

HARVARD

The Memorial Church



ORDER OF WORSHIP

The Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 9, 2018
11 a.m.

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland

Nicolaus Bruhns (1665–1697)

HYMN

No. 91, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Veni Emmanuel

The congregation standing

INVOCATION

One: Last week we began our Advent journey by lighting the candle of hope. This morning we light the candle of peace, awaiting the arrival of Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

Many: May we kindle God’s light together as we journey on.

One: Strengthen us as we cry out for an end to violence and work to build a world where everyone’s needs are met.

Many: Be not afraid, the light of God’s peace is at hand. Amen.

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. 106, “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Stuttgart

The congregation standing

GREETING AND THE PEACE

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

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

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 150

Laudate Dominum

Tone VIII.2

O praise God in his sanctuary:

praise him in the firmament of his power.

Praise him in his noble acts:

praise him according to his excellent greatness.

Praise him in the sound of the trumpet:

praise him upon the lute and harp.

Praise him in the timbrels and dances:

praise him upon the strings and pipe.

Praise him upon the well-tuned cymbals:

praise him upon the loud cymbals.

Let every thing that hath breath

praise the Lord.

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

Psalm 146

Pew Bible, pages 544–545 (OT)

ANTHEM

A Tender Shoot

Otto Goldschmidt (1829–1907)

A tender shoot hath started

Up from a root of grace,

As ancient seers imparted

From Jesse's holy race:

It blooms without a blight,

Blooms in the cold bleak winter,

Turning our darkness into light.

This shoot, Isaiah taught us,

From Jesse's root should spring;

The virgin Mary brought us

The branch of which we sing:

Our God of endless might

Gave her this child to save us,

Thus turning darkness into light.

15th cent. German, trans. William Bartholomew (1793–1867)

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 11:2–11

Pew Bible, pages 9–10 (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.

ANTHEM

Never Weather-Beaten Sail (1910)

Charles Wood (1866–1926)

Never weather-beaten sail more willing bent to shore,
Never tired pilgrim limbs affected slumber more,
Than my weary sprite now longs to fly out of my troubled breast:
O come quickly, sweetest Lord, and take my soul to rest!

Ever blooming are the joys of heav'n's high paradise,
Cold age deafs not there our ears nor vapor dims our eyes:
Glory there the sun outshines; whose beams the blessed only see:
O come quickly, glorious Lord, and raise my sprite to thee.

Thomas Campion (1567–1620), alt.

SERMON

Our Struggle to Be Well

Text: “He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets prisoners free...”

Psalm 146:7 (NIV)

HYMN

No. 109, “People, Look East, the Time Is Near”

Besaçon

The congregation standing

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Fuga sopra il Magnificat, BWV 733

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

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 9, 2018

WELCOME

Today is the Second Sunday of Advent. The preacher is Dr. Brian E. Konkol, Dean of Hendricks Chapel, Syracuse University. The service is led by Professor Jonathan L. Walton, Plummer Professor of Christian Morals and Pusey Minister in the Memorial Church; the Reverend Katherine A. Schofield, Interim Minister in the Memorial Church; and the Reverend Westley P. Conn, Ministry Fellow 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. The Akin family will light the second candle of Advent, representing peace.

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

The Memorial Church’s services of Morning Prayers have concluded for the fall term. They will resume on Monday, January 29, 2019.

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. Sunday, December 16 will be the last Sunday for Church School in fall term. Church School resumes on Sunday, February 10.

For adults in the MemChurch community, the Faith and 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, December 16, with the Reverend Westley Conn, Ministry Fellow in the Memorial Church; and the Reverend Katherine Schofield, Interim Minister in the Memorial Church. Sunday, December 16 will be the last Sunday of the Faith & Life Forum in the fall term. It will resume on Sunday, February 10.

THE 109TH CHRISTMAS CAROLS SERVICES

The 109th Christmas Carols Services will be held at 5 p.m. this evening and at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, December 11.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

The Memorial Church's Christmas Eve service will be held on Monday, December 24, at 5 p.m. If you would like to sing in the volunteer choir, please arrive at 3:45 p.m. in Appleton Chapel.

MUSIC NOTES

Charles Wood taught at the Royal College of Music, London, where his pupils included Ralph Vaughan Williams and Herbert Howells. Wood only started composing music for the church in his later years, but it is for this repertoire that he is primarily remembered today. The beautiful anthem "Never Weather-Beaten Sail" sets words by the English composer, poet, and lutenist Thomas Campion, which are particularly appropriate for the season of Advent.

Otto Goldschmidt is best remembered as the husband of the "Swedish Nightingale," the soprano Jenny Lind, but he was also the founding conductor of the London Bach Choir and a composer of note. *A Tender Shoot* is his gentle setting of a translation of the German Christmas carol and Marian hymn *Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen*.

Today's prelude is Nicolaus Bruhns's variation set on the Lutheran Advent chorale *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*, which perfectly captures the German cultural feeling surrounding this time of year. It is at once expectant and solemn while remaining joyful. The postlude is Johann Sebastian Bach's fugue on the *Magnificat* chant ("Meine seele erhebet den Herren"): written in the old-fashioned style of a sixteenth-century fantasia, the complete iteration of the melody is saved until the very end, when it appears as a *cantus firmus* in the pedals.

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.

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 *wbrb.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.

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*

Like us on Facebook: *facebook.com/harvardmemorialchurch*

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 Third Sunday of Advent. The preacher will be the Reverend Alanna C. Sullivan, Associate Minister in 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.

