



Duke
UNIVERSITY
CHAPEL

BRIDGING FAITH & LEARNING

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 24, 2023, 11:00 a.m.



Henry Ossawa Tanner, *Annunciation*, 1898.

The season of Advent begins on the Sunday closest to November 30 and ends at sundown on December 24 (in Judeo-Christian practice, a new day begins the preceding evening). In 2023, December 24 begins as the fourth Sunday of Advent, but quickly transitions to Christmas Eve—the Advent season is shortened, a reminder that the kingdom of God doesn't emerge in neat linear time. Like this morning's reading from Romans, this brief Advent can prompt us to wait for Christ's coming not halfheartedly, but eagerly. The labor pains with which creation groans, all of the sufferings of the present time, will come to an end. The Savior of the nations will come again as once he came, and—as Gabriel foretold to Mary—his kingdom will have no end.

*“Come, Lord Jesus, crown of gladness,
we are yearning
for the day of your returning.”*

Gathering

Carillon

Prelude

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 659

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685–1750)

Greeting and Call to Worship

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

Savior of the Nations, Come

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

*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 your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*All rise as able

Romans 8:18–25

Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel Lesson | NT page 53 in pew Bibles.

Luke 1:26–38

Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Cantata

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 61

J. S. Bach

I. Chorus

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland,
der Jungfrauen Kind erkannt,
des sich wundert alle Welt,
Gott solch Geburt ihm bestellt.

I. Chorus

Savior of the nations, come;
virgin's son, make here your home.
Marvel now, O heaven and earth:
God has chosen such a birth.

II. Recitative *tenor*

Der Heiland ist gekommen,
hat unser armes Fleisch und Blut
an sich genommen
und nimmet uns zu Blutsverwandten an.
O allerhöchstes Gut,
was hast du nicht an uns getan?
was tust du nicht
noch täglich an den Deinen?
Du kömmt und läßt dein Licht
mit vollem Segen scheinen.

II. Recitative *tenor*

The savior has come,
and has our humble flesh and blood
taken on himself
and accepts us as his blood-relatives.
O Highest Goodness of all,
what have you not done for us?
What do you not do
still every day for your people?
You come and let your light
shine with full blessing.

III. Aria tenor

Komm, Jesu, komm zu deiner Kirche
 und gib ein selig neues Jahr!
 Befördre deines Namens Ehre,
 erhalte die gesunde Lehre
 und segne Kanzel und Altar!

IV. Recitative bass

Siehe, ich stehe vor der
 Tür und klopfe an.
 So jemand meine Stimme hören wird
 und die Tür auftun,
 zu dem werde ich eingehen
 und das Abendmahl mit ihm halten
 und er mit mir.

V. Aria soprano

Öffne dich, mein ganzes Herze,
 Jesus kömmt und ziehet ein.
 Bin ich gleich nur Staub und Erde,
 Will er mich doch nicht verschmähn,
 Seine Lust an mir zu sehn,
 Daß ich seine Wohnung werde.
 O wie selig werd ich sein!

VI. Chorale

Amen, amen!
 Komm, du schöne Freudenkrone,
 bleib nicht lange!
 Deiner wart ich mit Verlangen.

III. Aria tenor

Come, Jesus, come to your church
 and grant us a blessed new year!
 Increase the honor of your name,
 preserve sound teaching,
 and bless pulpit and altar!

IV. Recitative bass

See, I stand by the
 door and knock.
 If anyone will hear my voice
 and open the door,
 I shall go in
 and have Supper with him
 and he with me.

V. Aria soprano

Open, my whole heart,
 Jesus comes and enters within.
 Though I am only dust and earth,
 he does not want to scorn me
 but to see his pleasure in me
 so that I become his dwelling.
 Oh, how blessed I shall be!

VI. Chorale

Amen, amen!
 Come, Lord Jesus, crown of gladness
 we are yearning
 for the day of your returning.

