

John August Swanson, Nativity Triptych, 2003-2022.

# A SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS & CAROLS

Christmas Eve at Duke University Chapel

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023, 11:00 PM

## A SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS & CAROLS

## Christmas Eve at Duke University Chapel



In 1880 the Anglican bishop of Truro, E. W. Benson, crafted a festival service of nine lessons and carols for worship on Christmas Eve. Nearly forty years later, Eric Milner-White, the dean of King's College Chapel, Cambridge, adapted that worship order for use at King's on Christmas Eve 1918. Radio broadcasts of the King's service began in the 1930s and were first transmitted to the United States in the 1970s.

However, the liturgy itself reached America earlier than that. Clergy, musicians, and worship leaders who had experienced the festival of lessons and carols at King's College brought the format back with them and began adapting it for use in their own churches, cathedrals, and chapels. Duke University Chapel's own version began in 1969, under the leadership of James T. Cleland, dean of Duke Chapel, and J. Benjamin Smith, director of Chapel Music. The service has been held every Christmas Eve since, except in 2020 due to the pandemic.

Duke Chapel's service of nine lessons and carols is similar to the liturgies that inspired it. We begin and end in prayer. Nine scripture readings retell the Christmas story and locate it within the broader context of God's saving acts, beginning with Genesis and culminating with the prologue to John's gospel. The lessons are read by members of the Duke and Durham communities. Carols, sung by the choir and the congregation, respond to the readings and reflect upon the narrative.

We welcome you to worship on this holy night. We pray that this service, in the words of Eric Milner-White, blesses you with the knowledge of the "loving purposes of God" and enriches your observance of Christmastide.

For this fifty-fourth service of nine lessons and carols, the music and the decorations for the Chapel are given to the glory of God in memory of Dr. James T. Cleland and Mr. J. Benjamin Smith, founders of this service, by Dr. and Mrs. James G. Ferguson, Jr.

# The congregation is invited to speak text in bold and to sing the carols as indicated. At the sign of the asterisk (\*), please rise as you are able.

#### Carillon

#### **Prelude Music**

Vom Himmel Hoch Sigfrid Karg-Elert

(1877-1933)

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (Hyfrydol)

Anita Burroughs-Price

Noël: Tous les Bourgeois de Châtres Claude Balbastre

(1727 - 1799)

Prelude on "This endris nyght" Healey Willan

(1880-1968)

Variations pastorales sur un vieux Noel Marcel Samuel-Rousseau

(1882-1955)

Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen Johannes Brahms

(1833-1897)

Prelude on Greensleeves Richard I. Purvis

(1913-1994)

What Child Is This (Greensleeves)

Traditional

Noël sur les Flûtes Louis-Claude d'Aquin

(1694-1772)

**Greeting and Call to Worship** 

**Opening Prayer** 

### Once in Royal David's City

IRBY



FIRST LESSON Genesis 2:4–17

God creates humankind to be in relationship with each other, with creation, and with God.

These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created. In the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no vegetation of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground, but a stream would rise from the earth and water the whole face of the ground—then the LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the LORD God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

A river flows out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it divides and becomes four branches. The name of the first is Pishon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold, and the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. The name of the second river is Gihon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Cush. The name of the third river is Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

Lector: The word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God.** 

#### **Anthem**

The Lord at First Did Adam Make

June Nixon

The Lord at first did Adam made out of the dust and clay, and in his nostrils breathed life, e'en as the scriptures say. And then in Eden's paradise he placed him to dwell, that he within it should remain, to dress and keep it well:

Now let good Christians all begin an holy life to live, And to rejoice and merry be, for this is Christmas Eve. And thus within the garden he was set therein to stay; and in commandment unto him these words the Lord did say: "The fruit which in the garden grows to thee shall be for meat, except the tree in midst thereof, of which thou shall not eat."

Now let good Christians all begin...

"For in the day thou shalt it touch or dost to it come nigh, if so thou do but eat thereof then thou shalt surely die."

But Adam he did take no heed unto that only thing, but did transgress God's holy law, and so was wrapt in sin:

Now let good Christians all begin...

Now mark the goodness of the Lord which he to mankind bore; his mercy soon he did extend, lost man for to restore: and then, for to redeem our souls from death and hellish thrall, he said his own dear Son should be the Saviour of us all:

Now let good Christians all begin...

—English carol

SECOND LESSON Genesis 22:15–18

God promises to Abraham that because he was faithful, his offspring shall be the Lord's people, numerous as the stars in the sky.

The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the LORD: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."

