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 his son 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 a child refugee and his family is forced from their homeland out of fear.
Gathering
Organ Prelude

In dulci jubilo, BWV 608  
Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685-1750)

Greeting and Call to Worship

*Opening Hymn 220

Angels from the Realms of Glory  
REGENT SQUARE

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

Almighty God, 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:

God in Trinity, eternal unity of perfect love: as your word is read and proclaimed, gather the nations to be one family, and draw us into your holy life through the birth of Emmanuel, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson | OT page 652 in the pew Bible

Isaiah 63:7-9

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

* All rise as able
The Little Road to Bethlehem

As I walked down the road at set of sun
The lambs were coming homeward one by one.
I heard a sheep bell softly calling them
Along the little road to Bethlehem.

Beside an open door as I drew nigh
I heard sweet Mary sing a lullaby:
She sang about the lambs at close of day
And rocked her tiny King among the hay.

Across the air the silver sheep bells rang:
“The lambs are coming home” sweet Mary sang:
“Your star of gold, your star of gold is shining in the sky,
So sleep, my little King, go lullaby”.

As I walked down the road at set of sun
The lambs were coming homeward one by one.
I heard a sheep bell softly calling them
Along the little road to Bethlehem.

Text: Margaret Rose (d. 1958)

New Testament Lesson | NT page 205 in the pew Bible

Hebrews 2:10-18

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

*Gradual Hymn 242 | Please turn to face the Gospel procession

Love Came Down at Christmas

GARTAN

*Gospel Lesson | NT page 2 in the pew Bible

Matthew 2:13-23

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Sabotage or Save
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
“Come unto Him” from Messiah
George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

Come unto Him, all ye that labour, come unto Him that are heavy laden, and He will give you rest.

Take his yoke upon you, and learn of Him, for He is meek and lowly of heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

Text: Matthew 11:28-29

*Doxology
GLORIA

Gloria in excelsis Deo!
(Repeat refrain as needed)

Thanksgiving
*Prayer of Thanksgiving
*The Lord's Prayer | All are encouraged to pray the Lord's Prayer in the language of their choosing. The English version is number 895 in the hymnal.

Sending Forth
*Benediction
*Closing Hymn 224

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice
IN DULCI JUBILO
Organ Postlude

In dulci jubilo, BWV 729  
Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685-1750)

Carillon

Memorial Chapel Communion | Immediately following today's worship service, a brief communion service will be held in Memorial Chapel. Following communion, the pastor will be available to offer prayers and anointing.

TODAY IN WORSHIP

PRESIDING MINISTERS
The Rev. Kathryn Lester-Bacon  
...Director of Religious Life, Duke University Chapel

PREACHER
The Rev. Dr. Carol Gregg  
...Pastor, Congregation at Duke Chapel

LECTORS
Ms. Sharon Jones  
...Member, Congregation at Duke Chapel

Mr. Matt Wright  
...Divinity Intern, Congregation at Duke Chapel; Divinity '21

MUSICIANS
Ms. Andrea Edith Moore  
...Soloist

Mr. Christopher Jacobson  
...Chapel Organist, Duke University Chapel

MEMORIAL CHAPEL COMMUNION
The Rev. Kathryn Lester-Bacon  
...Director of Religious Life, Duke University Chapel

HEAD USHERS
Dr. James Ferguson  
...Member of the Congregation at Duke Chapel

Ms. Acelynn Barefoot  
...Chapel Scholar; 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.

TODAY’S OFFERING | All of today’s cash offerings and checks written to Duke University Chapel will be used to support mission trips sent out from the Chapel.

FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN | Children age four and younger are welcome to visit the nursery (capacity limited), located in the Chapel’s lower level, beginning at 10:45 a.m. each week.

ACCESSIBILITY | Large print hymnals and bulletins are available at the visitor relations desk. Hearing assistance units are available at the AV console in the rear of the Chapel.
ENGAGE

WELCOME TO DUKE CHAPEL | Students, staff, visitors, and community members are always welcome at Duke Chapel. For more information, please see the websites listed on the back page and sign-up for weekly e-newsletters.

CHAPEL TOUR | For a tour of Duke Chapel, meet today’s docent near the front steps of the Chapel following the service.

UNEVEN GROUND EXHIBIT | Join the Chapel and First Presbyterian Church in exploring our faith and the history of racism and housing through the Uneven Ground exhibit by Bull City 150. Originally commissioned for the 150th anniversary of Durham as a city, the exhibit at First Presbyterian is a tool for reflection, learning, and dialogue. It will be on display from January 3 through February 16 on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. and Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. First Presbyterian is located at 305 E. Main St., which is on the free bus line and has limited free parking. Three events at First Presbyterian Church expand upon the theme of the exhibit: On January 14 at 6:00 p.m. is a panel discussion of “Gentrification: the New Segregation?,” on January 19 at 12:15 p.m. is the opening reception for the exhibit with a presentation by Bull City 150, and on February 4 at 6:00 p.m. is an open house entitled “Sharing, Naming, and Healing.” For more information, contact the Chapel’s community minister, the Rev. Breana van Velzen, at breana.van.velzen@duke.edu.

