A new world is coming. The scripture lessons for today carry a theme of promise and hope. The words of Isaiah speak tender words of comfort along with hope and promise that the Israelites’ time of suffering is over, and a new day is coming. Every valley shall be lifted up. The second letter to Peter emphasizes God’s enduring patience and his earnest desire that all come to repentance. Mark’s gospel focuses on John the Baptist, who was sent to prepare the way for Jesus. In Advent, we remember that all our waiting, yearning, and hoping for God is met by God’s waiting, yearning, and hoping for more of us.
The congregation is asked to remain silent during the prelude as a time of prayer and meditation.

GATHERING

CARILLON

PRELUDE

I Saw Three Ships
Sussex Carol
Fantasy on KINGSFOLD
The Holly and the Ivy
Ukrainian Bell Carol

arr. Sandra Eithun
arr. Philip M. Young
arr. H. Dean Wagner
arr. Chip Davis
arr. Hart Morris

GREETING

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 209
Blessed Be the God of Israel

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*)

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds as your word is proclaimed, so that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and savior we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God. Amen.
OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Isaiah 40:1-11 (page 627 in the pew Bible)
Lector: This is the word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM
Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming arr. Cynthia Dobrinski

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON—2 Peter 3:8-15a (page 224)
Lector: This is the word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

*GRADUAL HYMN (stanzas 1-3, printed below)
On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry
(All turn to face the Gospel Procession.)

1. On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry announces that the Lord is nigh; a-
2. Then cleanse every breast from sin; make straight the way for God within, and
3. For thou art our salvation, Lord, our refuge, and our great reward, with-

wake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings.
let each heart prepare a home where such a mighty guest may come.
out thy grace we waste a way like flowers that wither and decay.

*GOSPEL LESSON—Mark 1:1-8 (pages 32-33)
Lector: This is the word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

*GRADUAL HYMN (stanzas 4-5, printed below)
On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry

To heal the sick stretch out thine hand,
And bid the fallen sinner stand;
Shine forth, and let thy light restore
Earth’s own true loveliness once more.

All praise, eternal Son, to thee,
Whose advent doth thy people free;
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Spirit evermore.

SERMON—Speak Tenderly

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.

MISSION ANNOUNCEMENT

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 ANTHEM

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
arr. Brian Childers

*DOXOLOGY

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 Duke Human Resources and its management of employee recruitment, benefits, policies, and training for both the University and Health System. The ushers bring a Duke employee benefits manual to the altar.

In Durham, we give thanks for those with both mental and physical disabilities, and the people who accompany them along the way. The ushers bring a piece of artwork from the L’Arche community in Washington DC to the altar.

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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

SENDING FORTH

*Benediction

*Recessional Hymn (music on opposite page)

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

POSTLUDE

Chaconne in G Minor
Louis Couperine (1626-1661)

CARILLON

*All who are able may stand.
MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

Presiding Ministers
The Rev. Craig Kocher
The Rev. Keith Daniel

Preacher
The Rev. Dr. Samuel Wells

Lectors
Ms. Annelise Mesler
Trinity '12, Member of the Chapel Choir

Mr. James Dargan
Member of the Chapel Choir

Organist
Dr. Robert Parkins

Guest Musicians
The Bell Ringers of The First Baptist Church Henderson, NC
Mr. Mark Hopper, director
Mr. Philip M. Young, recorder
Ms. Rosene Rohrer, flute
Ms. Ciara Edwards, solo ringer

Carillonneur
Mr. J. Samuel Hammond

Presiding Minister over Memorial Chapel Communion
The Rev. Keith Daniel

Head Ushers
Dr. James Ferguson and Ms. Charlotte Harrison

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

"Com-fort, com-fort now my peo-ple; tell of peace!" So
For the her-ald's voice is cry-ing in the des-ert
Straight shall be what long was crook-ed, and the rough-er

says our God._____ Com-fort those who sit in
far and near,_____ call-ing us to true re-
plac-es plain._____ Let your hearts be true and

dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor-row's load._____ pen-tance, since the reign of God is here._____
hum - ble, as be - fits God's ho - ly reign._____

to God's peo-ple now pro-claim._____ that God's par-don
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey!_____ Now pre - pare for
For the glo - ry of the Lord._____ now on earth is

waits for them!_____ Tell them that their war is o - ver;
God a - way._____ Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior;
shed a - broad._____ and all flesh shall see the to - ken

God will reign in peace for - ev - er._____
 hills, bow down in hum - ble fa - vor._____
that God's word is nev - er bro - ken._____


SUNDAY NIGHT WORSHIP
SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS
Tonight at 5:00 p.m. in Goodson Chapel, the Chapel will be hosting an ecumenical service of Lessons and Carols as part of its Sunday Night Worship service. The service is student-led and will feature a creative telling of the Advent story through scripture, song, and symbols. A reception will immediately follow the service.

