rejoice!”

Gathering

*All rise as able

Carillon

Prelude

Three settings of ES IST EIN ROS' ENTSPRUNGEN

I. Kleine Partita für Orgel, 1944

Anton Heiller (1923–1979)

II. Op. 122, No. 8

Johannes Brahms (1833–1897)

III. Orgelsatz, 1977

Anton Heiller

Greeting and Call to Worship

*Gathering Hymn | See hymn printed at the back of the worship guide.

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG

*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 the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11

Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalmody

A New Magnificat

Carolyn Jennings

Hannah

My heart exults in the Lord;
my strength is exalted in the Lord.
My mouth derides my enemies;
I rejoice in God's salvation.

Mary

My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior,
who looks upon a lowly handmaid with favor.
All generations shall call me blessed.

Choir

My heart o'erflows, alleluia!

Hannah

There is none holy like the Lord;
there is no rock like our God.
Let not your mouth be arrogant,
for the Lord is a God of all knowledge.

Mary

For God who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is God's name.
And God's mercy is giv'n to God's people
from generation to generation.

Choir

My heart o'erflows, alleluia!

Hannah

The bows of the mighty are broken,
but the feeble put on strength.
Those who were full are hungry,
and those who were hungry are filled.

The Lord kills and brings to life;
God brings low and also exalts.
God lifts up the poor from the dust
to sit with rulers and inherit a seat of honor.

Mary

Strong is the arm of the Lord,
who has scattered the proud in their hearts;
God has put down the mighty
and lifted those of low degree.

Strong in the arm of the Lord,
who has scattered the proud in their hearts.
God has filled the hungry,
and the rich have been sent empty away.

Choir

For the pillars of the earth are the Lord's
and on them God has set the world.
My heart o'erflows, alleluia!

Hannah

God will guard the faithful flock,
and human might shall not prevail.

The Lord will judge the earth;
and will exalt the pow'r of God's anointed.

Mary

For the Lord has helped the servant Israel
in remembrance of God's love and mercy,
which was promised to Sarah and Abraham,
and to their children's children forever.

Choir

My heart o'erflows, alleluia!

Hannah

Alleluia!

Mary

Alleluia!

Choir

Amen.

—*The Song of Hannah (1 Samuel 2) and The Song of Mary (Luke 1),
adapt. Carolyn Jennings*

New Testament Lesson | NT page 193 in pew Bibles.

1 Thessalonians 5:16–24

Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel Lesson | NT page 86 in pew Bibles.

John 1:6–8, 19–28

Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Pointing to Hope

Response

*Response Hymn | UMH 211

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

*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.

Blessing for Retirement

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

Prepare the Royal Highway

arr. Timothy Shaw

Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near!
Let every hill and valley a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story:
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!

Then fling the gates wide open to greet your promised king!
Your king, yet every nation its tribute too may bring.
All lands will bow before him; their voices join your singing:
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!

His is no earthly kingdom, it comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding for kindness so abounding:
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!

- Franz Mikael Franzen (1772-1847), tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*

*Doxology

Praise to God the Father Sing

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND



Praise to God the Fa - ther sing, praise to God the Son, our King,
praise to God the Spir-it be ev - er and e - ter - nal-ly.

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.**

Sending Forth

*Benediction

*Sending Hymn | UMH 203

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

ELLACOMBE

Postlude

Noël: Votre bonté grand dieu

Claude Balbastre
(1727–1799)

Carillon

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

TODAY IN WORSHIP

Presiding Ministers

Luke A. Powery *Dean, Duke University Chapel*
Kathryn Lester-Bacon *Director of Religious Life, Duke University Chapel*

Preacher

Carol Gregg *Pastor, Congregation at Duke Chapel*

Lectors

Tamela Davis *Member, Congregation at Duke Chapel*
Drew Middleton *Member, Congregation at Duke Chapel*

Musicians

Members of the Duke Chapel Choir *Choir*
Zebulon Highben *Director of Chapel Music, Duke University Chapel*
Chad Fothergill *Chapel Organist, Duke University Chapel*
John Hanks *Percussion*
Katherine Johnson *Organ Scholar, Duke University Chapel*
Mitchell Eithun *Chapel Carillonneur, Duke University Chapel*

Head Usher

James Ferguson *Member, Congregation at Duke Chapel*

Mission of the Month | All of today's cash offerings and checks written to Duke University Chapel will be used to support Arise Collective, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization based in Raleigh, North Carolina, that equips women with the tools and support they need to heal, grow, and thrive, both in prison and in the communities to which they return. They provide a long-term solution to helping women stay out of prison through spiritual grounding, holistic programs and services, leadership development, housing, pathways to self-agency, and strong support systems. Send checks to: Duke University Chapel, Box 90974, Durham, NC 27708-0974. You are invited to give online at chapel.duke.edu/offering.

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.

Liturgical Acknowledgments | Advent Confession: from the *Book of Common Worship*, published by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). **Praise to God the Father Sing.** Text: traditional Doxology. Music, NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND: attr. Johann Walter (1496–1570), *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524.

ENGAGE

University Prayer of Thanksgiving | Each week, we focus on a different campus unit, school, or department for whom to give thanks to God for their service and contributions to the wider university community and beyond. Today, we give thanks for the Department of Philosophy.

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.

Restrooms in Divinity School | Public restrooms are available in the Divinity School. To access them, exit the Chapel through the main front doors, turn to the left, and enter the Divinity School. Restrooms are along the hallway in the Divinity School.

