Commemoration of Benefactors and of the War Dead

Sunday, November 11, 2018
Order of Worship

Prelude

Chorale Fantasia on “Our God, Our Help in Ages Past” (1915)  C. Hubert H. Parry (1848–1918)

The Tolling of the Bell

The bell tolls “In memory of voices that are hushed.”

Introit

from Songs of Farewell (1916)  C. Hubert H. Parry

I. My Soul, There Is a Country

My soul, there is a country
Far beyond the stars,
Where stands a wingèd sentry
All skillful in the wars:
There, above noise and danger,
Sweet Peace sits crown’d with smiles,
And One born in a manger
Commands the beauteous files.
He is thy gracious Friend,
And—O my Soul awake!—
Did in pure love descend
To die here for thy sake.
If thou canst get but thither,
There grows the flower of Peace,
The Rose that cannot wither,
Thy fortress, and thy ease.
Leave then thy foolish ranges;
For none can thee secure
But One who never changes—
Thy God, thy life, thy cure.

Henry Vaughan (1621–1695), [Peace], edited Arthur Quiller-Couch (1863–1944)

Hymn in Procession

No. 210, “Our God, Our Help in Ages Past”  St. Anne

The congregation standing

Invocation

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. 88, O Lord of Life, Whose Power Sustains”  Armistice

GREETING AND THE PEACE
All are invited to join in singing of Hymn No. 27, stanza 1.

OFFERTORY
The offering collected goes directly to fund the Memorial Church Grants Committee’s recipient organizations and their important work in our local communities. Checks can be written to the Memorial Church with the memo line “Grants Committee.” Ushers will begin collection from the back of the church.

Psalm 84  Quam dilecta!  Chant by C. Hubert H. Parry
O how amiable are thy dwellings,
thou Lord of hosts!
My soul hath a desire and longing to enter into the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
Yea, the sparrow hath found her an house,
and the swallow a nest, where she may lay her young;
even thy altars, O Lord of hosts, my king and my God.
Blessed are they that dwell in thy house;
they will be alway praising thee.
Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee;
in whose heart are thy ways.
Who going through the vale of misery use it for a well;
and the pools are filled with water.
They will go from strength to strength,
and unto the God of gods appeareth every one of them in Zion.
O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer;
hearken, O God of Jacob.
Behold, O God our defender,
and look upon the face of thine anointed.
For one day in thy courts
is better than a thousand.
I had rather be a door-keeper in the house of my God,
than to dwell in the tents of ungodliness.
For the Lord God is a light and defense;
the Lord will give grace and worship;
and no good thing shall he withhold from them that live a godly life.
O Lord God of hosts,
blessed is the man that putteth his trust in thee.
DOXOLOGY

*Sung by the congregation, standing*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Galatians 6:7–9

*Pew Bible, page 168 (NT)*

ANTHEM

The Remembering Earth (2018)

Carson Cooman ’04 (b. 1982)

A host of angels keep their watch
before the remembering earth.
They know the soul is more than a scrap
of tattered threads.
Take solace, listen closely:
alone we are nothing, together
we are a bouquet of shining voices,
a shimmering in the weaving of evening
streams, a myth that brings an awakening,
a life awakening unto the succor
of the soul’s seamlessness.

SECOND LESSON

2 Corinthians 9:6–9

*Pew Bible, page 162 (NT)*

PRAYER HYMN

*The congregation seated*

Day by day, dear Lord, of thee three things I pray: to

see thee more clearly, love thee more dearly,

follow thee more nearly, day by day.
THE PRAYERS

Here follow the several prayers of the day.

FOR THE PEACE OF THE WORLD

O God, you have taught us that the world and all that is in it is yours; hear us, we pray, as we plead for the peace of the world. Grant that all nations may seek the ways that lead to peace, and that the dignity of your creation be upheld. Encourage us to share what we have, and embolden us to pursue and protect that peace which passes all human understanding, for the sake of Jesus Christ who is our peace. Amen.

FOR STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS

Grant, O Lord, to all students and scholars, that they may love that which is worth loving, know that which is worth knowing, praise that which is worthy of praise, and seek that which is worth finding. Endow this life of the mind with courage, discernment, modesty, and grace; and in the search for that truth which sets us free, grant us the wisdom which is found most perfectly in you. Amen.

