



Duke  
UNIVERSITY  
CHAPEL

BRIDGING FAITH & LEARNING

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24, 2023, 5:00 p.m.



*Manger*, Liz Valente, 2021.

In the ancient world, as nights grew longer, a celebration seemed in order when finally the sun seemed to push back against the long nights, and the days began to lengthen. In a symbolic parallel, the early followers of Jesus glimpsed this festival as an opportunity to celebrate the light of Christ shining through the world, enlightening human hearts and minds. Today, in the depths of our winter, as the days in the Northern Hemisphere grow shorter, we celebrate that approaching light as God comes among us in the form of a tiny baby; come into the world to bring peace, love, joy, and hope. Glory to God in the highest!



## Gathering

\*All rise as able

### Carillon

### Choral Prelude

Hodie Christus Natus Est

arr. Laura Farnell

The Midnight Clear

Ruth Elaine Schram & Aren Newell Williams

Noel, Noel

Vijay Singh

### Greeting and Call to Worship

#### \*Gathering Hymn | UMH 240

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN  
arr. Václav Nelhýbel

#### \*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, 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.

Minister: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

## 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 | OT page 600 in pew Bibles.

Isaiah 9:2–7

Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

Away in a Manger

arr. Ruth Elaine Schram

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
and stay by my cradle 'til morning is nigh.

Be near me Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay  
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
and take us to heaven to live with thee there.

—anon. *North American carol*

New Testament Lesson | NT pages 202–203 in pew Bibles.

Titus 2:11–14

Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

\*Gradual Hymn | UMH 230, stanzas 1 and 2. Turn to face the Gospel procession.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS  
arr. James Biery

\*Gospel Lesson | NT pages 54–55 in pew Bibles.

Luke 2:1–20

Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

\*Gradual Hymn | UMH 230, stanzas 3 and 4. Turn to face the Gospel procession.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

arr. James Biery

Sermon

All I Want for Christmas

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

The First Noel / Pachelbel's Canon

arr. Michael Clawson

The first Noel the angel did say,  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay.  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
*Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.*  
*Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel.*

For all to see there was a star  
Shining in the east, beyond them far;  
And to the earth, it gave great light,  
and it continued both day and night.  
*Noel...*

—anon. *English carol*

\*Offertory Hymn | UMH 251

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

GO TELL IT

## 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 246

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH  
arr. Robert Hobby

Postlude

My Spirit Be Joyful

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

Carillon

# TODAY IN WORSHIP

## Presiding Ministers

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

## Preacher

Luke A. Powery . . . . . *Dean, Duke University Chapel*

## Lectors

Donghyung Lee . . . . . *Chapel Scholar, Divinity '26*  
Deb Hackney . . . . . *Senior Director of Academics, Duke Divinity School; Divinity '16*  
Amanda Ann Bridgers, Caterina Greco-Phillips . . . . . *ASL Interpreters*

## Musicians

Durham Children's Choir . . . . . *Choir*  
Dena Byers . . . . . *Artistic Director, Durham Children's Choir*  
Scott Hill . . . . . *Accompanist, Durham Children's Choir*  
Chad Fothergill . . . . . *Chapel Organist, Duke University Chapel*  
Zebulon Highben . . . . . *Director of Chapel Music, Duke University Chapel*  
Paul Neebe . . . . . *Trumpet, Amalgam Brass*  
Tim Altman . . . . . *Trumpet, Amalgam Brass*  
Abigail Pack . . . . . *Horn, Amalgam Brass*  
Mike Kris . . . . . *Trombone, Amalgam Brass*  
Steve Truckenbrod . . . . . *Tuba, Amalgam Brass*  
Mitchell Eithun . . . . . *Chapel Carillonneur, Duke University Chapel*

## Head Usher

James Ferguson . . . . . *Member, Congregation at Duke Chapel*

**Christmas Eve Offering** | All of today's cash offerings and checks written to Duke University Chapel will be used to support two local non-profit and strategic community partners of Duke Chapel: Jubilee Home and Habitat for Humanity of Durham. Jubilee Home creates supportive housing and therapeutic living for justice-involved persons in Durham.

**Jubilee Home** takes a person-centered approach that sees every resident as a whole person, born with dignity and brilliance inherent to a child of God. Led by a staff of peers, Jubilee Home offers a safe, beautiful, low-barrier home for folk transitioning to independence. By offering nonjudgemental wrap-around support, Jubilee Home imagines a world where we are all better together.

