Duke UNIVERSITY CHAPEL

BRIDGING FAITH & LEARNING

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 22, 2024, 11:00 a.m.

Nicolas Mignard, The Visitation, ca. 1649, The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Today's scripture lessons focus on the anticipation and surprise of the Advent season. The reading from Micah reveals that the small town of Bethlehem will be the birthplace of a faithful and righteous ruler. The lesson from Hebrews tells of the coming of this ruler, Jesus, the one who comes to fulfill the will of God and sanctify all who believe by his own sacrifice. Luke tells the story of Mary and Elizabeth, each of whom comes to know the surprising ways of God. Elizabeth, long barren, conceives John the Baptist, as foretold by the angel Gabriel. Mary visits Elizabeth after her own encounter with Gabriel and the news of her own unexpected pregnancy, and the women rejoice and marvel at the mysterious work of God.

Gathering

Carillon

Prelude

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 659 — Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

Greeting and Call to Worship

***Gathering Hymn** | Hymn 1 in the Advent hymn booklet in the pew rack.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus — HYFRYDOL

***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 binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

***All rise as able**

Old Testament Lesson | OT page 815 in pew Bibles.

Micah 5:2–5a

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

Psalmody | See text printed at the end of the worship guide.

Magnificat noni toni — Samuel Scheidt (1587–1654)

New Testament Lesson | NT page 210 in pew Bibles.

Hebrews 10:5–10

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

***Gospel Lesson** | NT page 53 in pew Bibles.

Luke 1:39–55

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

Sermon

Do You Hear What I Hear?

Response

***Response Hymn** | Hymn 10 in the Advent hymn booklet in the pew rack.

My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness — FOREST GREEN

*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

Domine, Ego credidi (*Christmas Oratorio*) — Camille Saint-Saëns (1835–1921)

Domine, ego credidi quia tu es Christus Filius Dei vivi,
qui in hunc mundum venisti.

Lord, I have come to believe that you are Christ, the Son of the living God, who is coming into this world.

—John 11:27

***Doxology** NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

Thanksgiving

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

***The Lord's Prayer** | All are encouraged to pray the Lord's Prayer in the language of their choosing. The text can be found on page 894 of the Hymnal.

Sending Forth

***Benediction**

***Sending Hymn** | Hymn 11 in the Advent hymn booklet in the pew rack. Stanza 1 is sung by a soloist. Stanzas 2 through 8 are sung by all.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel VENI EMMANUEL

Postlude

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 661 J. S. Bach

Carillon

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 Minister
Luke A. Powery. . . . . *Dean, Duke University Chapel*
Lynn Holmes . . . . . *Interim Pastor, Congregation at Duke University Chapel*

Preacher
Bruce Puckett . . . . . *Assistant Dean, Duke University Chapel*

Lectors
Gregory Beck. . . . . *Member, Congregation at Duke Chapel*
Beth Gettys Sturkey . . . . . *Member, Congregation at Duke Chapel*

Musicians
Chad Fothergill. . . . . *Chapel Organist, Duke University Chapel*
Katherine Johnson . . . . . *Organ Scholar, Duke University Chapel*
Alain Arvelo . . . . . *Soloist*
Mitchell Eithun . . . . . *Chapel Carillonneur, Duke University Chapel*

Head Ushers
Ken Arneson . . . . . *Member, Congregation at Duke Chapel*
James Ferguson . . . . . *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. Give online at chapel.duke.edu/offering. Send checks to: Duke University Chapel, Box 90974, Durham,NC 27708-0974.

Advent and Christmas Decorations | 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.