Lector: The word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God.** 

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

CAROL



THIRD LESSON Isaiah 9:2-7

# Christ's reign of justice and peace is prophesied centuries before his birth.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Lector: The word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God.** 

#### **Anthem**

Peace on Earth Errollyn Wallen

And snow falls down on me
Peace on Earth.
The night is dark and soft
Peace on Earth.
The lights that sparkle in the square,
The smoke that lingers in the air
Peace on Earth.

And grace falls down on me
Peace on Earth.
The dark will turn aside
Peace on Earth.
The fires that burn in every hearth
Do sing our praise of Christmas past
Peace on Earth.

Hear them singing Peace on Earth.

FOURTH LESSON Isaiah 11:1–9

# Jesus will sit upon the throne of David and usher in the Kingdom of God.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

Lector: The word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God.** 

#### Anthem

Thou Shalt Know Him Mark Sirett

Thou shalt know him when he comes not by any din of drums, nor his manners, nor his airs, nor by anything he wears.

Thou shalt know him when he comes not by his crown nor by his gown, but his coming known shall be by the holy harmony which his coming makes in thee.

Amen.

—Anonymous

FIFTH LESSON Luke 1:26–38

# The angel Gabriel announces to Mary that she will conceive Jesus, the Son of God.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Lector: The word of the Lord. People: Thanks be to God.

#### **Anthem**

There Is No Rose

Zebulon M. Highben

There is no rose of such vertu as is the rose that bare Jesu. *Alleluia*.

For in this rose conteined was heav'n and earth in litel space.

\*Res miranda.1\*

By that rose we may well see there be one God in persons three. Pares forma.<sup>2</sup> The angels sungen the shepherds to: *Gloria in excelsis Deo.*<sup>3</sup>

Blest be the rose that bare Jesu. *Gaudeamus.*<sup>4</sup>

Now leave we all this werldly mirth, and follow we this joyful birth.

\*Transeamus.5\*

—English carol

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Marvelous thing.

SIXTH LESSON Luke 2:1–7

### St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

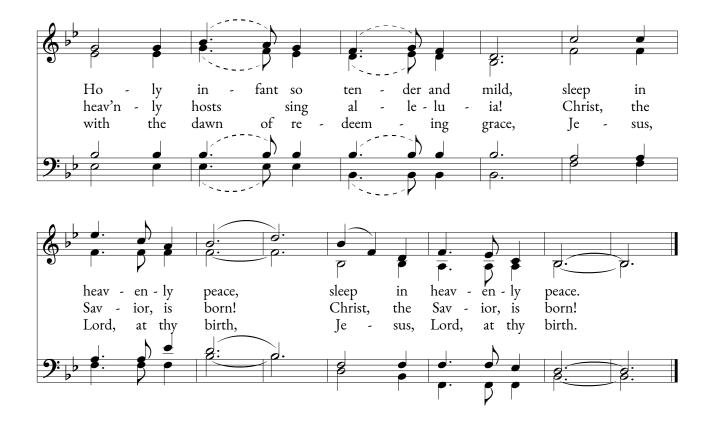
Lector: The word of the Lord. People: Thanks be to God.

#### Carol

Silent Night stille nacht



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SEVENTH LESSON Luke 2:8–17

The angels bring humble shepherds joyful news—the Savior of the world has been born.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child.

Lector: The word of the Lord. People: Thanks be to God.

#### Anthem

Oh, Bethlehem (¡Oh, mi Belén!)

Conrad Susa (1935–2013)

Oh, Bethlehem! Blest is the hour the Savior comes to you, Oh, Bethlehem!

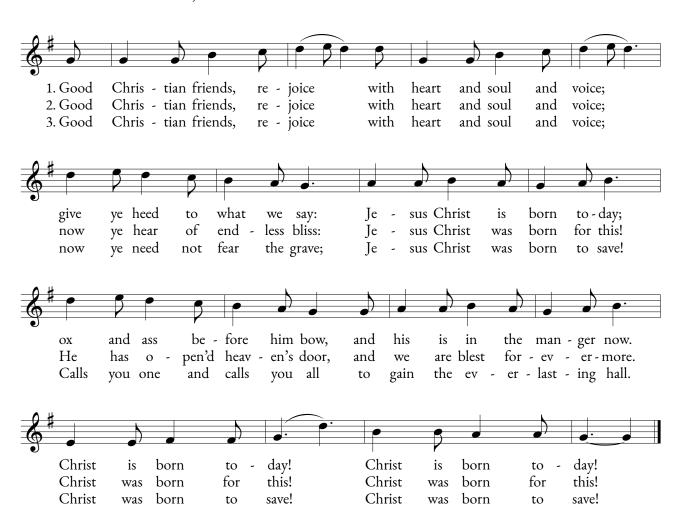
Light from your city shines so bright; burns like a beacon guiding us, safe on our way through dark and daylight. Oh, Bethlehem!