**Habitat for Humanity of Durham** is part of a global nonprofit housing organization operated on Christian principles that seeks to put God's love into action by building homes, communities, and hope. Habitat for Humanity of Durham is dedicated to eliminating substandard housing locally and globally by constructing, rehabilitating, and preserving homes; by advocating for fair and just housing policies; and by providing training and access to resources to help families improve their shelter conditions.

You can send checks to: Duke University Chapel, Box 90974, Durham, NC 27708-0974. You are invited to give online at [chapel.duke.edu/offering](http://chapel.duke.edu/offering).

**About the Durham Children's Choir** | The Durham Children's Choir (DCC) seeks to provide exceptional choral education to children regardless of race, creed, or socio-economic station. Founded in 2004 by Scott Hill, the DCC is currently under the leadership of Artistic Director Dena Byers. The DCC performs music from various cultures and genres at public and private events. The DCC collaborates with local music educators, composers, and arts organizations, including their annual participation in an event celebrating Martin Luther King, Jr. and their performance at the WRAL Tower Lighting ceremony at the American Tobacco Campus. They have performed internationally and nationally, have opened for Grammy Award-winning musician Lauren Daigle, and have also performed in Carnegie Hall. These ventures enable the DCC to have a strong presence in the community and provide the children with invaluable learning opportunities. For more information, please visit their website at [durhamchildrenschoir.org](http://durhamchildrenschoir.org). Duke University Chapel has been a supporter of the DCC since its founding.

**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** | **Prayer of Confession.** *The Worshipbook*, published by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).



## ENGAGE

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**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.

**Chapel Flowers** | If you would like to honor a loved one and the worshiping community of the Duke Chapel with a gift of flowers to decorate the chancel for Sunday worship, please contact Angela Flynn, coordinator of worship and ministry, at [angela.flynn@duke.edu](mailto:angela.flynn@duke.edu).

**Duke Chapel Email Newsletter** | The Chapel publishes a weekly newsletter with news about worship services, concerts, special events, and more. Signing up for these email updates is a great way to get more involved in the life of the Chapel: [chapel.duke.edu/email](http://chapel.duke.edu/email).

**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.

**Students at Duke Chapel** | Students are the Chapel's primary focus and community. The Chapel seeks to serve each student, bridging their faith and learning through individual formation, communal worship, acts of service on campus and in the broader world, and caring support, regardless of their beliefs. Learn about Chapel Scholars, Religious Life groups, Chapel choirs, Student Preacher applications, an alternative spring break trip, the Say the Thing initiative, and more at [chapel.duke.edu/students](http://chapel.duke.edu/students).

**Community Ministry** | The Chapel stands as a living witness in Durham and beyond. By being a faithful witness to the all-inclusive love of God, the Chapel joins in the important work of respecting the dignity of every human being, especially in the areas of affordable housing, education, and mass incarceration. Learn more at [chapel.duke.edu/community](http://chapel.duke.edu/community).

## ENGAGE

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**Worship at Duke Chapel** | Join us in worship that offers stirring preaching, inspiring sacred music, and faithful prayer. Held year-round on Sundays at 11:00 a.m. amid the beautiful, soaring architecture of Duke Chapel, this interdenominational Christian service is characterized by vibrant faith, intellectual depth, diverse cultural expressions, and a welcoming community. Learn more about all of the Chapel's services at [chapel.duke.edu/worship](https://chapel.duke.edu/worship).

**Epiphany Lessons and Carols** | A worship service on Sunday, January 7, at 4:00 p.m. will mark the beginning of the season of 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.

**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](https://chapel.duke.edu/music).

**Congregational Ministries** | The Congregation at Duke University 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, each other, and their neighbors. By providing opportunities for education, service, and fellowship, the Congregation helps participants strengthen these precious relationships. The Congregation welcomes singles, couples, and families who are students, faculty, staff, and community members to join the church to grow together in Christ. To sign up for the Congregation's weekly newsletter, please email [congregation@duke.edu](mailto:congregation@duke.edu).

**Sunday Morning Classes** | Sunday morning Christian Education classes are available for all ages. These classes are offered 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. They will resume on Sunday, January 7. New participants are welcome at any time. Please contact [congregation@duke.edu](mailto:congregation@duke.edu) for additional information.



## ACCESSIBILITY

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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](mailto:dukechapel@duke.edu).

## LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH

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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  
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*The Congregation  
at Duke Chapel*

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Connect with us



@DukeChapel  
#FindSanctuary

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

919-684-3917

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