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 Endowment, established by Dr. and Mrs. James H. Semans in loving memory of Elizabeth Gotham.

TODAY’S OFFERING—Today’s Mission of the Month offering will go to the L’Arche Community of Atlanta. L’Arche was founded by Jean Vanier in France in 1964. It brings together people with developmental disabilities and those without them to share their lives by living together in faith-based communities. In 2003, individuals in Atlanta began a process of careful discernment and planning in hopes of establishing a L’Arche community. Five years later, Friends of L’Arche Atlanta is now in the process of announcing their vision to the larger Atlanta community, raising the funds necessary to support a house. They believe that the relationships that are built in L’Arche can transform entire communities, and even the world.

ABOUT TODAY’S GUEST MUSICIANS—The Bell Ringers of First Baptist Church in Henderson, NC, have given concerts and taken part in major handbell festivals across the US. The seventh- through twelfth-graders who make up the group have many years of experience and training in handbell ringing. They ring three sets of handbells and two sets of handchimes. The bell collection is among the largest collections in the country. The Bell Ringers are a part of the music ministry of First Baptist Church, which includes five singing choirs, four handbell choirs, and an instrumental ensemble.

MESSIAH—This afternoon at 3:00 p.m. the Duke Chapel Choir, soloists, and orchestra will perform Handel’s Messiah for the final time this year. The choir and orchestra of this year’s Messiah will be performing from the Chapel crossing, improving the clarity of the sound for the listener. Tickets are $15 for adults, $5 for non-Duke students, and free for the first 300 Duke students. Tickets are available at the Duke Box Office by calling 684-4444 or at www.tickets.duke.edu

STUDENT PREACHER SUNDAY—Sunday, February 22, 2009, is Student Preacher Sunday at Duke Chapel. A Duke undergraduate student will be selected to preach at the 11:00 a.m. Sunday worship service in Duke Chapel. All Duke undergraduates are welcome to apply. Application guidelines can be found at www.chapel.duke.edu/pathways. The submission deadline is noon on Friday, January 16, 2009.
**Chapel Artwork**

The photographs hanging in Duke Chapel depict life in and around the Blanchard health clinic in Haiti, funded in large part by the generosity of those who attend the Duke Chapel Christmas Eve service each year. In late 2003, Family Health Ministries (FHM), a nonprofit organization established by Dr. David Walmer of Duke Medical Center, learned of the need for a health clinic in Blanchard. This Haitian suburb with 225,000 residents is overwhelmed with poverty. Today, a staff of nine sees patients five days a week, addressing many of the health issues that plague Haitian families, providing not only care for illness and injury, but also preventive health services. The Congregation at Duke Chapel is in the process of planning a mission trip to Haiti with Family Health Ministries next year. If you would like to participate, please contact the Rev. McKennon Shea at 684-3917 or email mckennon.shea@duke.edu.

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**This Week at Duke Chapel**

**Sunday Night Worship** - Tonight at 5:00 p.m. in Goodson Chapel  
**Morning Prayer** - Monday at 9:00 a.m.  
**Communion** - The communion service will return on January 13, 2009  
**Choral Vespers** - Choral Vespers will return on January 8, 2009

**The Congregation at Duke University Chapel**  
919-684-3917 • www.congregation.chapel.duke.edu

*The following Congregation opportunities are open to all.*

**Congregation Brunch**—On December 14 at 9:45 a.m., a Christmas brunch hosted by the Congregation will be held in the Chapel basement kitchen. All are welcome to share in the good food and good company. No adult forum will be held on that day.

**Young Adult Potluck**—The Young Adults of the Congregation are gathering for a potluck dinner on Wednesday, December 10, at 7:00 p.m., at the home of Rev. McKennon Shea. If you are interested in attending, or for more information, please contact the Congregation office or the Rev. McKennon at mckennon.shea@duke.edu.

**Winter Clothes Donations**—On December 14 and 21, the Congregation will be collecting winter clothes for men and hats and gloves for women, children, and men to be given to the Urban Ministries clothes closet. Due to high demand, supplies of this type of clothing are running very low. Used or new items are both acceptable. Please leave your donation on the back pews of the Chapel or in the Congregation office.

