

HARVARD

The Memorial Church



ORDER OF WORSHIP

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 20, 2015

PLEASE SILENCE ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES UPON ENTERING
THE SANCTUARY OF THE MEMORIAL CHURCH.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Joseph est bien marié

Pierre Dandrieu (ca. 1660–1733)

HYMN

No. 91, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Veni Emmanuel

Sung by all, the congregation standing

CALL TO WORSHIP

Minister: Our souls magnify the Lord.

People: Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.

Minister: The mighty One has done great things for us.

People: Holy is God’s name.

Minister: Let us worship God.

People: For God is our Maker and our Redeemer; from generation to generation God gives mercy.

Based on Luke 1:46–50

INVOCATION

CONFESSION

In unison:

Lord, have mercy on us. We are not ready for your coming. We live in sin as though there were no justice. We live in fear as though there were no grace. Forgive us, Lord. Show us your mercy and steadfast love. Lead us in your truth and teach us your paths, for you are the God of our salvation. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

THE PEACE

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

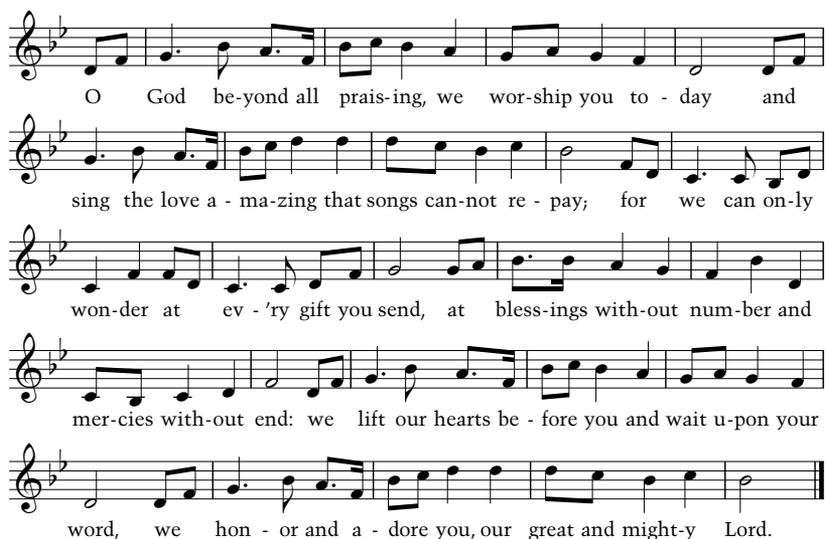
GREETINGS

OFFERTORY

Es ist ein Ros’ entsprungen, op. 122, no. 8

Johannes Brahms (1833–1897)

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 be-yond all prais-ing, we wor-ship you to - day and
sing the love a - ma-zing that songs can-not re - pay; for we can on-ly
won-der at ev - 'ry gift you send, at bless-ings with-out num-ber and
mer-cies with-out end: we lift our hearts be - fore you and wait u-pon your
word, we hon - or and a - dore you, our great and might-y Lord.

Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1921, alt.

Text: Michael Perry, © by Jubilate Hymns, Ltd. (admin. by Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188).

PSALTER

Psalm 80:1-7

To be read responsively; the congregation standing

Pew Bible, page 503-504 (OT)

GLORIA PATRI

See Hymn No. 371

FIRST LESSON

Micah 5:2-5a

Pew Bible, page 818 (NT)

HYMN

No. 106, "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

The congregation standing

Stuttgart

SECOND LESSON

Luke 1:39-55

Pew Bible, page 49 (NT)

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. 97, "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came" *Gabriel's Message*
The congregation standing

SERMON

Shimmering Sights
Text: "Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved." *Psalm 80:7*

HYMN

No. 211, "Tell Out, My Soul, the Greatness of the Lord" *Woodlands*
The congregation standing

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Prelude-Improvisation on Veni Emmanuel *Arthur Egerton (1891-1957)*

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, December 20, 2015

WELCOME

Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent. The preacher is the Reverend Dr. Lucy A. Forster-Smith, Sedgwick Chaplain to Harvard University and Senior Minister in the Memorial Church. The service is led by the Reverend Alanna Copenhaver, Ministry Fellow in the Memorial Church, and Seminarrians Adam Vander Tuig MDiv III and Patrick Jackson MDiv II. The first lesson is read by Judith Sizer. The second lesson is read by Tom Reid. The McGill family lights the Advent Candle of Love.

Liturgy adapted from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 1* edited by Kim Long, Westminster John Knox Press, 2012.

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.

HARVARD REAL ESTATE HOLIDAY GIFT DRIVE FOR THE GUIDANCE CENTER

Harvard Real Estate is reaching out to The Guidance Center at 5 Sacramento Street, a service of Riverside Community Care, to provide gifts to their clientele and families. The Guidance Center is requesting items such as puzzles, art supplies, games, and crafts to distribute to 6-13 year olds served by its Family After School Program. A gift box is located at the back of the church. Donations are accepted through tomorrow, December 21.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

On Thursday, December 24 at 5:00 p.m., a service will be held to celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord with hymns and Holy Communion. Professor Jonathan L. Walton will preach. Singers are welcome to join in the community choir for the Christmas Eve service; rehearsal is before the service at 3:30 p.m.

USHERS AND LESSON READERS NEEDED

Ushers and lesson readers play a vital role in worship for the Memorial Church. If you are interested in being an usher or reader for the Christmas Eve service or Winter Recess Sunday Worship, please contact Kelly Robichaud (kelly_robichaud@harvard.edu). We would love to have you join us!

WINTER RECESS

The Church offices will be closed from Friday, December 25 through Friday, January 1 for winter recess. There will be no worship service held on Sunday, December 27; the next Sunday service will be on January 3. 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, 2016. The Church School for Children is in recess and will resume on January 31, 2016.

AUDIO OF LAST YEAR'S CAROL SERVICE AVAILABLE

Audio of last year's Christmas Carol Service from Sunday, December 14, 2014, is available. Performed by the Harvard University Choir under the direction of Edward E. Jones, this music is a great way to get into the holiday spirit. You can access the recording on the home page of the Memorial Church website: memorialchurch.harvard.edu.

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.

STAY CONNECTED TO THE MEMORIAL CHURCH

E-mail List: Join our e-mail list and stay up-to-date with all the happenings in the Memorial Church. To sign up, visit our website at memorialchurch.harvard.edu. **Facebook:** Like us on Facebook: [facebook.com/memorialchurch](https://www.facebook.com/memorialchurch). **Twitter:** Follow us on Twitter: twitter.com/MemChurch.

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.

NEXT SUNDAY'S SERVICE

Please note that there will be no service next Sunday, December 27, due to Winter Recess. The next Sunday service will be January 3, the Second Sunday after Christmas Day. The preacher will be the Reverend Dr. Lucy A. Forster-Smith, Sedgwick Chaplain to Harvard University and Senior Minister in the Memorial Church.

For more information on upcoming services and events:

memorialchurch.harvard.edu • [facebook.com/memorialchurch](https://www.facebook.com/memorialchurch) • twitter.com/memchurch

To subscribe to the Memorial Church e-mail list, visit our website: memorialchurch.harvard.edu.