—Biscayan carol

#### \*Carol

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

IN DULCI JUBILO



EIGHTH LESSON Matthew 2:1–12

# The wise men are led by the star to Jesus and avoid the schemes of King Herod.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel." Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Lector: The word of the Lord. People: Thanks be to God.

#### **Anthem**

Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head

Paul J. Christiansen (1914–1997)

Jesus, Jesus, rest your head, you have got a manger bed. All the evil kings on earth sleep in feathers at their birth. Jesus, Jesus, rest your head, gently on a manger bed.

> Have you heard about our Jesus? How he came, the King of all, born to Mary, lowly mother, in a humble cattle stall.

Winds were blowing, cows were lowing, winds were blowing, stars were glowing.

To that manger came three wise men, bringing gifts from hin and yon for the mother and the father, and the blessed little Son.

Shepherds left their flocks, slept beside the ass and ox.

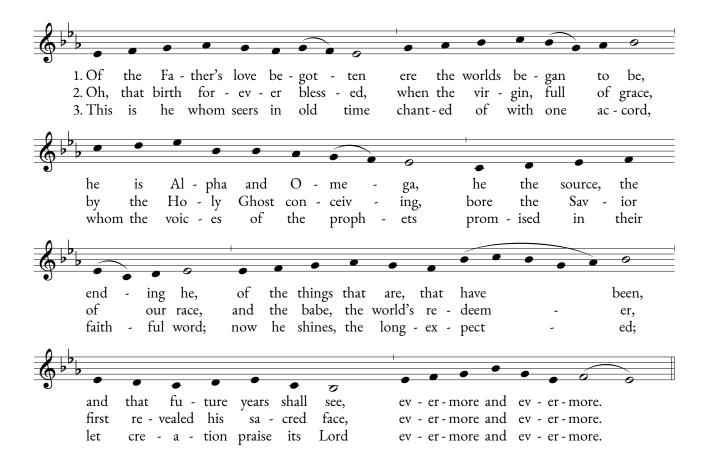
Jesus, Jesus, rest your head, you have got a manger bed. All the evil kings on earth sleep in feathers at their birth. Jesus, Jesus, rest your head, you have got a manger bed.

—Appalachian carol

#### \*Gradual Carol

Of the Father's Love Begotten

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM



\*NINTH LESSON John 1:1–14

St. John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation— Jesus is the Word of God, who was, is, and is to come.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

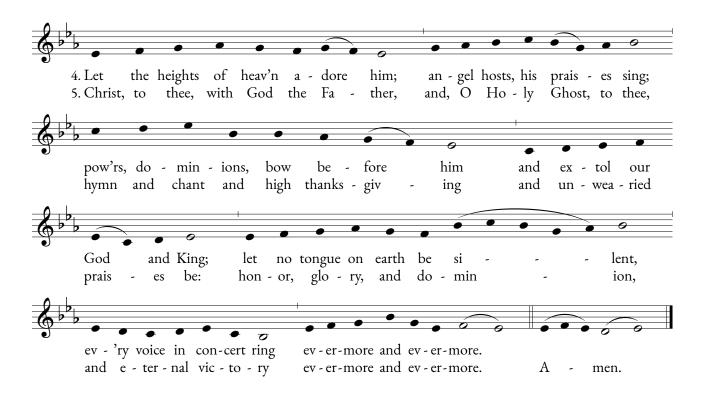
The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Lector: The word of the Lord. People: Thanks be to God.

#### \*Gradual Carol

Of the Father's Love Begotten

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM



#### \*Closing Prayer

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Minister: Let us pray.

People: Almighty God, you made this holy night shine

with the brightness of the true Light.

Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence,

and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory;

through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and forever.

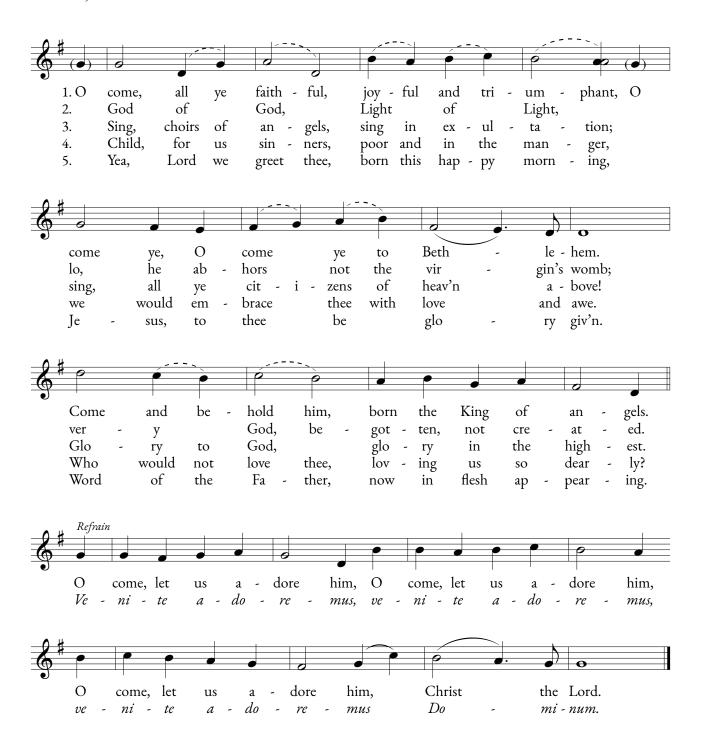
Amen.

