



Duke
UNIVERSITY
CHAPEL

BRIDGING FAITH & LEARNING

SERVICE OF WORSHIP
First Sunday After Christmas Day
Sunday, December 31, 2023, 11:00 a.m.



Kelly Latimore, *La presentación de Cristo en el templo*, 2018.

Today's lessons focus on a theme of praise for God, with the Old Testament writer using images from ordinary life as metaphors for signs of joy at righteous vindication. The Psalm calls upon all of creation—animate and inanimate, Kings to creeping things—to give God praise, and the Gospel shares a beautiful story of two people who lived to see God's promise of a Messiah fulfilled. Both Simeon and Anna rejoice at the presence of the baby Jesus in their midst. The painter of the icon depicted above asks "Where might we rejoice in finding God in our own lives?"

Gathering

*All rise as able

Prelude

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

arr. Ann Cameron Pearce

The Bells of Dunkirk

arr. Arthur Ephross

French Carol for Flute Choir

arr. Carol Warner

The Prayer

Carole Bayer Sager and David Foster
arr. Ricky Lombardo

Greeting and Call to Worship

*Gathering Hymn | UMH 238

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

*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 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.

Minister: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Proclamation

Prayer for Illumination | In unison:

Almighty God, pour upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, glowing in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Isaiah 61:10–62:3

Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalmody | The Psalm is read responsively.

Psalm 148

Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise God in the heights.

Praise the LORD, all you angels;
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.

Praise the LORD, sun and moon;
sing praise, all you shining stars.

Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens,
and you waters above the heavens.

Let them praise the name of the LORD,
who commanded, and they were created,
**who made them stand fast forever and ever,
giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

Praise the LORD from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps;
**fire and hail, snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars;
**wild beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds;**

sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the world;
**young men and maidens,
old and young together.**

Let them praise the name of the LORD,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

The LORD has raised up strength for the people
and praise for all faithful servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah!

Voluntary

In The Bleak Midwinter

Gustav Holst
arr. Ann Cameron Pearce

New Testament Lesson | NT page 178 in pew Bibles.

Galatians 4:4–7

Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

*Gradual Hymn | UMH 250, stanzas 1 and 2. Turn to face the Gospel procession.

Once in Royal David's City

IRBY

*Gospel Lesson | NT page 55 in pew Bibles.

Luke 2:22–40

Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

*Gradual Hymn | UMH 250, stanzas 3 and 4. Turn to face the Gospel procession.

Once in Royal David's City

IRBY

Sermon

Bearing Witness to God With Us

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 Music

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

arr. Ann Cameron Pearce

*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 251

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

GO TELL IT

Postlude

Fanfare for the New Year

Calvin Hampton
(1938–1984)

Memorial Chapel Communion | This week there will be no communion service after the main service. Memorial Chapel communion will resume after the holiday break.

TODAY IN WORSHIP

Presiding Ministers

John Murphy *Intern, Congregation at Duke Chapel*

Kathryn Lester-Bacon *Director of Religious Life, Duke University Chapel*

Preacher

Molly Brummett Wudel *Pastor, Emmaus Way Church, Durham*

Lectors

Ken Davenport *Member, Congregation at Duke Chapel*

Thomas Link *Member, Congregation at Duke Chapel*

Musicians

Raleigh Flute Choir *Choir*

Rosene Rohrer *Co-Manager, Raleigh Flute Choir*

Chad Fothergill *Chapel Organist, Duke University Chapel*

Head Usher

James Ferguson *Member, Congregation at Duke Chapel*

Guest Musicians | The Raleigh Flute Choir, a chamber ensemble of professional flutists from central North Carolina, was founded in 1986 and utilizes the full complement of instruments in the flute family, from the one-foot piccolo to the eight-foot contrabass flute. Their varied repertoire ranges from arrangements of familiar orchestral pieces to world premieres of contemporary flute choir literature. Performing regularly throughout North Carolina, the ensemble has also been featured at events in Chicago, Orlando, Charleston, Williamsburg, and at the White House. For more information, visit raleighflutechoir.org.

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. Send checks to: Duke University Chapel, Box 90974, Durham, NC 27708-0974. Give online at chapel.duke.edu/offering.

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 wreaths on either side of the front entrance to the Chapel and the interior decorations are given to the glory of God in celebration of the Christmas season by Dr. and Mrs. James G. Ferguson, Jr.

Today's Guest Preacher | The Rev. Molly Brummett Wudel pastors Emmaus Way Church in Durham, an ecumenical community. She is an ordained Baptist minister in partnership with the Alliance of Baptists and Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. As well as pastoring, she serves on Wake Forest University School of Divinity Board of Directors, facilitates Confronting Whiteness cohorts, and writes for the *Baptist News Global* and the *Alliance of Baptists*. Her sermons have been featured in *The World Is Waiting For You: Celebrating the 50th Ordination of Addie Davis* and *Believe the Women: A Journey of Liberation With Alliance of Baptist Women*. She was a contributing writer for *Prayers and Blessings for Healthcare Workers*. Rev. Wudel focuses her time on creating space for theological and spiritual formation, cultivating authentic communal relationships, engaging dialogical preaching, and investing in the transformative work of equity and justice, especially through organizing with Durham CAN, where she serves as co-chair of the Clergy Caucus and member of the Strategy Team.

Liturgical Acknowledgments | **Prayer for Enlightenment.** The Episcopal Church, *The Book of Common Prayer* (New York: Church Publishing Incorporated, 1979). **Psalm 148.** Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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 the English Department.

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.

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.

Hours During Christmas Break | The Chapel will close today at 5:00 p.m. and remain closed all day tomorrow for New Year's Day. The building resumes regular hours on Tuesday—open daily 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Quilting Ministry | The Duke Chapel Quilters will be meeting on January 4, 18, and 25 at 10:00 a.m. All those who enjoy sewing or quilting are welcome to attend. In addition, fabric donations of 100% cotton and thread of any color are welcomed. Please contact congregation@duke.edu for additional information.

Volunteers Needed | The Congregation serves dinner at Urban Ministries of Durham once a month. Donated cooked lasagnas that serve twenty-four (such as two party-sized Stouffer's lasagnas) are needed for the monthly dinner to help feed our unsheltered neighbors on Sunday, January 14 at 5:00 p.m. Please contact congregation@duke.edu to indicate your plans to bring hot lasagna to Urban Ministries, 410 Liberty St., Durham. Four to six volunteers are also needed to stay to plate the meals.

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

ENGAGE

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.

Sunday Morning Classes | Sunday morning Christian Education classes are available for all ages most Sundays of the year 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. New participants are welcome at any time. No classes will be held on Sundays, December 24 or 31. Classes will resume on Sunday, January 7. Please contact congregation@duke.edu for additional information.

ACCESSIBILITY

Large-print worship guides are available at the visitor relations desk. Hearing assistance units are available at the AV console in the rear of the Chapel. 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.



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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.