



Duke  
UNIVERSITY  
CHAPEL

BRIDGING FAITH & LEARNING

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Christmas Eve

Friday, December 24, 2021, 5:00 p.m.



*The birth of Jesus with shepherds*  
JESUS MAFA, Cameroon, 1973

Christmas is the festival during which Christians celebrate the birth of the Christ child in Bethlehem over 2000 years ago. This vulnerable infant, long-awaited and yet still a surprise, is the incarnation of God on earth. As we share gifts with our friends and families this season, we seek to capture the joy and wonder of the original gift of Christmas: Jesus Christ, coming into a broken world to dwell among us as the Son of God, our Savior.

# Gathering

## Carillon

### Choral Prelude

In Dulci Jubilo

arr. Vicki Tucker Courtney

Away in a Manger

arr. Ruth Elaine Schram

Ding, Dong! Merrily on High

arr. Judith Herrington & Sara Glick

### Greeting and Call to Worship

#### \*Opening Hymn 240

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN  
arr. Vaclav Nelhybel

#### \*Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance | In unison:

Almighty God, who sent a star to guide the magi to the holy child Jesus: we confess that we have not followed the light of your word. We have not searched for signs of your love in the world, or trusted good news to be good. We have failed to praise your Son's birth, and refused his peace on earth. We have expected little, and hoped for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew in us all fine desires, so we may watch and wait and once more hear the glad story of our Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

The minister speaks words of assurance.

\*Peace | All exchange signs and words of God's peace.

## Proclamation

### Prayer for Illumination | In unison:

Almighty God, as we prepare with joy to celebrate the gift of the Christ child, embrace the earth with your glory and be for us a living hope; in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 9:2-7

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

## Anthem

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

arr. Vicki Tucker Courtney

God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay.  
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day,  
to save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray.  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

From Bethlehem in Jewry this blessed babe was born,  
and laid within a manger upon this blessed morn;  
his mother Mary, did nothing take in scorn.  
O tidings of comfort and joy...

From God our heav'nly Father, a blessed angel came;  
and unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same;  
how that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name.  
O tidings of comfort and joy...

## New Testament Lesson

Titus 2:11–14

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## \*Gradual Hymn 230 | Stanzas 1 and 2

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS  
arr. James Biery

## \*Gospel Lesson

Luke 2:1–20

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## \*Gradual Hymn 230 | stanzas 3 and 4

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS  
arr. James Biery

## Sermon

What Child is This?

\* All who are able may stand

## 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.**

### Offertory Anthem

A Midnight Clear in Bethlehem (Gesù Bambino)

arr. Greg Gilpin

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;  
above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.  
*Venite adoriamo. Venite adoriamo. Venite adoriamo, Gesù redentor.*

It came upon a midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold.  
Above its sad and lonely plains, they bend on hov'ring wing.  
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.  
*Venite adoriamo. Venite adoriamo. Venite adoriamo, Gesù redentor.*

Oh, hear the angels singing; oh, hear the angels singing.  
*Venite. Venite. Venite adoriamo, adoriamo, Gesù redentor.*

### \*Offertory Hymn 238

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

arr. Vaclav Nelhybel

## 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

\*Closing Hymn 246

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH  
arr. Robert Hobby

Closing Voluntary

My Spirit Be Joyful

Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685–1750)  
arr. Harry Herforth

## TODAY IN WORSHIP

### PRESIDING MINISTERS

Bruce Puckett..... *Assistant Dean, Duke University Chapel*  
Carol Gregg..... *Pastor, Congregation at Duke Chapel*

### PREACHERS

Luke A. Powery ..... *Dean, Duke University Chapel*  
Bruce Puckett..... *Assistant Dean, Duke University Chapel*

### LECTORS

Ben Wirzba ..... *Member of the Congregation at Duke Chapel*  
Suin Kpa ..... *Member of the Congregation at Duke Chapel*

### MUSICIANS

Zebulon Highben ..... *Director of Chapel Music, Duke University Chapel*  
Christopher Jacobson..... *Organist, Duke University Chapel*  
Durham Children’s Choir ..... *Choir*  
Dena Byers ..... *Artistic Director, Durham Children’s Choir*  
Jeff Whicker..... *Accompanist, Durham Children’s Choir*  
Don Eagle ..... *Trumpet, Amalgam Brass*  
Kent Foss ..... *Trumpet, Amalgam Brass*  
Kim Van Pelt ..... *Horn, Amalgam Brass*  
Jonathan Randazzo ..... *Trombone, Amalgam Brass*  
Steve Truckenbrod..... *Tuba, Amalgam Brass*  
Jordan Klotz..... *Chapel Carillonneur*

### HEAD USHER

James Ferguson ..... *Member of the Congregation at Duke Chapel*

**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.

**CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING** | This year's offerings will go to support families in need both at home and abroad. Half of this year's Christmas Eve offerings will go to Family Health Ministries (FHM). FHM is a nonprofit agency, founded by Dr. David and Mrs. Kathy Walmer, which provides medical care and support to the people of Haiti. Since 2004, the Chapel's work with FHM has included building the Blanchard Health Clinic and the Nancy Ferree-Clark Guesthouse, named in honor of the former Congregation pastor. The other half of the offering will go to World Relief Durham to work with immigrants, churches, and the community to help vulnerable immigrants thrive in the Triangle. World Relief resettles refugees, provides immigration legal services, and partners with schools to fill gaps for vulnerable immigrant youth. To learn more about either of these organizations visit: [familyhm.org](http://familyhm.org) or [worldreliefdurham.org](http://worldreliefdurham.org).