#### \*Benediction



### O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES



#### Postlude

## PARTICIPANTS

Presiding N Luke A. Po	Minister owery				
Tiana Joyn Beverly Jorn Gus Kim . David Cris Beth Getty Bradley Bo Zachary Po Daniel Cas Sherilyn Bl	order of appearance) er				
Zebulon H Robert Par Chad Foth Katherine J Anita Burr Alissa Roca Mitchell Ei	bel Schola Cantorum				
SCHOLA CANTORUM					
Soprano	Mary Anderson, Mozghan Chahian Boroojeni, Sheri Branson, Meredith Bryson, Soo Choi, Jenn Collins, Robin Diehl, Myla Gorham, Katherine Johnson, Faith McHale, Jeannie Norris, Alissa Roca, Ellen Todd				
Alto	Sandra Bryson, Jovita Byemerwa, Angela Chadwick, Jan Gwyer, Brenda Knox, Barbara Moland, Eleanor Nye, Timsy Rowe, Jennifer Seiger, Beth Gettys Sturkey, Jennie Vaughn, Margot Wuebbens				
Tenor	Henry Branson, Jeff Evans, Wade Henderson, Gwen Hyland, Donald Kallgren, DeMar Neal				
Bass	Bradley Bowen, Craig DeAlmeida, Mitchell Eithun, David Faircloth, Stephen Harper, Thomas Emerson Link, Joseph Riddick, Walker Robinson, Benjamin Wechsler				

### **OFFERING**

All of today's cash offerings and checks written to Duke University Chapel will be used to support two local nonprofit and strategic community partners of Duke Chapel: Habitat for Humanity of Durham and Jubilee Home.

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.

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 folks transitioning to independence. By offering non-judgemental wrap-around support, Jubilee Home imagines a world where we are all better together.

You can send checks to: Duke University Chapel, Box 90974, Durham, North Carolina 27708-0974. You are invited to give online at *chapel.duke.edu/offering*.

## THE CONGREGATION AT DUKE CHAPEL

The Congregation at Duke Chapel 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. For more information, visit *congregation.chapel.duke.edu*.

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Once in Royal David's City. Text: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818–1895). Music: IRBY, Henry J. Gauntlett (1805–1876). Descant, st. 5: Chad Fothergill.

**The Lord at First Did Adam Make.** Text and Tune: English carol, *Some Ancient Christmas Carols*, 1822, ed. Davies Gilbert. Setting: June Nixon, © 2017 Paraclete Press.

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear. Text: Edmund H. Sears (1810–1876). Music: CAROL, Richard S. Willis (1819–1900). Choral setting, st. 3: Chad Fothergill.

Peace on Earth. Text and Music: Errollyn Wallen, © 2006 Hinrichsen Edition, Peters Edition Limited.

**Thou Shalt Know Him.** Text: Anonymous. Music: Mark Sirett, © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

There Is No Rose. Text: English carol, c. 1420, adapt. Zebulon M. Highben. Music: Zebulon M. Highben, © 2023.

**Silent Night.** Text: Joseph Mohr (1792–1849); tr. John F. Young (1820–1885). Music: Stille Nacht, Franz Gruber (1787–1863).

**Oh, Bethlehem (¡Oh, mi Belén!).** Text and Tune: Biscayan carol. Setting: Conrad Susa (1935–2013), from *Carols and Lullabies: Christmas in the Southwest*, © 1993 E. C. Schirmer.

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice. Text: Medieval Latin carol, tr. John Mason Neale (1818–1866). Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.

**Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head.** Text and Tune: Appalachian carol. Setting: Paul J. Christiansen (1914–1997), © 1968 AMSI, 1988 Summa Productions.

**Of the Father's Love Begotten.** Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348–413); tr. composite. Music: Divinum Mysterium, Plainsong mode V, 13th cent.

O Come, All Ye Faithful. Text: attr. John Francis Wade (1711–1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802–1880). Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade. Descant, st. 3, and harmonization, st. 5: David Willcocks (1919–2015), © Oxford University Press.

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