The season of Advent is a time of waiting for the promises of God. The God who has drawn near to Israel will soon draw nearer still in the form of a baby. As we draw closer to Christmas Day, the scripture lessons emphasize the promises that are to be fulfilled. In 2 Samuel, God tells the Israelites that their wandering is over, and that they shall be gathered to a place of safety and flourishing. Luke recounts the visit of the angel Gabriel to Mary; the surprising news of her holy pregnancy, and her imminent participation in the promises of God in a way she never anticipated or imagined.
The congregation is asked to remain silent
during the prelude as a time of prayer and meditation.

GATHERING

CHORAL PRELUDE

Gloria in Excelsis Deo
James McCray
(b. 1938)

Canticle to the Spirit
Eleanor Daley
(b. 1955)

El Noi de la Mare (Carol of the Gifts)
arr. John Rutter
(b. 1945)

Ding Dong! Merrily on High
Howard Cable
(b. 1920)

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 200
Tell Out, My Soul
WOODLANDS

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND WORDS OF ASSURANCE (in unison)
The minister offers words of confession in three biddings, to which the congregation responds as follows:

Lord have mercy.
Lord have mercy.

Christ have mercy.
Christ have mercy.

Lord have mercy.
Lord have mercy.

The minister speaks words of assurance.

*PEACE
(All exchange signs and words of God’s peace.)

PROCLAMATION

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)
Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,
so we wait to hear your word; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
(OT pages 268-69 in the pew Bible)
Lector: This is the word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.
**ANTHEM**

Creator of the Stars of Night   CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM

Plainchant

Creator of the stars of night, your people’s everlasting light,
O Christ, Redeemer of us all, we pray you hear us when we call.
In sorrow that the ancient curse should doom to death a universe,
You came, O Savior, to set free your own in glorious liberty.
When this old world drew on toward night,
You came, but not in splendor bright,
Not as a monarch, but the child of Mary, blameless mother mild.
At your great name, O Jesus, now
All knees must bend, all hearts must bow:
All things on earth with one accord,
Like those in heaven, shall call you Lord.
To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One,
Praise, honor, might, and glory be from age to age eternally.

**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON**—Romans 16:25-27 *(NT page 155)*

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

*GRADUAL HYMN 216 *(stanza 1)*

Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming *(All turn to face the Gospel Procession.)*

*GOSPEL LESSON*—Luke 1:26-38 *(NT page 53)*

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

*GRADUAL HYMN 216 *(stanzas 2-3)*

Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming *(All turn to face the Gospel Procession.)*

**RESPONSE**

*THE 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; 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: “Hear our prayer.”)

OFFERTORY
There Is Faint Music

There is faint music in the night,
And pale wings fanned by silver flight;
A frosty hill with tender glow
Of countless stars that shine on snow.
A shelter from the winter storm,
A straw-lined manger, safe and warm,
And Mary singing lullabies,
To hush her baby’s sleepy sighs.
Her eyes are fixed upon his face,
Unheeded here is time and space;
Her heart is filled with blinding joy,
For God’s own son, her baby boy!
There is faint music in the night,
And pale wings fanned by silver flight;
A frosty hill with tender glow
Of countless stars that shine on snow.
For God’s own Son, a baby boy. —Nancy Buckley

*DOXOLOGY
VENI EMMANUEL

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

THANKSGIVING
This morning we give thanks for the Duke Clinical Research Institute. As the world’s largest academic research organization, the faculty and staff of the DCRI are committed to improving patient care throughout the world by conducting clinical research trials that have an impact in many fields including medicine, biotechnology, and pharmacology. A poster that describes the mission of DCRI is brought to the altar.

In Durham we remember those people who work with adult education and literacy programs and in so doing offer hope and continued learning to those seeking new opportunities. Ushers bring forward a dictionary.
*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*THE LORD’S PRAYER (number 895 in the hymnal, in unison)

SENDING FORTH

*BENEDICTION

*RECESSIONAL HYMN 215  
To a Maid Engaged to Joseph  
Text: hymnal number 895  
Music: James D. Ziegelnicht, 1834  
*ANNUNCIATION

ORGAN POSTLUDE  
Postlude in C  
Henry Thomas Smart  
(1813-1879)

*All who are able may stand.

