Order of Worship

The First Sunday after the Epiphany

Sunday, January 10, 2016
PRELUDE
Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern, BuxWV 223  
Dieterich Buxtehude (c. 1637/39–1707)

HYMN
No. 1, verses 1 & 4, “All People That on Earth Do Dwell”  
Old Hundredth
The congregation standing

CALL TO WORSHIP
Minister: Arise, shine; for your light has come.
People: The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.
Minister: Come, worship the Lord of glory.
People: We proclaim God’s praise among the nations.

Isaiah 60:1–34

INVOCATION

CONFESSION
In unison:
Holy One, we have failed to live into the promise of new life. We have been afraid to enter troubled waters to help the poor and downtrodden. We have been afraid to walk with those burned by the system of sin and oppression. We have sought ease and comfort in exchange for ignoring the hungry and sick in our world. Forgive us when we have seen our faith in such narrowness, thinking of only our own salvation. Forgive us when we have not lived for others, when we have not been willing to risk ourselves for the sake of others. Call us into new life, a life that is lived in the promise of your love for the whole world. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

THE PEACE
All are invited to join in the singing of Hymn No. 27, verse 1.

GREETINGS

OFFERTORY
Christum wir sollen loben schon, BWV 611  
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)
Here an offering is received for the work of the Church within and beyond the University. Ushers will begin the collection from the back of the Church forward.

O God beyond all praising, we worship you today and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay; for we can only wonder at every gift you send, at blessings without number and mercies without end: we lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word, we honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.


PSALTER
Psalm 72:1–7; 10–14
To be read responsively; the congregation standing

GLORIA PATRI
See Hymn No. 371

FIRST LESSON
Isaiah 60:1–8

HYMN
No. 135, “As with Gladness Men of Old”
The congregation standing

SECOND LESSON
Matthew 2:1–12
THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Minister: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Minister: Let us pray.
         Lord, show us your love and mercy.
People: For we put our trust in you.
Minister: In you, Lord, is our hope.
People: And we shall never hope in vain.

Each time the minister says “Lord, in your mercy,” the congregation will respond with “Hear our prayer.”

THE LORD’S PRAYER

In unison:
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE GRACE

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen.

HYMN

No. 136, “We Three Kings”
The congregation standing

Kings of Orient

SERMON

The Search

HYMN

No. 140, “Songs of Thankfulness and Praise”
The congregation standing

Salzburg

BENEDICTION
OUR MISSION:
The Memorial Church of Harvard University is a space of grace in the center of the Yard, rooted in the good news of Jesus Christ. Affectionately known as “MemChurch,” we pursue partnerships within and beyond Harvard, empowering community members to serve the world as well-informed, compassionate, moral citizens. Through worship and ministry outreach, MemChurch aims to promote justice and mercy by confronting life’s challenges, differences, and our own imperfections with courage, empathy, and an ethic of love. By doing so, the Memorial Church seeks to educate minds, expand hearts, and enrich lives.
Today is the First Sunday after the Epiphany. The preacher is the Reverend Dr. Lucy A. Forster-Smith, Sedgwick Chaplain to the University and Senior Minister in the Memorial Church, Harvard University. The service is led by Seminarians Danny Ballon MTS II and Adam Vander Tuig MDiv III. The first lesson is read by James Lawson. The second lesson is read by Ann Lawson. The flowers in the chancel are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mark Müller-Kahle by his mother, Joan Howard.


Listening devices are available to help the hearing impaired participate in the service; please ask an usher for assistance. Following the service, the congregation is invited to a reception in the Memorial Room.

PRAYER REQUEST CARDS

Prayer request cards are available in the pew card holders or in the church lobby. We would be honored to pray for your specific needs. Please place prayer request cards in the offering plates during worship services or in the prayer request box in the church lobby.

USHERS NEEDED

Ushers play a vital role in our worship services. If you are interested in being an usher for Winter Recess Sunday Worship, please contact Kelly Robichaud at kelly_robichaud@harvard.edu. We would love to have you join us!

WINTER RECESS

Morning Prayers services have ended for the Fall Term and will resume at the start of the Spring Term on Monday, January 25, 8:45 a.m.; you can listen to recordings of previous Morning Prayers services on our website, memorialchurch.harvard.edu, or listen on SoundCloud or iTunes. The Faith & Life Forum has ended and will resume on February 7. The Church School for Children is in recess and will resume on January 31.

SUNDAY SERMONS AND MORNING PRAYERS SERVICES ON HARVARD’S ITUNES U

Sunday sermons and weekly Morning Prayers services are available on Harvard’s iTunes U in the “Religion & Spirituality” channel. From your iTunes software, search “Harvard Memorial Church” to listen on your iPod, iPhone, iPad, Mac, or PC.

NEXT SUNDAY’S SERVICE

Next Sunday is the Commemoration of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Second Sunday after the Epiphany. The preacher will be the Reverend Dr. Lawrence E. Carter, Professor of Religion and Dean of the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel, Morehouse College.