ENGAGE

Attendance Register | This morning worshipers are invited to indicate their presence using the attendance register located on the pews at the center aisle. The purpose of which is to help the Chapel and Congregation better understand who worships with us on Sunday mornings. In addition, this registration will allow those who share a pew to greet each other by name.

Alternative Gift Giving | Help empower orphaned youth through Zoe Empowers, which equips orphaned children and youth-led families with solutions to overcome extreme poverty and achieve self-sufficiency. A Zoe Empowers gift market provides an opportunity to honor a loved one with a gift to support vulnerable children in Zimbabwe. The gift market will be held after worship in the narthex today.

Guest Preacher Next Sunday | The guest preacher next Sunday morning at the 11 a.m. service is Richard Lischer, the James T. and Alice Mead Cleland Emeritus Professor of Preaching at Duke Divinity School. He is also an ordained Lutheran clergyman with eight years of pastoral experience. He is a familiar preacher at Duke Chapel, where he has been a guest preacher for over forty years. He is the author or editor of many books, including a collection of sermons, *Just Tell the Truth*, and his most recent study of spiritual memoir, *Our Hearts Are Restless*, published by Oxford University Press.

Bach Cantata on Fourth Sunday of Advent | In our Sunday morning service on December 24, at 11:00 a.m., the Duke Chapel Schola Cantorum and Mallarmé Music will perform J. S. Bach's cantata *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland* ("Savior of the Nations, Come"), BWV 61. Dr. Richard Lischer, James T. and Alice Mead Cleland Professor Emeritus of Preaching at Duke Divinity School, will offer a homily on the cantata text and the scripture lessons for the day.

Holiday Hours | The Chapel is open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., except on Christmas Day and New Year's Day, when it is closed, and on December 29 and 30, when it closes at 5:00 p.m.

ENGAGE

Christmas Eve at Duke Chapel | The Chapel will hold four Christmas Eve services on Sunday, December 24. These services often fill up, so attendees are encouraged to arrive early. Free parking is available in the Bryan Center Parking Garage located at 125 Science Drive.

- 2:00 p.m., Children's service with Christmas carols, a pageant, and scripture readings that tell the story of the birth of Jesus; the service lasts about thirty-five minutes.
- 5:00 p.m., The Durham Children's Choir sings, and Dean Powery preaches the sermon; the Amalgam Brass ensemble and Chapel organists lead the congregation in singing Christmas carols.
- 8:00 p.m., A service with Holy Communion and Dean Powery preaching; the Bell Durham handbell choir plays; the Amalgam Brass ensemble and Chapel organists lead the congregation in singing Christmas carols.
- 11:00 p.m., The traditional Service of Nine Lessons and Carols by candlelight with scripture readings and Christmas carols; the singers of the Duke Chapel Schola Cantorum, a harpist, and Chapel organists lead the music, which will include the debut of an original, award-winning carol by Dr. Zebulon Highben, the Chapel's music director.

Volunteers Needed | The Congregation serves dinner at Urban Ministries of Durham once a month. Donated cooked lasagnas serving 24 (such as two party-sized Stouffer's lasagnas) are needed for the monthly dinner to help feed our unsheltered neighbors on Wednesday, December 27, and Sunday, January 14, at 5:00 p.m. Please contact congregation@duke.edu to indicate your plans to bring hot lasagna to Urban Ministries, 410 Liberty St., Durham. Four to six volunteers are also needed to stay to plate the meals.

Sunday Morning Classes | Sunday morning Christian Education classes are available for all ages most Sundays of the year from 9:45–10:45 a.m., with coffee and refreshments provided at 9:30 a.m. Classes meet in the lowest level of the Westbrook building. New participants are welcome at any time. No classes will be held on Sundays, December 24 or 31. Classes will resume on Sunday, January 7. Please contact congregation@duke.edu for additional information.

RESPONSE HYMN | Rejoice, Rejoice Believers



1. Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your
2. The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the
3. The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and
4. Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus,



lights ap - pear; the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing,
bride-groom near; go forth as he ap - proach - es
suf - f'ring bore, shall live and reign for - ev - er
now ap - pear; a - rise, O Sun so longed for,



and dark - er night is near. The bride - groom is a -
with al - le - lu - ias clear. The mar - riage feast is
when sor - row is no more. A - round the throne of
o'er this be - night - ed sphere. With hearts and hands up -



ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh. Up, pray and
wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand. A - rise, O
glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold; in tri - umph
lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see the day of



watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
heirs of glo - ry; the bride-groom is at hand.
cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907

Music: Swedish folk tune

HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG

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ACCESSIBILITY

Hearing assistance units, as well as large-print worship guides and hymnals, are available at the AV console in the rear of the Chapel. There, you can also find directions to download a listen-assist app on your phone. Please let us know if you need other accommodations by approaching a minister or usher, or email us at dukechapel@duke.edu.

LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH

We would like to get to know you. What are your questions? What is your story? Take a moment to fill out a brief form, and a Chapel minister or other staff member will contact you soon. Scan the QR code or visit chapel.duke.edu/connect.



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*The Congregation
at Duke Chapel*

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Connect with us



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#FindSanctuary

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The Congregation at Duke University Chapel joyfully welcomes all persons regardless of age, race, class, origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other distinction and invites membership and participation in all of its ministries.

Please email congregation@duke.edu to receive the weekly eNews.