

HARVARD

The Memorial Church



ORDER OF WORSHIP

The Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, November 18, 2018

11 a.m.

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Pastorale
Adagio

Percy Whitlock (1903–1946)
Frank Bridge (1879–1941)

HYMN

No. 1, st. 1 & 4, “All People That on Earth Do Dwell”
The congregation standing

Old Hundredth

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. 34, “Let All the World in Every Corner Sing”
The congregation standing

Luckington

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 front of the church.

Psalm 16:1–3, 6–12 *Conserve me, Domine* Chant by William Henry Havergal (1793–1870)

Preserve me, O God;
 for in thee have I put my trust.
O my soul, thou hast said unto the Lord,
 Thou art my God; I have no good like unto thee.
All my delight is upon the saints that are in the earth,
 and upon such as excel in virtue.
The Lord himself is the portion of mine inheritance, and of my cup;
 thou shalt maintain my lot.
The lot is fallen unto me in a fair ground;
 yea, I have a goodly heritage.
I will thank the Lord for giving me warning;
 my reins also chasten me in the night season.
I have set the Lord alway before me;
 for he is on my right hand, therefore I shall not fall.
Wherefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth:
 my flesh also shall rest in hope.
For why? thou shalt not leave my soul in hell;
 neither shalt thou suffer thy holy one to see corruption.
Thou shalt show me the path of life: in thy presence is the fullness of joy,
 and at thy right hand there is pleasure for evermore.

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

Amos 5:21–24

Pew Bible, page 808 (OT)

ANTHEM

Rejoice in the Lamb, Op. 30 (1943)

Benjamin Britten (1913–1976)

Rejoice in God, O ye Tongues; give the glory to the Lord, and the Lamb.

Nations, and languages, and every Creature, in which is the breath of Life.

Let man and beast appear before him, and magnify his name together.

Let Nimrod, the mighty hunter, bind a Leopard to the altar, and consecrate his spear to the Lord.

Let Ishmael dedicate a Tyger, and give praise for the liberty in which the Lord has let him at large.

Let Balaam appear with an Ass, and bless the Lord his people and his creatures for a reward eternal.

Let Daniel come forth with a Lion, and praise God with all his might through faith in Christ Jesus.

Let Ithamar minister with a Chamois, and bless the name of Him, that cloatheth the naked.

Let Jakim with the Satyr bless God in the dance.

Let David bless with the Bear—The beginning of victory to the Lord—to the Lord the perfection of excellence—Hallelujah from the heart of God, and from the hand of the artist inimitable, and from the echo of the heavenly harp in sweetness magnificent and mighty.

For I will consider my Cat Jeoffry.

For he is the servant of the Living God, duly and daily serving him.

For at the first glance of the glory of God in the East he worships in his way.

For is this done by wreathing his body seven times round with elegant quickness.

For he knows that God is his Saviour.

For God has blessed him in the variety of his movements.

For there is nothing sweeter than his peace when at rest.

For I am possessed of a cat, surpassing in beauty, from whom I take occasion to bless Almighty God.

For the Mouse is a creature of great personal valour.

For—this is a true case—Cat takes female mouse—male mouse will not depart, but stands threat'ning and daring.

...If you will let her go, I will engage you, as prodigious a creature as you are.

For the Mouse is a creature of great personal valour.

For the Mouse is of an hospitable disposition.

For the flowers are great blessings.
For the flowers have their angels even the words of God's Creation.
For the flower glorifies God and the root parries the adversary.
For there is a language of flowers.
For flowers are peculiarly the poetry of Christ.

For I am under the same accusation with my Saviour—
For they said, he is besides himself.
For the officers of the peace are at variance with me, and the watchman smites me with his staff.
For Silly fellow! Silly fellow! is against me and belongeth neither to me nor to my family.
For I am in twelve HARDSHIPS, but he that was born of a virgin shall deliver me out of all.

For H is a spirit and therefore he is God.
For K is king and therefore he is God.
For L is love and therefore he is God.
For M is musick and therefore he is God.

For the instruments are by their rhimes.
For the Shawm rhimes are lawn fawn moon boon and the like.
For the harp rhimes are sing ring string and the like.
For the cymbal rhimes are bell well toll soul and the like.
For the flute rhimes are tooth youth suit mute and the like.
For the Bassoon rhimes are pass class and the like.
For the dulcimer rhimes are grace place beat heat and the like.
For the Clarinet rhimes are clean seen and the like.
For the trumpet rhimes are sound bound soar more and the like.
For the TRUMPET of God is a blessed intelligence and so are all the instruments in HEAVEN.
For GOD the father Almighty plays upon the HARP of stupendous magnitude and melody.
For at that time malignity ceases and the devils themselves are at peace.
For this time is perceptible to man by a remarkable stillness and serenity of soul.

Hallelujah from the heart of God, and from the hand of the artist inimitable, and from the echo of the heavenly harp in sweetness magnificent and mighty.

Christopher Smart (1722–1771), [from Jubilate Agno], alt.

SECOND LESSON

Mark 13:1-8

Pew Bible, page 43 (NT)

PRAYER HYMN

Sung by the congregation, seated

Day by day, dear Lord, of thee three things I pray: to
see thee more clear - ly, love thee more dear - ly,
fol - low thee more near - ly, day by day.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

SERMON

Empty Worship

HYMN

No. 225, "Sing, My Soul, His Wondrous Love"

St. Bees

The congregation standing

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Toccata” from *Plymouth Suite* (1937)

Percy Whitlock

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, November 18, 2018

WELCOME

Today is the Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost. The preacher is the Reverend Eugene Cho; Pastor, Humanitarian, Speaker, Author; Founder, One Day's Wages. The worship leaders are the Reverend Katherine A. Schofield, Interim Minister in the Memorial Church; the Reverend Westley P. Conn, Ministry Fellow in the Memorial Church and Aric B. Flemming Jr. MDiv III and KMarie Tejada 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.