**A Living Nativity**—The children and youth of the Congregation at Duke University Chapel invite you to attend the annual performance of “A Living Nativity” on December 21 at 3:00 p.m. Please join in celebrating the birth of Jesus in a special outdoor setting at the Clark Farm in Bahama. For directions, see the bulletin board beside the Congregation office, Room 031 in the Chapel basement.
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, contact the Rev. Nancy Ferree-Clark at 684-3917. www.congregation.chapel.duke.edu

The Rev. Dr. Samuel Wells
Dean of the Chapel

Student Ministry and Chapel Worship
The Rev. Craig Kocher
Associate Dean of the Chapel and Director of Religious Life
The Rev. Meghan Feldmeyer
Director of Worship
The Rev. Patrick Thompson
Director of Black Campus Ministries
Ms. Mollie Keel
Chapel Events Coordinator and Wedding Coordinator

Chapel Music
Dr. Rodney Wynkoop
Director of Chapel Music
Dr. Robert Parkins
University Organist
Dr. David Arcus
Chapel Organist and Associate University Organist
Dr. Allan Friedman
Assistant Conductor and Administrative Coordinator of Chapel Music
Mr. John Santoianni
Curator of Organs and Harpsichords
Mr. J. Samuel Hammond
University Carillonneur
Ms. Meredith Hawley
Administrative Secretary for Chapel Music

Community Engagement
The Rev. Gaston Warner
Director of University and Community Relations
The Rev. Abby Kocher
Community Minister
Ms. Mandie Sellars
Manager of Chapel Communications
Ms. Layne Baker
Visitor and University Relations Specialist

PathWays Program
The Rev. Keith Daniel
Director of Duke Chapel PathWays
Mr. Mark Storslee
Program Coordinator for PathWays
Ms. Becky Smith
Staff Assistant to PathWays

Chapel Administration
Ms. Lucy Worth
Director of Development and Administration
Ms. Emily Wilson-Hauger
Staff Assistant to the Deans and Faith Council Coordinator
Ms. Lisa Moore
Accounting Specialist and Office Coordinator
Ms. Bonnie McWilliams
Staff Assistant to the Director of Development and Administration
Mr. Oscar Dantzler and Mr. William Earl
Housekeepers

Staff of the Congregation at Duke University Chapel
The Rev. Nancy Ferree-Clark
Senior Pastor
The Rev. McKennon Shea
Assistant Pastor
Ms. Elizabeth Clift
Director of Children’s Ministry
**December Events at Duke Chapel**

**Saturday, December 13 at 8:00 p.m.**
and **Sunday, December 14 at 4:00 p.m.**

*Choral Society of Durham Christmas Concert*

Rodney Wynkoop, conductor

featuring Christopher Rouse's *Karolju*

and American carols and compositions

$20 adults, free for full-time students

Tickets available at the Duke University Box Office

**Tuesday, December 16 ~ 12:30 p.m.**

*Holiday Music by Peeler Open School Students*

Free admission

**Thursday, December 18 ~ 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.**

*Duke Chapel by Candlelight*

Enjoy the beauty of the Chapel by candlelight, and enjoy seasonal organ and carillon music.

**Monday, December 22 ~ 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.**

*Open Rehearsal for Christmas Eve Community Choir*

All singers welcome

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**Christmas Eve Services**

**Duke University Chapel**

**3:00 p.m.**

*Christmas Eve Service for Children*

Join the children of the Congregation for this highly participatory worship service including drama and music in which children and storytellers together announce the birth of Christ.

**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.

A maximum of 1650 persons will be admitted, so please plan to arrive early.

**11:00 p.m.**

*Service of Lessons and Carols*

Traditional Lessons and Carols service with a large community choir, scripture, and song.

Prelude begins at 10:30.

A maximum of 1650 persons will be admitted, so please plan to arrive early.
**North Carolina Boys Choir Concert**

The North Carolina Boys Choir will perform a Christmas concert on Monday, December 15, at 7:30 p.m. in Duke Chapel. Tickets are $12 for adults and $8 for children 12 and under, and will be available at the door. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call 489-0291 or visit www.ncboyschoir.org.

**Christmas Opportunities for Giving**

**Sponsored by the Congregation at Duke Chapel**

**Heifer International Holiday Card Sale and Living Gift Market**

Heifer International works to end hunger and care for the earth by providing life-sustaining farm animals, education, and support to impoverished families around the world. For the seventh consecutive year, the children and youth of the Congregation are sponsoring a holiday card sale and Living Gift Market to benefit Heifer International. Animals may be purchased in honor of friends or family as an alternative gift for the holiday season. From now through December 14, look for the Heifer International table outside the front entrance of the Chapel following worship. Donations will be gratefully accepted.

**Bethlehem Imports**

The Congregation is sponsoring the sale of Bethlehem Imports products: beautiful hand-carved olive wood ornaments, nativity sets, figurines, crucifixes, and more, imported directly from Bethlehem. All proceeds go to support economically struggling Christian Palestinian artisans and local mission organizations. Sales will be held after worship today and December 14 in front of the Chapel.