The Magnificat is offered in an ancient practice known as *alternatim* in which cantor and organ both "sing" alternating sections of the text. The practice is rooted in the antiphonal singing of psalms where contrasting musical forces—either two parts of the assembly or two choirs—sang alternate verses. Throughout the late Renaissance and Baroque periods, organ and choral settings were used in alternation with plainsong as in Scheidt's setting of this text.

cantor	*Magnificat anima mea Dominum,*	My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
organ	*et exultavit spiritus meus in Deo salutari meo,*	my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
cantor	*quia respexit humilitatem ancillae suae. Ecce enim ex hoc beatam me dicent omnes generationes,*	for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed
organ	*quia fecit mihi magna, qui potens est, et sanctum nomen eius,*	for the Almighty has done great things for me and holy is his name,
cantor	*et misericordia eius in progenies et progenies timentibus eum.*	he has mercy on those who fear him, from generation to generation.
organ	*Fecit potentiam in brachio suo, dispersit superbos mente cordis sui;*	He has shown strength with his arm and has scattered the proud in their conceit,
cantor	*deposuit potentes de sede et exaltavit humiles;*	he has cast the mighty from their thrones and exalted the humble;
organ	*esurientes implevit bonis et divtes dimisit inanes.*	he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.
cantor	*Suscepit Israel puerum suum, recordatus misericordiae suae,*	He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, to remember his promise of mercy,
organ	*sicut locutus est ad patres nostros, Abraham et semini eius in saecula.*	the promise made to our ancestors, to Abraham and his children forever.
cantor	*Gloria patri et fillio et spiritui sancto*	Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
organ	*Sicut erat in principio et nunc et semper et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.*	as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

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 Duke's Program in Literature.

Tour After the Service | Learn about the history, architecture, and life of Duke Chapel on a tour immediately following the service. The tour is free and lasts about forty-five minutes. Meet the docent outside in front of the Chapel.

Restrooms in Divinity School | Public restrooms are available in the Divinity School. To access them, exit the Chapel through the main front doors and enter the Divinity School. Restrooms are along the hallway in the Divinity School.

Alternative Gift Giving | Help empower orphaned youth through Zoe Empowers, which equips orphaned children and youth-led families with solutions to overcome extreme poverty and achieve self-sufficiency. A Zoe Empowers gift market provides an opportunity to honor a loved one with a gift to support vulnerable children in Zimbabwe. The gift market will be will be held after worship in the narthex today.

Christmas Eve Services | The Chapel will hold the Christmas Eve services listed below on Tuesday, December 24. 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 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 ensemble plays, and 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, Christmas carols, and choral anthems; singers from the Duke Chapel Choir and Schola Cantorum, harpist Anita Burroughs-Price, and Chapel organists lead the music.

Holiday Hours | The Chapel is open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. except on Christmas Day when it is closed as well as on December 31 and January 1 when it closes at 5:00 p.m. The Chapel also closes to the public for weddings and other private ceremonies, so before planning a visit, please check chapel.duke.edu/events.

Epiphany Lessons and Carols | A worship service on Sunday, January 5, at 4:00 p.m. will mark the twelfth night of Christmas and 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.

Singing the Psalms | You are invited to join musicians and worship leaders from Duke Chapel as we pray the book of Psalms from beginning to end on Friday, January 17, in the Divinity School's Goodson Chapel. The singing will begin with Psalm 1 at 8:00 a.m. and continue throughout the day with brief breaks, ending in the late afternoon. Participants are welcome to come and go, and stay for as little or as long as they wish. A variety of musical settings for the Psalms will be paired with a new English translation of the texts created by Dr. Ellen F. Davis, Amos Ragan Kearns Distinguished Professor of Bible and Practical Theology at Duke Divinity School and a member of Duke Chapel's National Advisory Board.

Sacred Choral Clinic with Dr. Pearl Shangkuan | Dr. Pearl Shangkuan, National President-Elect of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA), will lead a sacred choral clinic at Duke Chapel on Saturday, January 25, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 12-noon. Church choir directors and singers are invited to register for this special event with Dr. Shangkuan, professor emerita of music at Calvin University in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Participants will sing with the Duke Chapel Choir and other choirs from around North Carolina and surrounding states, as Dr. Shangkuan teaches vocal techniques and introduces choral repertoire appropriate for the upcoming Lent and Easter seasons. Learn more and register at chapel.duke.edu/choralclinic.

Sunday Morning Classes | Sunday morning Christian Education classes are available for all ages from 9:45–10:45 a.m., with coffee and refreshments provided at 9:30 a.m. Classes will not meet on December 29, but will resume on January 5, 2025.

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 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.

Duke University Chapel

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Connect with us

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#FindSanctuary

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.