THE MARVEL OF THIS NIGHT ONLINE VIEWING | In case you missed the national broadcast of The Marvel of This Night: Christmas at Duke University Chapel, you can still watch it online. This hour-long special, produced by the Chapel and campus partners, features beloved Christmas carols accompanied by three of the Chapel’s organs as well as traditional scripture readings. In it, all of the Chapel’s choirs and a sixteen-piece orchestra perform music from around the world. The program is available on the Chapel’s website and YouTube channel until January 6. Visit chapel.duke.edu.

TWELFTH NIGHT EVENSONG JAN. 5 | Choral Evensong engages scripture readings, congregational hymns and choral music to encourage prayer and reflection in a traditional service using the 1662 Book of Common Prayer as a foundation. The service is led by Chapel and local ministers with music from the Duke Evensong Singers. It includes organ music and sung prayers. On January 5th at 4:00 p.m., there is a special Evensong service celebrating Twelfth Night.

CHORAL VESPERS RESUMES JAN. 9 | For more than twenty-five years, Choral Vespers has been a way to end the busy work day with scripture, prayer, and sacred music. The service is led by Chapel and local ministers with music from the Duke Vespers Ensemble. Join us at 7:00 p.m. on Thursdays during the academic year for this service of reflection.
STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES | There are many opportunities for students to engage with the Chapel in the upcoming semester. Student Preacher Sunday gives one undergraduate student the opportunity to work with Chapel ministers to develop and deliver a sermon in the Chapel. The C. Eric Lincoln Fellowship supports an undergraduate student in creating and displaying a sacred art project. The Eruditio et Religio Living-Learning Community fosters relationships among students of diverse religious traditions and prepares them to work together for the common good. The PathWays Fellowship is for graduating seniors, and recent graduates, who wish to spend a year living in Christian community and serving in Durham. The deadline for Sunday Preacher submissions is January 17; the three other programs have an application deadline of January 24. Learn more at chapel.duke.edu.

SECOND WEDNESDAY LUNCH | Informal conversation and fellowship in a local restaurant is the only agenda for the Second Wednesday Lunch. On January 8 at 12-noon, participants will gather at Bennett Pointe Grill, 4625 Hillsborough Rd, Durham. Each person will purchase their own meal. Email the Congregation Office or call 919-684-3917 by January 6 if you plan to attend.

GRAD STUDENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS | University graduate students, other young adults, and their partners are invited to gather for dinner and discussion on Mondays, January 13 and January 27 at 6:30 p.m. in the Duke Chapel kitchen, located on the lower level of the Chapel. Conversation is focused on the gospel of Matthew. All questions and perspectives are welcome. Please contact Matt Wright at matthew.r.wright@duke.edu for additional information.

JANUARY BOOK GROUP | Start the new year with a discussion of Parker Palmer’s *Let Your Life Speak*. The book groups will meet three times each starting on Wednesday, January 15 with one group meeting at 10:00 a.m. and the other at 7:00 p.m. Please contact the Congregation office at congregation@duke.edu or 919-684-3917 for detailed information and to indicate plans to attend.

URBAN MINISTRIES DINNER | Ten volunteers and twenty cooked lasagnas are needed every month to serve our neighbors at Urban Ministries. The Congregation will be providing dinner on Sunday, January 21, at 5:15 p.m. and Wednesday, February 26, at 6:15 p.m. Please contact the Congregation office if you are able to assist. New volunteers are welcome at any time and detailed instructions are provided.

SATURDAY SERVICE PROJECT | Volunteers are needed for a baking day at the Ronald McDonald House of Durham January 25 from 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Please bring the ingredients for your favorite cookie, muffin or bread recipe and join in on the fun of baking and providing comfort for those patients and families who are staying at Ronald McDonald. Please contact the Congregation office at 919-684-3917 for transportation or more information.
SUPPORT FOR THOSE WHO MOURN | Growing thru Grief is a free, open, confidential program sponsored by a coalition of area religious and civic organizations, including the Congregation, to provide support and comfort to those who mourn. Meetings are held year-round on Tuesdays (except for holidays) at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, 1200 W. Cornwallis. Participants gather at 4:00 p.m. for registration and refreshments; the meeting, a presentation plus small group discussion, starts at 4:30 p.m. and concludes by 6:00 p.m.

ASSIST IN HURRICANE RELIEF | The Congregation at Duke Chapel is sponsoring a service trip to Eastern North Carolina to assist homeowners whose property was damaged during recent storms. The trip will be March 8–13 and is open to University students, adults and youth age 16 and older. Details of the trip are here: http://congregation.chapel.duke.edu/relief. For more information, please contact trip leader Carol Matteson at cjmatteson@hotmail.com.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASSES | Classes for all ages are offered every Sunday at 9:45 a.m. in the lowest level of the Westbrook building, Duke Divinity School. Refreshments and fellowship begin at 9:30 a.m. Classes are:

  - **Wee Praise**: For children ages 03— with parents or caregivers in 0011 WB
  - **Godly Play**: For children ages 4 through 1st graders in 0054 Langford
  - **Godly Play Advanced**: For children in 2nd–5th grade in in 0050 Langford
  - **Youth Bible Study**: For youth in 6th–12th grade in 0013 Westbrook

For a complete listing of events, please visit chapel.duke.edu/events or sign up to receive weekly emails at chapel.duke.edu/email