



Duke
UNIVERSITY
CHAPEL

BRIDGING FAITH & LEARNING

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

First Sunday of Christmas

Sunday, December 28, 2025, 11:00 a.m.



Kelly Latimore, *Refugees: La Sagrada Familia*, 2016.

The scripture lessons for the first Sunday of Christmas open with the phrase “I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD”—a fitting passage to acknowledge God’s overflowing kindness in the gift of Jesus. The author of Hebrews points to the ways in which Jesus identifies with us in our humanity. In the words of early church historian Irenaeus, “He became what we are, that we might become what he is.” The lesson from Matthew shows that Jesus’s suffering began early. As King Herod seeks to kill the children of Israel, Jesus becomes an asylum seeker, and his family is forced from their homeland out of fear.

Gathering

Prelude

Noël sur les Flûtes

Louis-Claude d'Aquin
(1694–1772)

Greeting and Call to Worship

*Gathering Hymn | UMH 245

The First Noel

THE FIRST NOEL

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

Generous God, you give us the greatest gift of all: yourself. But often we find it hard to take notice; we are caught up with our own gifts, given and received. Forgive us, generous God, for the casual way we treat your gift of love. Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.

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:

Mighty God, the shepherds of old were full of your praises and rejoiced in the coming of your living Word. Move among us now with your Holy Spirit, that we, too, might hear and experience the wonder and joy of the living Word as we seek to welcome the written word into our lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*All rise as able

Solo

A Slumber Song of the Madonna

Michael Head
(1900–1976)

Sleep, little baby, I love thee;
Sleep, little king, I am bending above thee!
How should I know what to sing
Here in my arms as I sing thee to sleep?
Hushaby low, rockaby so.
Kings may have wonderful jewels to bring,
Mother has only a kiss for her king!
Why should my singing so make me to weep?
Only to know that I love thee, I love thee,
Love thee, my little one, sleep.

—*Alfred Noyes (1880–1958)*

Old Testament Lesson | OT page 652 in pew Bibles.

Isaiah 63:7–9

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalmody

Psalms 148 | Chanted by the cantor; the assembly chants the verses in bold.



Ha- | lelu Yah!

Praise ADONAI from the heavens; praise Him | in the heights.

Praise Him, all His | messengers;

praise Him, | all His host.

Praise Him, | sun and moon;

praise Him, all you | stars of light.

Praise Him, heav- | ens of heavens,

and you waters a- | bove the heavens.



Let them praise the name of | ADONAI,
for He commanded, and they | were created.
He made them stand age | after age.
He set a precept that will not | pass away.
Praise ADONAI | from the earth,
you sea-monsters | and all deeps.
Fire and hail, | snow and frost,
storm wind perfor- | ming His word.
O mountains | and all hills,
fruit trees | and all cedars,
you beasts | and all cattle,
creeping things and | wing-ed birds,
kings of the earth | and all nations,
princes and all | earthly leaders,
young men and wom- | en together,
the old | with the young—
let them praise the name of ADONAI,
that His name alone is | lifted high,
His splendor over | earth and heavens!
May He raise a horn for His people, praise for all who are covenant-true,
for the Israelites, the people | near to Him.
Ha- | leluYah!

—tr. *Ellen Davis*

New Testament Lesson | NT page 205 in pew Bibles.

Hebrews 2:10–18

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

*Gradual Hymn | See hymn printed on the insert. Stanzas 1–2. All turn to face the Gospel procession.

Gentle Joseph Heard a Warning

JEFFERSON

*Gospel Lesson | NT page 2 in pew Bibles.

Matthew 2:13–23

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*Gradual Hymn | See hymn printed on the insert. Stanza 3.

Gentle Joseph Heard a Warning

JEFFERSON

Sermon

Paths Well Worn

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 Anthem

Away in a Manger / Away and in Danger

James R. Murray
Swee Hong Lim

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head;
the stars in the heavens looked down where He lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Away and in danger, no hope of a bed,
the refugee children, no tears left to shed
look up at the night sky for someone to know
that refugee children have no place to go.

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 side until morning is nigh.

The babies are crying, their hunger awakes,
the boat is too loaded, it shudders and breaks;
humanity's wreckage is thrown out to die,
the refugee children will never know why.

