

HARVARD

The Memorial Church



ORDER OF WORSHIP

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ: Christmas Eve
December 24, 2022, 5 pm

PRELUDE

Pastorale on “Forest Green” (1949)

Richard Purvis (1913–1944)

HYMN

No. 120, “O Come, All Ye Faithful”
The congregation stands and sings

Adeste fideles

CALL TO WORSHIP

Minister: Alleluia. To us a child is born;
O come, let us adore him.

People: Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God’s people on earth.

Minister: God is our everlasting light;
God has shown forth glory.

People: The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness did not overcome it.

CONFESSION

In unison:

Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from us by our sin, and whose mercy we forget: cleanse us from all offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires; that humbly we may draw near to thee, confessing our faults, confiding in thy grace, and finding in thee our refuge and our strength, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

HYMN

No. 123, “Angels We Have Heard on High”
The congregation stands and sings

Gloria

THE PEACE & GREETING

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

ANTHEM

What Child Is This? (arr. 1871)
Sung by the choir

Traditional English, arr. John Stainer (1840–1901)

LESSON

Isaiah 9:2–7

Pew Bible, page 598 (OT)

HYMN

No. 113, st. 1–3 “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

St. Louis

The congregation stands and sings

THE GOSPEL

Luke 2:1–20

Pew Bible, page 50 (NT)

HYMN

No. 113, st. 4–5 “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

The congregation stands and sings

SERMON

The Rev. Matthew Ichihashi Potts

THE SUMMARY OF THE LAW

Minister: Hear the words of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and all your mind and all your strength. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY

Your offering supports the work of the Memorial Church, especially our ministries to students and to our neighbors in need through the Grants Committee. Ushers will begin collection from the front of the church. Checks can be written to the Memorial Church. You may also donate online at <https://memorialchurch.harvard.edu/donate>

Still, Still, Still (arr. 1958)

Traditional Austrian Carol, arr. Norman Luboff (1917–1987)

Sung by the choir

DOXOLOGY

The congregation stands and sings

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all people here below.

Praise God above, ye heavenly host. Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The congregation remains standing

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

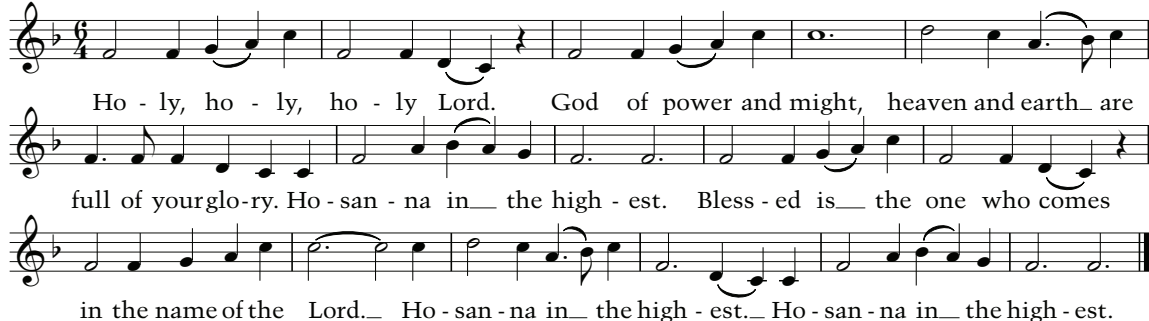
People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Minister: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you,

Loving God, Creator of heaven and earth. [...]

Minister: Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord. God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The congregation remains standing

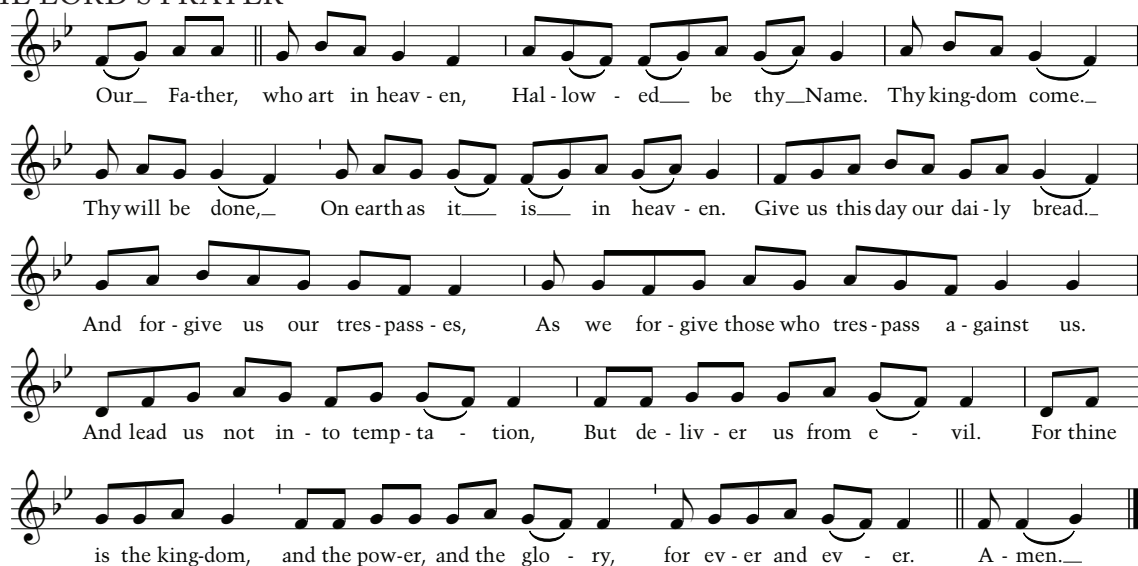
Minister: ... Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

People: Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Minister: ... all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

People: AMEN.

THE LORD'S PRAYER



Our Fa - ther, who art in heav - en, Hal - low - ed be thy Name. Thy king - dom come. Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heav - en. Give us this day our dai - ly bread. And for - give us our tres - pass - es, As we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us. And lead us not in - to temp - ta - tion, But de - liv - er us from e - vil. For thine is the king - dom, and the pow - er, and the glo - ry, for ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Minister: When the centurion standing there saw how Jesus died, he said:

People: Truly, this is the Son of God.

The congregation sits

THE MINISTRATION OF COMMUNION

ANTHEM

A Stable Lamp Is Lighted (1983)

David Hurd (b. 1950)

Sung by the choir

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

The congregation stands

Minister: Let us pray.

People: Almighty and everliving God, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

HYMN

No. 115, "Silent Night, Holy Night"

Stille Nacht

DISMISSAL

Minister: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing (1976)

Keith Chapman (1949–1989)

TODAY'S SERVICE

Additional information about today's service and music notes are available from our website at memorialchurch.harvard.edu/service-and-music-notes or by scanning the following QR code.



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