**TODAY'S CHOIR** | The Durham Children's Choir is a community organization which exists to provide exceptional choral education to children regardless of race, creed, or socio-economic station. Founded in 2004 by Scott Hill, and under the leadership of Artistic Director Dena Byers, the Durham Children's Choir performs music of various cultures and genres and shares that music with the community at public and private events. They especially enjoy collaborating with area music educators, composers, and arts organizations. The choir has recently sung at Duke Chapel's Blessing of the Animals service and have performed in Carnegie Hall. These ventures enable the Durham Children's Choir to have a greater presence in the community and provide the children with invaluable learning opportunities. For more information about the Durham Children's Choir, visit their website at [www.durhamchildrenschoir.org](http://www.durhamchildrenschoir.org).

**ACCESSIBILITY** | Large print hymnals and bulletins are available at the front desk. Hearing assistance units are available at the back left sound desk. A sign language interpreter is located at the front of the Chapel on the pulpit side.

## ENGAGE

---

**DUKE CHAPEL WORSHIP** | Worship is offered at Duke Chapel on Sunday mornings at 11:00 a.m. throughout the year. Every Sunday worshipers from campus and the community gather to praise God, who is known to us in Jesus Christ. During the academic year, other worship services include Vespers on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. and Evensong on the second and fourth Sundays of the month at 4:00 p.m. All are welcome.

**CHAPEL NEWSLETTER** | The Chapel publishes a weekly newsletter with information about worship, concerts, and special events. Sign up for these email updates at [chapel.duke.edu/email](http://chapel.duke.edu/email).

**STUDENTS INVITED TO WORSHIP, BELONG, AND SERVE** | The Chapel offers undergraduate and graduate students many ways to connect their faiths and learning at Duke: belong to one of the campus Religious Life groups, become a Chapel Scholar, participate in worship services, enroll in Chapel-supported house courses, work a student job at the Chapel, and serve with community partners in Durham. Learn more at [chapel.duke.edu/students](http://chapel.duke.edu/students).

**DUKE CHAPEL CONCERT SEASON** | This year, Duke Chapel is offering a robust schedule of concerts and recitals from beloved favorites like the Organ Recital Series to new offerings such as Guest Artist Concerts. Learn more at [chapel.duke.edu/music](http://chapel.duke.edu/music).

**CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRIES** | The Congregation at Duke Chapel is the interdenominational church home for people who consider Duke Chapel to be their primary place of worship. Recognizing that the Christian life is more than a Sunday morning experience, members of the Congregation long to deepen their relationships with God, with each other, and with their neighbors. Through education, mission, and fellowship the Congregation helps participants to strengthen these precious relationships. To sign up for the Congregation's weekly newsletter, please email [congregation@duke.edu](mailto:congregation@duke.edu).

**HOLIDAY HOURS** | The Chapel is open to visitors daily from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. with these exceptions over the winter break: Christmas Day, closed all day; Sunday, December 26, through Saturday, January 1, closing at 5:00 p.m.; and Monday, January 3, closing at 5:00 p.m. Before planning a visit, please confirm the building schedule at [chapel.duke.edu](http://chapel.duke.edu) or by calling 919-681-9488.

**PASTORS AVAILABLE** | If you wish to speak to a pastor regarding a spiritual or personal concern, please contact [congregation@duke.edu](mailto:congregation@duke.edu) or 919-684-3917.

**BACH CANTATA IN SUNDAY SERVICE JAN. 2** | In a departure from the usual concert format of the Bach Cantata series, the Chapel's Bach Ensemble will perform Bach's *Lobe den Herrn* during the regular Sunday morning worship service on January 2 at 11:00 a.m. Presented in its historic context as part of a Sunday liturgy, this cantata, with its three joyful hunting horns, will help ring in the new year.

## ENGAGE

**EPIPHANY SERVICE JAN. 6** | A special Choral Vespers service marks the Feast of the Epiphany on Thursday, January 6, at 7:00 p.m. The Chapel's Vespers Ensemble leads this service of hymns, anthems, prayer, and scripture readings.

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASSES** | The Congregation provides weekly Sunday morning Christian education from 9:45–10:45 a.m. for all ages. Classes, which are held both in person and virtually, are open to the public. New participants are welcome at any time. Please contact [congregation@duke.edu](mailto:congregation@duke.edu) for Zoom link. Classes will resume January 2:

**Wee Praise:** Music and movement for children ages 0–3 with parents or caregivers (available virtually).

**Godly Play:** Spiritual formation for children ages 4 through 5th grade (available virtually).

**Youth Bible Study:** Youth grades 6–12 will explore the Book of Genesis in Westbrook 0013.

**Adult Forum:** Guest speakers address a variety of topics.

## LET'S BE 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 very brief form and a Chapel minister or other staff member will contact you soon. Scan the QR code or visit [chapel.duke.edu/connect](http://chapel.duke.edu/connect).



**Duke**  
UNIVERSITY  
CHAPEL

[chapel.duke.edu](http://chapel.duke.edu)

Box 90974 | 401 Chapel Dr.  
Durham, NC 27708

919-681-9488

[dukechapel@duke.edu](mailto:dukechapel@duke.edu)



CONNECT WITH US  
@DukeChapel  
#FindSanctuary



*The Congregation  
at Duke Chapel*

[congregation.chapel.duke.edu](http://congregation.chapel.duke.edu)  
919-684-3917

The Congregation is the interdenominational church home for university students and community members who consider the Chapel to be their primary place of worship. Through ministries of mission, education, and fellowship, members of the Congregation strive to deepen connections with God and neighbor.

Please email [congregation@duke.edu](mailto:congregation@duke.edu) to receive the weekly eNews.