Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

Sunday, February 16, 2020
11 am
PRELUDE

Rubrics (1988)

I. “…’Hallelujah,’ has been restored…”
IV. “The Peace may be exchanged.”

Dan Locklair (b. 1949)

HYMN

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

Old Hundredth

The congregation standing

CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 36 & Isaiah 2

Minister: Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the clouds.

People: Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains,
your judgments are like the great deep.

Minister: How precious is your steadfast love, O God!
All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

People: For with you is the fountain of life;
in your light we see light.

Minister: Come, let us set out in the light of the Lord.

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. 203, “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

St. Denio

The congregation standing
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 119:1–8, 15–16  Beati immaculati  
Chant by Kellow Pye (1812–1901)
Blessed are those that are undefiled in the way, and walk in the law of the Lord.
    Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and seek him with their whole heart;
Even they who do no wickedness, and walk in his ways.
    Thou hast charged that we shall diligently keep thy commandments.
O that my ways were made so direct, that I might keep thy statutes!
    So shall I not be confounded, while I have respect unto all thy commandments.
I will thank thee with an unfeigned heart,
    when I shall have learned the judgments of thy righteousness.
I will keep thy statutes; O forsake me not utterly.
    I will talk of thy commandments, and have respect unto thy ways.
My delight shall be in thy statutes, and I will not forget thy word.

DOXOLOGY
Sung by the congregation, standing
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.

FIRST LESSON
Exodus 1:1–21  
Pew Bible, page 45–46 (OT)

ANTHEM
Regina cæli lætare  
Francisco Guerrero (1528–1599)
O Regina cæli lætare. Alleluia.  
Queen of Heaven, rejoice. Alleluia.
Quia quem meruisti portare.  
For He whom you were worthy to bear.
Resurrexit sicut dixit.  
He has risen, as he said
Ora pro nobis Deum.  
Pray for us to God.

Marian Antiphon for Eastertide
SECOND LESSON
1 Corinthians 16:13–14

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 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

Ave verum Corpus (2010)  
Dan Locklair

Ave verum Corpus natum  
Hail, true Body, truly born
De Maria Virgine,  
Of the Virgin Mary mild,
Vere passum, immolatum  
Truly offered, racked and torn,
In cruce pro homine,  
On the cross, for man defiled,
Cujus latus perforatum  
From whose love-pierced, sacred side
Vero fluxit et sanguine,  
Flowed thy true blood’s saving tide:
Esto nobis prægustatum  
Be a foretaste sweet to me
Mortis in examine.  
In my death’s great agony,
O clemens, O pie,  
O Thou loving, gentle one,
O dulcis Jesu, Fili Mariæ.  
Sweetest Jesus, Mary’s Son.

Attributed to Innocent VI (ca. 1282–1362)
SERMON
A Tale of Two Midwives
Text: “But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live.” –Exodus 1:17

HYMN
No. 277, “All My Hope on God Is Founded”  Michael
The congregation standing

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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 Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany. The preacher is the Rev. Dr. Brandon Crowley, Senior Pastor of the Historic Myrtle Baptist Church of West Newton, MA; Instructor in Ministry Studies, Harvard Divinity School. The service leaders are Professor Stephanie Paulsell, Interim Pusey Minister in the Memorial Church, Susan Shallcross Swartz Professor of the Practice of Christian Studies, Harvard Divinity School, Sally Hammel MDiv II, Seminarian in the Memorial Church, and KMarie Tejeda MDiv III, Seminarian in the Memorial Church. The first lesson is read by Ashley Lipscomb MDiv III. The second lesson is read by Jarred Hamilton MDiv II. The music is provided by the Harvard University Choir, Andrew G. Clark, Director of Choral Activities, and David von Behren, Assistant 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 the respite space during worship. Audio from the service streams in the Baby Oasis.

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

Morning Prayers

Monday: No Service of Morning Prayers; Tuesday: Elmer Vivas Portillo ’20; Wednesday: Toni L. Griffin; Thursday: Healan Gaston; Friday: Michael Uy PhD ’17.

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 and Life forum seeks to enrich our spirituality by promoting religious literacy and cultural competency. The Forum is held Sunday mornings during the Fall and Spring Terms in the Buttrick Room from 9:30 am to 10:30 am. Speakers include scholars, pastors, and other public figures whose work enhances our awareness of the pivotal role religion plays across space and time. To learn about upcoming speakers, please visit the Faith & Life Forum page on our website. The Faith and Life Forum continues next Sunday, February 23 with Gloria E. White-Hammond, Co-Pastor Bethel AME Church, Boston, MA; Swartz Resident Practitioner in Ministry Studies, Harvard Divinity School.
THE PILGRIMAGE PROJECT
Join us for a new semester of Pilgrimage Project activities! The Pilgrimage Reading Group will meet this Wednesday, February 19, 7-8:30 pm in the Seminar Room to discuss the anonymous 19th-century text, *The Way of a Pilgrim*. We will have a Pilgrimage Movie Night in the Buttrick Room after the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper on February 25 with a screening of Emilio Estevez’s film, *The Way*. Stay tuned for information on an interior pilgrimage, a student-led pilgrimage to Mt Auburn Cemetery, and a pilgrimage to sacred sites on campus in March and April.

WILLIAM BELDEN NOBLE LECTURES
Mark your calendars for the William Belden Noble Lectures, delivered by the Rev. Raphael G. Warnock, Lead Pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, on the theme “Bend the Arc Toward Justice: Challenges of this Moment and the Moral Meaning of America” on March 10 & 11 and April 22. All lectures will be held in the sanctuary at 7 pm and are free and open to the public.

CHORAL EVENSONG
On Thursday, February 20 at 6 pm, the Harvard University Choir will offer a service of choral evensong, featuring music of Herbert Howells. The choir will be led by guest director Barry Rose, formerly of Guildford Cathedral; St. Paul’s Cathedral, London; and St. Albans Cathedral.

MUSIC NOTES
Dan Locklair is Professor of Composition and Composer in Residence at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, where he was a mentor of today’s guest director, Andrew Clark. With a colorful and rhythmically-driven style, Locklair has written in nearly all musical genres, though he is best-known for his large body of organ and choral music. Today’s prelude and postlude are drawn from *Rubrics*, an organ suite in which each movement is inspired by an instruction from the Episcopal Book of Common Prayer. This suite has become part of the standard American organ repertoire, and its quiet fourth movement (“The Peace may be exchanged…”) gained additional fame when played prominently at the funeral of President Gerald Ford. Locklair’s motet *Ave verum corpus* was written as a gift to his former student Clark when he became Director of Choral Activities at Harvard in 2010.

Traveling back several centuries: the first anthem is a setting of a Marian antiphon by the Spanish Renaissance composer Francisco Guerrero. Guerrero was a priest and musician who worked throughout Spain and Portugal. Unlike the other prominent Spanish composers of his era, he wrote both sacred and secular music, and his body of work is known not only for its technical mastery but also for the tremendous variety of mood and affect: far greater than that of many other Renaissance composers. In addition to his musical activities, Guerrero published a book about an extremely adventurous trip (involving pirates) that he took to the Holy Land in 1589. *Regina cæli lætare* is impressive work for double chorus of contrapuntal complexity. It features imitative writing on two levels: within each chorus and on the larger scale between the two choruses themselves.
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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NEXT SUNDAY’S SERVICE


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