*I—attr. Ambrose of Milan, adapt./tr. Martin Luther; English tr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
 II, III, V—Erdmann Neumeister; English tr. Francis Browne, © 2005.
 IV—Revelation 3:20, tr. Martin Luther; English tr. Francis Browne.
 VI—Philipp Nicolai, tr. © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship.*

Sermon

Savior of the Nations, Come

Response

*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.

Prayers of the People | The congregation responds to each petition:

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Offertory

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 660

J. S. Bach

*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 247. The congregation is invited to sing st. 2 in harmony.

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET

Postlude

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 661

J. S. Bach

Carillon

There will be no Memorial Chapel communion today. The Chapel will celebrate Holy Communion at tonight's 8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service.

TODAY IN WORSHIP

Presiding Ministers

Kenneth Moland *Pastoral Assistant, Congregation at Duke Chapel*

Bruce Puckett *Assistant Dean, Duke University Chapel*

Preacher

Richard Lischer *James T. and Alice Mead Cleland Professor Emeritus of Preaching,
Duke Divinity School*

Musicians

Duke Chapel Schola Cantorum	<i>Choir</i>
Zebulon Highben	<i>Director of Chapel Music, Duke University Chapel</i>
Chad Fothergill	<i>Chapel Organist, Duke University Chapel</i>
Katherine Johnson	<i>Organ Scholar, Duke University Chapel</i>
Gwen Hyland	<i>Tenor Soloist</i>
David Faircloth	<i>Bass-Baritone Soloist</i>
Alissa Roca	<i>Soprano Soloist</i>
Matvey Lapin	<i>Violin 1, Mallarmé Music</i>
Allison Willet	<i>Violin 2, Mallarmé Music</i>
Suzanne Rousso	<i>Viola 1, Mallarmé Music</i>
Joey O'Donnell	<i>Viola 2, Mallarmé Music</i>
Keiran Campbell	<i>Cello, Mallarmé Music</i>
Robbie Link	<i>Violone, Mallarmé Music</i>
Charles Wines	<i>Bassoon, Mallarmé Music</i>
Mitchell Eithun	<i>Chapel Carillonneur, Duke University Chapel</i>

Lectors

Ken Davenport	<i>Member, Congregation at Duke Chapel</i>
Emma Friesen	<i>Trinity '22</i>

Head Usher

James Ferguson	<i>Member, Congregation at Duke Chapel</i>
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Today's Guest Preacher | The Rev. Dr. Richard Lischer is the James T. and Alice Mead Cleland Professor Emeritus of Preaching at Duke Divinity School. He is an ordained minister in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and has pastoral experience in rural and suburban settings. He joined the Duke Divinity School faculty in 1979 and taught homiletics and ministry. In his scholarly work, Dr. Lischer has sought to portray proclamation, ministry, and rhetoric as integrated theological activities. His books include *The Preacher King: Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Word that Moved America*, *Open Secrets: A Memoir of Faith and Discovery*, and *Stations of the Heart: Parting with a Son*. His book *Just Tell the Truth: A Call to Faith, Hope, and Courage* contains several sermons preached in 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.

Today's Music | The cantata *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland* (BWV 61) was written for the first Sunday of Advent, 1714. The German title comes from the Lutheran chorale (or hymn) featured in the first movement, a text and melody that can be traced back to Ambrose, the fourth-century bishop of Milan, that is sung as today's processional hymn.

"Savior of the Nations, Come" may have been one of Bach's favorite chorales; he wrote two cantatas and multiple organ works based on it—three of which are featured in today's liturgy. BWV 61 also incorporates a second chorale at its conclusion, "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright" (*Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern*, see UMH 247). But Bach uses only a small portion of "O Morning Star" here: the final section of the last stanza. It serves as a concluding exclamation to the cantata's central message: That Jesus has come and still comes, even as we await his coming again.