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MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

Presiding Ministers  
The Rev. Bruce Puckett  
The Rev. Meghan Feldmeyer

Preacher  
The Rev. Dr. Samuel Wells

Lectors  
The Rev. Dr. Hugh Knapp  
Member of the Congregation at Duke Chapel  
Ms. Gretchen Ziegelnicht  
Member of the Congregation at Duke Chapel

Organist  
Mr. J. Samuel Hammond

Guest Choir  
Greensboro Youth Chorus  
Ms. Ann Doyle, Founding Conductor  
Ms. Nana Wolfe-Hill, Accompanist and Conductor

Presiding Minister over Memorial Chapel Communion  
The Rev. Bruce Puckett

Head Ushers  
Dr. James Ferguson and Mr. Jeff Harrison

Carillonneur  
Mr. J. Samuel Hammond
CHAPEL ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY’S FLOWERS—The wreaths on both sides of the front entrance of the Chapel, the Advent Wreath, and the red poinsettias that adorn the balustrade are made possible by the Elizabeth Lucina Gotham Memorial Chapel Endowment, established by Dr. and Mrs. James H. Semans in loving memory of Elizabeth Gotham.

TODAY’S OFFERING—All of today’s cash offerings and undesignated checks will be used to support the Chapel’s PathWays program, which offers students opportunities to discern God’s call for their lives through study, counsel, service, and community. Dr. Charles and Mrs. Ann Sanders, together with a couple who have asked not to be named, have pledged to match all PathWays gifts on a one-to-one basis up to $60,000.

ABOUT TODAY’S GUEST MUSICIANS—The Greensboro Youth Chorus is a community-based, multi-level choral program that includes young people in third through twelfth grades. GYC has had many prestigious experiences including state, national, and international competitions and festivals as well as collaborations with outstanding conductors, composers, and instrumentalists. For 24 years, the Greensboro Youth Chorus has offered young singers world-class performance opportunities, a choral music experience that emphasizes musical excellence and character education. Cantabile, a smaller group of singers, is under the direction of Ms. Nana Wolfe-Hill today.

DEAN WELLS INTERVIEW ON UNC TV—Bill Friday of UNC TV interviewed Dean Sam Wells on the meaning of Christmas and the state of our world. You may watch the broadcast on the local PBS station on December 23 at 9:00 p.m. and Christmas Day at 5:30 p.m., or access it online at http://video.unctv.org/.

NC BOYS CHOIR CONCERT—The North Carolina Boys Choir and Chamber Choir will present its annual Christmas Concert in the Chapel tomorrow evening at 7:30 p.m. The Choir is under the direction of Bill Graham and Scott Mann, and Jane Lynch is organist. For ticket information call 919-489-0291.

Christmas Eve / Day Services at Duke Chapel

Christmas Eve 3:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve Service for Children
Join the children of the Congregation for this participatory worship service including drama and music in which children and storytellers announce the birth of Christ.

Christmas Eve 5:30 p.m.
Service of Carols and Holy Communion
This evening service includes Christmas carols and Holy Communion, the Durham Children’s Choir, and a sermon from Dean Sam Wells.

Christmas Eve 11:00 p.m. (Prelude begins at 10:30)
Service of Lessons and Carols
Traditional Lessons and Carols service with a large community choir, scripture, and song.

Christmas Day 11:00am
Sunday worship service with a sermon from Bruce Puckett, Pastor to the Congregation
The following Congregation opportunities are open to all.

**Epiphany Party**—The Fellowship Committee invites Congregation members to join in a celebration Epiphany Party on Sunday, January 8, at 12:30 p.m. Help ring in the new year by feasting and singing with Congregation friends old and new. The gathering will be at the Cranford House, 704 N. Buchanan Blvd. Congregation members are asked to bring a salad or dessert to share, adequate for 8-10 people. Sandwiches and drinks will be provided. Parking will be available on side streets or in any of the parking lots on East Campus. No reservations required.

**Honduras Gift Market**—Congregation youth are raising money to benefit the Cocal Gracias Project, a ministry based in Puerto Cortes, Honduras. Youth with their parents will be traveling to Honduras in July to work with this ministry in mission. The youth group will sponsor a Honduras Gift Market to raise money to help build a home for a Puerto Cortes pastor and his family. Look for the youth near the front steps of the Chapel following the Sunday services today.

