With the birth of the infant Jesus, we are invited to place our hope in a future that is claimed and redeemed by God. Isaiah speaks of being clothed in garments of salvation, echoing the image of a wedding garment, which brings to mind great celebration. Galatians emphasizes the adoption we experience through Christ, in which we are no longer experience being slaves of the law, but instead we know the joy of being beloved children of God. In Luke, Simeon and Anna are both prophets who sense the promise and hope of the infant Jesus for the redemption of Israel.
The congregation is asked to remain silent
during the prelude as a time of prayer and meditation.

GATHERING

ORGAN PRELUDE
   La Nativité du Seigneur           Olivier Messiaen
   Les Bergers           (1908 - 1992)

PRELUDE
   Gesu Bambino           Pietro Yon
   arr. Jean Simpson
   (1886-1943)

   Christmas Renaissance and Exultations           arr. Catherine McMichael
   Good King Wenceslas           16th century English Carol
   Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming           German Carol (c.1599)
   Go, Tell It on the Mountain           American Spiritual
   Hark! The Herald Angels Sing           Felix Mendelssohn
   Joy to the World           Lowell Mason

GREETING

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 237
   Sing We Now of Christmas           FRENCH CAROL

*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)
Holy Trinity, eternal unity of perfect love:
as we hear your word today, gather the nations to be one family,
and draw us into your holy life through the birth of Emmanuel,
our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Isaiah 61:10-62:3 (page 650-51 in the pew Bible)
Lector: This is the word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM—Psalm 148:1-14 (read responsively, page 861-2 in the hymnal)
Lector: This is the word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM
Sleep, My Baby
Celtic Lullaby, “Suo Gan”
c.1800
arr. Ann Cameron Pearce

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON—Galatians 4:4-7 (page 178)
Lector: This is the word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

*GRADUAL HYMN 226 (stanza 1)
My Master, See, the Time Has Come
(All turn to face the Gospel Procession.)

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

*GRADUAL HYMN 226 (stanza 2)
My Master, See, the Time Has Come

SERMON—Holding the Future

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 ANTHEM
What Child Is This 16th century English Carol
arr. Catherine McMichael

*DOXOLOGY
Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia, Alleluia!
Praise God above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia, Alleluia,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

THANKSGIVING
This morning we give thanks for the Duke University Management Company (DUMAC). We celebrate its dedication and prudence in carefully managing the endowment and financial resources that preserve the University’s future. The ushers bring an investment portfolio to the altar.

In Durham, we lift up 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)

SENDING FORTH
*BENEDICTION

*RECESSONAL HYMN 220
Angels from the Realms of Glory
REGENT SQUARE

POSTLUDE
Noel X Louis-Claude D’Aquin
Grand Jeu et Duo (1694-1772)

*All who are able may stand.

CONGREGATION EPIPHANY PARTY
The Congregation's annual Epiphany party will be held on Sunday, January 4, at 12:30 p.m. at Cranford House, the home of Dean Wells and his family, 704 N. Buchanan Blvd. in Durham. Members are asked to bring salads or desserts. No reservations required.
MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

Presiding Ministers
The Rev. Keith Daniel

Preacher
The Rev. Nancy Ferree-Clark

Lectors
The Rev. Dr. Bob Claytor
Member of the Congregation at Duke Chapel

Ms. Ira Mueller
Member of the Congregation at Duke Chapel

Organists
Ms. Elizabeth Clark (prelude)
Dr. Thomas B. Clark

Guest Musicians
The Raleigh Flute Choir

Presiding Minister over Memorial Chapel Communion
The Rev. Keith Daniel

Head Ushers
Mr. Leroy McCrae and Mr. Charlie Roedel

CHAPEL ANNOUNCEMENTS

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. 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 OFFERING—All of today’s cash offerings and undesignated checks will be used for the Chapel Development Fund, which is the primary source of contributed funds for building care and preservation. The Chapel fulfills James B. Duke’s desire that the building exert a profound influence on the lives of the young women and men who attend the university.

ABOUT TODAY’S GUEST MUSICIANS—Since its founding in 1986, the Raleigh Flute Choir has been inspiring audiences of all types with their extensive and polished repertoire. Some of their significant venues over the years have been the Biltmore Estate, Colonial Williamsburg, Piccolo Spoleto in Charleston, the National Flute Association Convention, and The White House Christmas celebrations. For more information, please visit www.RaleighFlutes.org/RFC

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SERIES—Join Dean Wells and The Wave Church for “Godly Play” on January 11, 2009. Join us for dinner from 6:00-6:45 p.m. and Godly Play to follow from 6:45-8:00 p.m. Duke Chapel’s Community Engagement series offers opportunities for those involved in the life of Duke Chapel to grow in faith together with downtown Durham neighborhoods and congregations. As Duke Chapel deepens its commitment to seek the welfare of the city of Durham, we hope these encounters will foster meaningful and transformational relationships in our community. The Wave Church is located at 2605 Carver St. Please RSVP to Karen Witzleben at kwitz@earthlink.net or 493-9178 and also let her know if you can contribute a dessert.
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.
† 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.
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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, contact the Rev. Nancy Ferree-Clark at 684-3917. www.congregation.chapel.duke.edu

STAFF OF DUKE UNIVERSITY CHAPEL

The Rev. Dr. Samuel Wells
Student Ministry and Chapel Worship
The Rev. Craig Kocher
The Rev. Meghan Feldmeyer
The Rev. Patrick Thompson
Ms. Mollie Keel
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Staff of the Congregation at Duke University Chapel
The Rev. Nancy Ferree-Clark
The Rev. McKennon Shea
Ms. Elizabeth Clift