These central themes are critical for understanding Bach's church music, as cantatas were a form of musical preaching—arias, recitatives, and choruses were artfully combined to create a "sermon in sound." For example: In this cantata, the opening string motif is a French *ouverture*, a Baroque form associated with processions and royalty, as we welcome the Savior of the nations. In the fourth movement, while the bass sings Christ's words from Revelation 3:20 ("See, I stand by the door and knock"), the orchestra imitates the sound of knocking. This knocking leads directly into the soprano aria, *Öffne dich*, which opens the door of the heart and invites Jesus to enter.

Mallarmé Music | Mallarmé Music is a flexible ensemble of professional musicians based in Durham, North Carolina, whose mission is to enrich the lives of the community through outstanding chamber music performance. The ensemble distinguishes itself in the community by its innovative educational programs, its commitment to creative collaboration with other organizations, its creation of significant new work, and its dedication to serve a diverse population. Created in 1984 by musicians Jane Hawkins and Anna Ludwig Wilson working with poet and arts administrator Margaret DeMott, the ensemble's name comes from Stéphane Mallarmé, the nineteenth-century French poet and philosopher. Violist Suzanne Rousso joined Mallarmé as their artistic director in 2008 and added historically informed performance on period instruments as an important facet of Mallarmé's artistic endeavors.

Today's Offering | All of today's cash offerings and checks written to Duke University Chapel will support human service organizations in the greater Durham area. Send checks to: Duke University Chapel, Box 90974, Durham, NC 27708-0974. You are invited to give online at chapel.duke.edu/offering.

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 English.

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.

Christmas Eve at Duke Chapel | The Chapel will hold four Christmas Eve services today. 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 Luke 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.

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 26–31, when it closes at 5:00 p.m.

Quilting Ministry | The Duke Chapel Quilters will be meeting on January 4, 18, and 25 at 10:00 a.m. All those who enjoy sewing or quilting are welcome to attend. In addition, fabric donations of 100% cotton and thread of any color are welcomed. Please contact congregation@duke.edu for additional information.

ENGAGE

Epiphany Lessons and Carols | A worship service on Sunday, January 7, at 4:00 p.m. will mark the beginning of the season on Epiphany. Based on the formula made famous by the Christmas Lessons and Carols from King's College, Cambridge, this service follows a similar pattern of readings, choral anthems, and congregational hymns.

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 Sunday, January 14, at 5:00 p.m. Please contact congregation@duke.edu to indicate that you plan to bring hot lasagna to Urban Ministries, 410 Liberty St., Durham. Four to six volunteers are also needed to stay to plate the meals.

Upcoming Concerts | The next concert in the 2023–2024 Chapel Music season will be on Sunday, January 28, at 5:00 p.m., when Nathaniel Gumbs, director of Chapel Music at Yale University, will present a recital on the Flentrop organ. See the full schedule for the season at chapel.duke.edu/music.

Sunday Morning Classes | Sunday morning Christian Education classes are available for all ages on 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.

GATHERING HYMN | Savior of the Nations, Come



1. Sav - ior of the na - tions, come;
2. Not by hu - man flesh and blood,
3. Won - drous birth— oh, won - drous child—
4. From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds,
5. Now your man - ger, shin - ing bright,
6. Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,



vir - gin's son, make here your home.
but the mys - tic Breath of God,
from his throne, a vir - gin mild!
back to God his path - way leads;
hal - lows night with new - born light.
vir - gin's son, in - car - nate Word!



Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth:
was the Word of God made flesh,
Ver - y God and Mar - y's son,
out to van - quish death's com - mand,
Night can - not this light sub - due;
To the ho - ly Trin - i - ty



God has cho - sen such a birth.
fruit of wom - an, blos - som fresh.
ea - ger now his race to run!
back to reign at God's right hand.
let our faith shine ev - er new.
praise we sing e - ter - nal - ly!

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397;
adapt. Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. composite
Music: plainsong, adapt. *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

7777

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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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.