FOR THIS UNIVERSITY CHURCH

O God of memory and of hope, make the doors of this Memorial Church wide enough to receive all who seek human fellowship and divine love, and narrow enough to shut out all envy, malice, and pride. Here may the tempted find help, the sorrowful find comfort, the fearful courage. Here may the indifferent be awakened to new purpose, and the penitent assured of mercy. And here, may all your children renew their strength and go on their way in hope and joy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Following the Lord’s Prayer, the Prayer Hymn is repeated.
ANTHEM
“Nation Shall Not Lift Up a Sword against Nation” Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)
from Dona nobis pacem (1936)

Nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.
And none shall make them afraid, neither shall the sword go through their land.
Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
Truth shall spring out of the earth; and righteousness shall look down from heaven.
Open to me the gates of righteousness, I will go into them.
Let all the nations be gathered together, and let the people be assembled; and let them hear, and say, It is the truth.
And it shall come, that I will gather all nations and tongues; and they shall come, and see my glory. And I will set a sign among them; and they shall declare my glory among the nations.
For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, so shall your seed and your name remain for ever.
Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Dona nobis pacem. (Grant us peace.)

Isaiah 2:4, Leviticus 26:6, Psalms 85:10–11 and 118:19

SERMON
A Soulful Nation

MOMENT OF SILENCE
This church was dedicated in 1932 to the memory of the Harvard dead of World War I, and now contains memorials of the dead of World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and the graduates of Radcliffe College who died in World War I. We also remember today all those who served this church and built this community, who have gone before us. Let us observe a moment of silence in their memory, while a wreath of laurel is placed in the Memorial Room.
THE ACT OF COMMEMORATION

The congregation standing, the minister shall then say:

Let us remember before God, and commend to his sure keeping, those of this College and University who, while a bright future beckoned, gave their lives for their country that others might live in peace. Let us remember also all those who by spirit and substance, talent and treasure, have enriched this University and this Church. Remembering that they lived generously and served faithfully, may we now enter into their unfinished labors in the sure and certain hope that in your good time, you will perfect the imperfect lives and labors of all your children. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN

No. 327, “God the Omnipotent! King, Who Ordainest”

The congregation standing

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Allegro maestoso” from Organ Sonata, Op. 28 (1895)

Edward Elgar (1857–1934)

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.
WELCOME
Today is the Commemoration of Benefactors and of the War Dead. The preacher is the Honorable Deval L. Patrick ’78 JD ’82; Managing Director, Bain Capital Double Impact; Governor of Massachusetts (2007–2015). The service is led by Professor Jonathan L. Walton, Plummer Professor of Christian Morals and Pusey Minister in the Memorial Church; the Reverend Westley P. Conn, Ministry Fellow in the Memorial Church; the Reverend Katherine A. Schofield, Interim Minister in the Memorial Church; and Aric B. Flemming Jr. MDiv III and KMarie Tejeda MDiv II, Seminarians in the Memorial Church. The music is provided by the Harvard University Choir, under the direction of Edward E. Jones, Gund University Organist and Choirmaster; and Thomas M. Sheehan, Associate University Organist and Choirmaster. We particularly wish to welcome members of the Harvard Reserve Officers’ Training Corps and thank them for their contribution to the service today.

A Baby Oasis is available for young children and infants in the lower level of the church. Parents and their children are welcome to use the respite space during worship, complete with an audio broadcast of the service.

Listening devices are available to help the hearing impaired participate in the service; please ask an usher for assistance.

FAITH FORMATION
The Church School offers Christian education classes for children of age three through sixteen. All classes are held during Sunday services in the Fall and Spring Terms. To register and learn more, please visit the Church School for Children page on our website.

For adults in the MemChurch community, the Faith & Life Forum seeks to enrich our spirituality by promoting religious literacy and cultural competency. This program is held Sunday mornings during the Fall and Spring Terms in the Buttrick Room from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. The Forum will continue next Sunday, November 18 with Eugene Cho. To learn about upcoming speakers, please visit the Faith & Life Forum page on our website.
MUSIC NOTES

This morning’s service of remembrance and commemoration begins in the Memorial Room; at its center stands Sacrifice—by the American sculptor and author Malvina Hoffman—which pays tribute to Harvard’s First World War dead.