Our "Baby Oasis" is available for young children and infants in the lower level of the church. Parents and their children are welcome to use this respite space during worship.

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

MORNING PRAYERS

Monday: Sienna Leis '00; Tuesday: KMarie Tejada MDiv II

There will be no services of Morning Prayers on Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday, for the Thanksgiving Recess.

FAITH FORMATION

The Church School offers Christian education classes for children of ages 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. Church School will not meet next Sunday, November 25; however, worship bags and books will be available for young people in worship. Classes will resume Sunday, December 2.

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 not meet next Sunday, November 25, but will continue on December 2 with Anne Pratt. To learn about upcoming speakers, please visit the Faith & Life Forum page on our website.

COLLECTING 400 TOYS

Please join with the Church School in supporting Phillips Brooks House's 2018 Holiday Gift Drive. Our goal this year is to collect 400 new toys! This annual event provides gifts to children of all ages in Cambridge and Boston, many of whose families are without necessary resources. Gifts should be new and unwrapped. Contributions can be placed in the large, gift-wrapped boxes in the narthex and downstairs in the Student Oasis until Sunday, December 16. Amazon packages are welcome! Please deliver to: The Memorial Church, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02138.

MUSIC NOTES

Benjamin Britten's festival cantata *Rejoice in the Lamb* was written in 1943 in response to a commission from the Reverend Walter Hussey, an important figure in the patronage of church music and art in twentieth-century Britain. The text is taken from the mystical poem *Jubilate Agno* (the manuscript of which is housed in Houghton library) by the eighteenth-century poet Christopher Smart, written whilst he was confined to a lunatic asylum suffering from a form of religious mania. Subtitled "My Magnificat," Smart's poem is a litany praising God through the unity of all creation. The poem was first published in 1939, and Britten was immediately attracted to the text, presumably empathizing with Smart's position as an outsider and an innocent. Britten set portions of Smart's poem as a ten-movement cantata in homage to Purcellian models: in common with Purcell, Britten provides an imaginative response to the text whose dramatic potential has made this one of the most beloved of twentieth-century choral works.

Rejoice in the Lamb opens with a hushed unison C that seems to grow out of the eternal music of the spheres. The phrase "Let man and beast appear before him and magnify his name together" leads us into a dance-like section in which Old Testament characters are paired with a variety of creatures to praise God in a particular way. The movement builds in intensity to an ecstatic frenzy that leads into a subdued, canonic series of Hallelujahs.

Then follows a series of "For" statements (balancing the "Let" commands of the opening), setting some of the most famous parts of Smart's text. The soprano soloist considers the cat "Jeoffry" (Smart's companion in the asylum) who gives pleasure to both his earthly and heavenly owner through his bodily movements, reflected in the organ accompaniment. The mouse challenges the cat with God-given courage (a reference to King David has already been made in the opening chorus). Britten portrays the scampering mouse in the accompaniment and ingeniously personifies the creature through a heroic vocal line sung by an alto in the low register. The tenor reflects on flowers as the poetry of Christ through a lyrical, sweeping melody with an undulating accompaniment that depicts the flowers swaying in the breeze.

The poet confronts his own incarceration in the poignant lament that forms the bleak central section. A chilling choral recitative begins with bare open fifths and an arabesque-type figure in the organ. The poet compares himself to Christ, and with the chromatic figure on the phrase “Silly fellow!” we arrive at the work’s most anguished moment. Even in the midst of such desolation, however, the poet finds reason to praise God since he knows that “He that was born of a virgin shall deliver me out of all.” The bass soloist recites a series of letters representing the creator through various emotions. The following lively chorus is devoted to the praise that music itself can offer to God through the classification of instruments “by their rhimes.” At the climax the whole of creation joins in this cosmic symphony at which point “malignity ceases and the devils themselves are at peace.” Britten reflects this beautiful sentiment through a passage in which the momentum slows down to create a magical, timeless atmosphere that leads into a reprise of the Hallelujah section. As the Hallelujahs fade away into nothingness, one gets the impression of having come full circle from the beginning of the work: the ethereal C major once again returns to the cosmos, as the angels continue their unending hymn.

Percy Whitlock and Frank Bridge (who is best remembered today as Benjamin Britten’s teacher) represent the pastoral vein in English composition: today’s prelude offers two beautiful examples, and the postlude is an example of how this same harmonic language can be also put to great effect in an energetic toccata.

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.

HARVARD BAROQUE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA CONCERT

This afternoon at 4 p.m., the Harvard Baroque Chamber Orchestra will perform a concert of new compositions for Baroque orchestra paired with classic works that inform their style and structure, featuring music of Erlebach, Lully, Geminiani, J. C. Bach, J. S. Bach, Benjamin P. Wenzelberg, and Carson Cooman.

STAY CONNECTED TO THE MEMORIAL CHURCH

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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Follow us on Twitter: *twitter.com/memchurch*

and **Instagram:** *instagram.com/memchurch*

Watch us on YouTube: *youtube.com/memchurchharvard*

NEXT SUNDAY'S SERVICE

Next Sunday is the Last Sunday after Pentecost. The preacher will be the Reverend Westley P. Conn, Ministry Fellow, the Memorial Church.

For more information on upcoming services and events:

memorialchurch.harvard.edu • facebook.com/harvardmemorialchurch • twitter.com/memchurch

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