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 fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there.

Come close, little children, we hold out our hand
in rescue and welcome to shores of our land—
in *aroha, touching your fear and your pain,
with dreams for your future when peace comes again.

—*North American (traditional); Shirley Erena Murray*
Away and in Danger © 2016/2017 Hope Publishing Co.

*Doxology

GREENSLEEVES

So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come peas - ant,
king, to own him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let
lov - ing hearts en - throne him. This, this is Christ the
king, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing; haste, haste to
bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

Sending Forth

*Benediction

*Sending Hymn | UMH 219

What Child Is This

GREENSLEEVES

Postlude

Noël: Votre bonté grand dieu

Claude Balbastre
(1727–1799)

Memorial Chapel Communion | Immediately following the postlude, a brief communion service will be held in Memorial Chapel; worship guides for the service are available near the entrance. Following communion, the minister will be available to offer prayers and anointing.

TODAY IN WORSHIP

Presiding Ministers

Meg Greto *Chapel Scholar; Divinity '26*
Caleb Harris *Worship and Ministry Coordinator, Duke University Chapel*

Preacher

Ryan Wilson *Senior Pastor, Congregation at Duke Chapel*

Lectors

Beth Gettys Sturkey *Member, Congregation at Duke Chapel*
Margot Wuebbens *Member, Duke Chapel Choir*

Musicians

Chad Fothergill *Chapel Organist, Duke University Chapel*
Monica Szabo-Nyeste *Soloist*

Head Usher

Ken Arneson *Member, Congregation at Duke Chapel*
Pete Acker *Member, Congregation at Duke Chapel*

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. You are invited to give online at chapel.duke.edu/offering. You may also give directly to the Congregation at Duke University Chapel by check written to the Congregation at Duke University Chapel or online at congregation.chapel.duke.edu and access the giving link. Send checks to: Duke University Chapel, Box 90974, Durham, NC 27708-0974.

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 The Ferguson Family.

Liturgical Acknowledgments | Confession and Prayer for Illumination. Adapted from *The Worship Sourcebook*, 1st ed. Faith Alive Christian Resources, © 2004. **Gentle Joseph Heard a Warning.** Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., © 1990 Hope Publishing Company. Music, JEFFERSON: W. Walker, *Southern Harmony* (1835). Printed by permission under OneLicense.net # A-725399. **So Bring Him Incense, Gold, and Myrrh (Doxology).** Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898. Music, GREENSLEEVES: English ballad, 16th cent. Public domain.

GRADUAL HYMN | Gentle Joseph Heard a Warning



1. Gen - tle Jo - seph heard a warn - ing from an an - gel
2. Tar - gets of a ty - rant's ar - my, seek - ing safe - ty,
3. Give us, God, such faith and cour - age when we move from



in the night; val - iant Mar - y, maid - en moth - er,
flee - ing strife, leav - ing house and land and kin - dred,
place to place, and to those who come a - mong us,



roused from sleep, pre - pared for flight:
spurred by dreams of peace - ful life;
make us chan - nels of your grace.



thus the Christ-child's fam - 'ly lived out what the
through the des - ert of un - know - ing and the
Let us see in ev - 'ry strang - er ref - u -



proph - et had fore - told, that he might be
night of doubt they went, guid - ed by God's
gees from Beth - le - hem, help us of - fer



called from E - gypt as God's peo - ple were of old.
prom - ised pres - ence, by that trust made con - fi - dent.
each one wel - come and re - ceive the Christ in them.

ACCESSIBILITY

Hearing assistance technology, as well as large-print worship guides and hymnals, is available at the AV console in the rear of the Chapel. For other accommodations, please approach a minister or usher.

RESTROOMS

For public restrooms, exit the Chapel through the main front doors and turn left to enter the Divinity School. Restrooms are along the Divinity School hallway.

TOURS

Meet a docent outside in front of the Chapel immediately following the service for a free, forty-five minute tour of Duke Chapel's history, architecture, and life.

LEARN MORE AND ENGAGE

Scan the QR codes to learn more about the missions and ministries of Duke Chapel and the Congregation at Duke University Chapel. Also, read this week's announcements, see upcoming events, and find out how to engage with the Chapel and the Congregation.



*The Congregation
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