**Gift Cards for IHN**—The Local Missions Committee is asking for donations of meals in the form of gift cards for the families supported by the Interfaith Hospitality Network. Consider donations of meals in the form of gift cards from Visa or MasterCard in small amounts, to be used for any of the grocery stores and restaurants in the Durham area. The gift cards will be collected in the narthex through today. Please include the value of the card donation.

**Congregation Cookbook**—The Congregation’s cookbook, *Come to the Table*, which was produced in celebration of the Congregation’s 25th anniversary, will be available for $15 at the desk in the narthex following worship. Limited quantities are available for purchase through today. The book contains recipes, prayers, photographs, and essays on food and theology. Contact Deborah Hackney at 919-724-6785 or deb.hackney@gmail.com if you have any questions.

**Dinner at Urban Ministries**—Each month the Congregation provides a meal for homeless guests at Urban Ministries of Durham. If you would like to donate lasagnas, serve one of the next meals, or acquire more information, please contact Ned Arnett at 919-489-4133 or email edward.arnett@duke.edu.

**Children’s Ministry**—Godly Play will not be meeting on Christmas Day or New Year’s Day. It will resume its regular 9:45 a.m. meeting time on January 8. For more information about Children’s Ministry at the Chapel, please contact Sonja Tilley at sonja.tilley@duke.edu.
Duke University Chapel

Duke Chapel is a grand building, suitable for hosting major events in the life of the University and its members; it acts as a moderator for the diversity of religious identity and expression on campus; and it is a Christian church of an unusually interdenominational character, with a tradition of stirring music, preaching, and liturgy. We welcome you to our life of worship, learning, dialogue, and service.

www.chapel.duke.edu • Box 90974, Durham, NC 27708 • 919-684-2572

FOR WORSHIPERS & VISITORS

† Prayer requests may be placed in the prayer box located by the Memorial Chapel.
† For a tour of Duke Chapel, meet today’s docent near the front steps of the Chapel following the service.
† Hearing assist units and a Braille hymnal are available at the attendant’s desk at the entry way of the Chapel. See the Chapel attendant if you would like to use one of our large-print Bibles or hymnals for the worship service this morning.

FOR FAMILIES & CHILDREN

† Children 4 and younger are welcome to visit the nursery (capacity limited), located in the Chapel basement, beginning at 10:50 a.m. each week. Pagers are available for parents to keep with them during worship. Parents needing a place to feed, quiet, or change infants are also welcome.
† Activity Bags (for children 5 and under) and Liturgy Boxes (ages 5-8) are available at the rear of the Chapel to help children engage in worship. Please return after the service.

We invite you to consider joining the Congregation at Duke Chapel. The Congregation is an interdenominational church with a variety of vibrant ministries, including discipleship and spiritual formation (for children, youth, and adults), mission and outreach, and pastoral care. If you are interested in making Duke Chapel your home church, please contact the Rev. Bruce Puckett at 684-3917. www.congregation.chapel.duke.edu

STAFF OF DUKE UNIVERSITY CHAPEL

The Rev. Dr. Samuel Wells
Ministry
Dr. Christy Lohr Sapp
The Rev. Keith Daniel
The Rev. Meghan Feldmeyer
Dr. Adam Hollowell
The Rev. Kori Jones
Music
Dr. Rodney Wynkoop
Dr. Robert Parkins
Dr. David Arcus
Dr. Allan Friedman
Mr. John Santoianni
Mr. J. Samuel Hammond
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Mr. Oscar Dantzler and Mr. William Earls

Staff of the Congregation at Duke University Chapel
The Rev. Bruce Puckett
Ms. Sonja Tilley
Ms. Mary Ann Manconi

Dean of the Chapel
Associate Dean for Religious Life
Director of Community and Campus Engagement
Director of Worship
Director of Student Ministry
Community and Black Campus Minister
Director of Chapel Music
University Organist
Chapel Organist and Associate University Organist
Associate Conductor and Administrative Coordinator of Chapel Music
Curator of Organs and Harpsichords
University Carillonneur
Staff Assistant for Chapel Music
Director of Development
Special Assistant to the Dean for Finance and Projects
Special Assistant for Communications
Chapel Events and Wedding Coordinator
Chapel Communications Specialist
Accounting Specialist and Office Coordinator
Staff Assistant for Student Ministry
Staff Assistant for Development
Housekeepers
Pastor
Director of Christian Education
Administrative Assistant