



Duke UNIVERSITY CHAPEL

BRIDGING FAITH & LEARNING

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 24, 2025, 2:00 p.m.



Nativity, Kate Cosgrove, 2016. Commissioned by Duke Chapel.

Welcome to all children who have come to follow the star to Bethlehem! At Christmas, we celebrate the birth of Jesus who was born in the city of Bethlehem in Israel. Jesus is God's own Son, who came to show the world God's love. This afternoon, as storytellers lead us in a celebration of Jesus's birth, we will sing carols together and hear glad tidings of great joy. May this service inspire us to worship Jesus, the newborn king.

Please enjoy coloring this worship guide at home! Put together the images inside to create a whole Christmas scene in Bethlehem. The interior artwork is credited to Kate Cosgrove.

TODAY IN WORSHIP

Musicians

David Lim	<i>Organ Scholar, Duke University Chapel</i>
Mitchell Eithun	<i>Chapel Carillonneur, Duke University Chapel</i>
Lorien Jackson	<i>Violin</i>
Calliope DeAlmeida	<i>Cello</i>
Craig DeAlmeida	<i>Piano</i>
Jay DeAlmedia	<i>Soprano</i>

Congregation Pastors

Ryan Wilson	<i>Senior Pastor, Congregation at Duke Chapel</i>
Mindy Erdmann	<i>Pastoral Assistant, Congregation at Duke Chapel</i>
Delilah Twombly	<i>Pastoral Assistant, Congregation at Duke Chapel</i>

Storytellers

Greg Beck
Natalie Daniels
Jasper Brown

Prayer Leaders

Adora Gallo
Mabel Cacchio
Jemma Brown

Mary

Adora Gallo

Joseph

Bates Wilson

Donkey

Ben Wilson

Angels

Abigail Goetzel
Lila Mansen
Scarlet Mansen
Margaret O'Connor
Iona Oliver
Elsie Wilson

Sheep

Khai Boggan
Min Boggan
Kieran O'Connor
Nomi Oliver

Shepherds

Da'vid Dezsi
Ethan Goetzel

Wisemen

Alexander Gallo
Amos Oliver

Angel of the Lord

Madeline Cacchio

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.

Today's Offering | Ushers will be at the doors this afternoon to accept offerings for Zoe Empowers, a ministry that enables vulnerable children in Africa to become economically self-sufficient. See zoempowers.org. Please give generously.

Gathering

Carillon

Prelude

Arrangements of traditional Christmas carols

In dulci jubilo, BWV 729

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

Greeting and Call to Worship

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing | UMH 240. *Please stand.*

MENDELSSOHN

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with th’angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold hime come, offspring of a virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail th’incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Introduction

O Come, All Ye Faithful | UMH 234. *Please remain seated.*

ADESTE FIDELES

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him, born the King of angels; *Refrain*

Refrain: O come, let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest; *Refrain*

Mary and Joseph

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. —*Luke 2:4–6*

O Little Town of Bethlehem | UMH 230. *Please remain seated.*

ST. LOUIS

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;
above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth!

Mary and Joseph continued

Away in a Manger | UMH 217. *Please stand.*

AWAY IN A MANGER

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

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.

Prayer Leader: Let us pray together. *Please repeat after me.*

Congregation: Faithful God, like Mary and Joseph who had no room at the inn, we pray for those who are without food and a warm place to stay tonight. Thank you, God, for all the gifts you give us, especially the best gift of all—your Son Jesus. Amen.



The Shepherds

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.” —*Luke 2:8–11*

Angels We Have Heard on High | UMH 238. *Please remain seated.*

GLORIA

Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o’er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

The Shepherds continued

Go, Tell It on the Mountain | UMH 251. *Please remain seated.*

GO TELL IT ON
THE MOUNTAIN

Refrain:

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

1. While shepherds kept their watching o’er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. *Refrain*

2. The shepherds feared and trembled, when lo! above the earth,
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed the Savior’s birth. *Refrain*

Prayer Leader: Let us pray together. *Please repeat after me.*

Congregation: Holy God, your Son Jesus brings joy to the world. We pray for those who are sad, alone, or afraid. Thank you, Jesus, that we can sing to you like the angels because you love us so much. Amen.



The Wise Men

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 worship him.” —*Matthew 2:1-2*

We Three Kings | UMH 254. *Please remain seated.*

KINGS OF ORIENT

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star. *Refrain*

Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

Glorious now behold him arise; King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies. *Refrain*

Prayer Leader: Let us pray together. *Please repeat after me.*

Congregation: Royal God, your Son Jesus is the King of kings. We pray for those who are traveling today and for those who are looking for you. Thank you, Jesus, that you came to share our lives. Amen.



The Conclusion

Silent Night, Holy Night | UMH 239. *Please remain seated.*

STILLE NACHT

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light;
radiant beams from Thy holy face
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Benediction

Joy to the World | UMH 246. *Please stand.*

ANTIOCH

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing!

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Postlude

Toccata on "He Is Born, the Divine Christ Child"

Denis Bédard

Carillon



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.

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.



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