Sir Hubert Parry—whose one-hundredth anniversary occurred earlier in the fall—was born in Bournemouth, England and attended Eton and Exeter College, Oxford. A scholar as well as a composer, Parry worked for Sir George Grove’s new Dictionary of Music and Musicians as an editor and contributor and in 1883 was appointed Professor of Musical History at the Royal College of Music, London, later to become Professor of Music at Oxford University. His music was to have a profound influence on a generation of later composers, including Elgar and Vaughan Williams. Parry’s six Songs of Farewell were written between 1916 and 1918 and are an intensely personal response to the horrors of war; the first of the group, “My Soul, There Is a Country,” is a four-voice setting of words by the seventeenth-century Welsh metaphysical poet Henry Vaughan.

Poet Elizabeth Kirschner has taught at Boston College, Fairfield University, and Carnegie Mellon University. She has published five volumes of poetry and has also actively collaborated on a number of new musical compositions with composers, including The Litany of Light (with Carson Cooman), written for the 75th anniversary of the Memorial Church in 2007. The Remembering Earth was commissioned for today’s service and recalls the sacrifice of those who have died while looking optimistically towards the future.

The English composer Ralph Vaughan Williams studied with Parry, Wood, and Stanford at the Royal College of Music, London, before traveling to Europe for further study with Bruch in Berlin and Ravel in Paris. A gifted conductor and church organist, he was the musical editor of The English Hymnal (1906), and throughout his life remained an authority on hymnody and the folk music of the British Isles. Vaughan Williams created two musical memorials to the fallen of the First World War—in which he served in the Royal Army Medical Corps and the Royal Garrison Artillery—A Pastoral Symphony and Dona nobis pacem, a plea for peace written in the mid-1930s as the shadow of another war was looming large. The final movement builds into a majestic hymn of praise before dying away into the sound of a solitary soprano voice reiterating her quiet entreaty, “Dona nobis pacem” (“Grant us peace”).

Today’s prelude is Parry’s virtuosic Chorale Fantasia on “Our God, Our Help in Ages Past.” A simple opening statement of the St. Anne hymn tune belies the work’s true nature, as soon thereafter, a perpetual-motion pedal part in triplets begins and builds momentum until the piece finishes triumphantly.

A composer of symphonies, concertos and chamber music, Sir Edward Elgar is, nevertheless, best remembered for his oratorios and church music. His first Organ Sonata
was the result of a commission from Hugh Blair, organist of Worcester Cathedral, for a work to be performed at a convention of visiting American organists in 1895. Elgar delivered the work to Blair only three days before the occasion, leading to an apparently underwhelming world premiere. Today’s postlude is the sonata’s opening movement, which juxtaposes a grand, sweeping first subject with a calm, lyrical second theme, and a development section full of intricate counterpoint.

MORNING PRAYERS SPEAKERS: NOVEMBER 12 – 16, 8:45 A.M.
Monday: Richard Martinez III ’21; Tuesday: Ming Li Wu, ’21
Wednesday: David F. Holland; Thursday: Ciarra Jones ’19; Friday: Sheryl Ott

FALL CONCERT
This afternoon at 4 p.m., the University Choir will present its fall concert in remembrance of the centenary of the end of World War I, featuring music by Hubert Parry, Herbert Howells, George Dyson, John Ireland, Ralph Vaughan Williams, and Gareth Treseder.

LISTEN TO SUNDAY WORSHIP AND MORNING PRAYERS
Sunday services are broadcast on Harvard’s radio station, WHRB 95.3 FM in term; a live stream of the service is available at whrb.org. Recordings of Sunday Worship Services and Sunday Sermons are available on our website, memorialchurch.harvard.edu, during the week following the service. Sunday Sermons and Morning Prayers are also available on SoundCloud at http://bit.ly/sundaysermons and http://bit.ly/morningprayers respectively, and on iTunes—search “Harvard Memorial Church” from your iTunes app.

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E-mail: 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
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Watch us on YouTube: youtube.com/memchurchharvard

NEXT SUNDAY’S SERVICE
Next Sunday is the Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost. The preacher will be the Reverend Eugene Cho, Pastor, Humanitarian, Speaker, Author, Founder of One Day’s Wages.

For more information on upcoming services and events:
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