

HARVARD

The Memorial Church



ORDER OF WORSHIP

The First Sunday in Lent

February 21, 2021
11 am

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

So Fades the Lovely Blooming Flower (1977)
Once More, My Soul (1977)

George Shearing (1919-2011)

HYMN

No. 146, "Jesus, Who This Our Lententide"
See end of worship bulletin. The congregation stands and sings.

Rockingham

CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 130 & Isaiah 2

Minister: Out of the depths we cry to you, O God.
God, hear our voice!

People: Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of our supplications!

Minister: If you should mark iniquities, O God,
who of us could stand?

People: But there is forgiveness with you;
and plenteous redemption.

Minister: I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,
and in God's word I hope.

People: My soul waits for the Lord
more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the morning.

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. 145, "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days"

St. Flavian

See end of worship bulletin. The congregation stands and sings.

GREETING & THE PEACE

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." Give online at <https://memorialchurch.harvard.edu/donate>.

Psalm 119 (How Sweet Are Your Words) (2018)

Patricia Van Ness (b. 1951)

How sweet are your words to my taste.

Your word is a lantern to my feet, and a light upon my path.

Truly, I love your thoughts more than gold and precious stones.

You are near at hand.

Psalm 119: 103a, 105, 127, 151a (Book of Common Prayer, 1979, alt.)

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.

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 9: 8–17

from the New Revised Standard Version (OT)

ANTHEM

Pure River of Water of Life (2008)

James Whitbourn (b. 1963)

He showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, flowing out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. On either side was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. There shall be no night there, and they need no candle, neither the light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: And they shall reign for ever and ever.

Revelation 22:1–2, 5

SECOND LESSON

Mark 1: 9–15

from the New Revised Standard Version (NT)

PRAYER HYMN

The congregation remains 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

Love and the Lenten Journey

HYMN

No. 243, "Send Down Thy Truth, O God"

Nova vita

See end of worship bulletin. The congregation stands and sings.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Jerusalem, My Happy Home (1977)

George Shearing

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, February 21, 2021

WELCOME

Today is the First Sunday in Lent. The preacher is Professor Stephanie Paulsell, Interim Pusey Minister in the Memorial Church, Susan Shallcross Swartz Professor of the Practice of Christian Studies, Harvard Divinity School. The service is led by the Reverend Alanna C. Sullivan, Associate Minister in the Memorial Church; and the Reverend Westley P. Conn, Ministry Fellow in the Memorial Church. You will also hear the voices of some of the family members and friends with whom we are sheltering and for whose help with the liturgy we are most grateful. The first lesson is read by Liz Hanson. The second lesson is read by Sam Carson. The music for this Sunday's service is provided by Edward Elwyn Jones, Gund University Organist and Choirmaster. The offertory and anthem are taken from archival recordings of the Harvard University Choir. The prelude and postlude this morning were recorded on the organ at First-Plymouth Church in Lincoln, Nebraska this past week by David von Behren, Assistant University Organist and Choirmaster.

MUSIC NOTES

Patricia Van Ness is Composer-in-Residence at First Church Congregational in Cambridge. Her musical style is influenced by the sounds and spirit of Medieval and Renaissance music, and she has received many awards and recognitions for her compositions. "How Sweet Are Your Words" sets verses from Psalm 119 and was commissioned by—and dedicated to—Carson Cooman, who gave the premiere in the Fall of 2018.

British composer James Whitbourn is a graduate of Magdalen College, Oxford, and has worked for the BBC as composer, conductor, producer, and presenter. *Pure River of Water of Life* sets verses from the Book of Revelation; slow-moving, lilting figures in the lower voices accompany beautiful arabesque motifs in the soprano line.

British jazz pianist George Shearing composed over 300 works, including the jazz standard, *Lullaby of Birdland*. His organ works came about at the suggestion of composer Dale Wood, then editor of Sacred Music Press. Shearing was blind from birth and so composed the pieces directly onto a recording from which they were transcribed; Wood and Shearing then edited the music and worked out the organ realizations and sounds together at an organ console. The pieces are based on traditional American folk hymns and display both classical and jazz influences.

INSTAGRAM LIVE

Join us on Instagram Live for a brief reflection on a practice on Thursdays at 7:00pm! Be sure to follow us *@memchurch!*

PRACTICING HOPE READING GROUP

You are warmly invited to join the Practicing Hope Book Group, which meets once a month, on Wednesdays, 7:00–8:00pm. This semester, we'll continue reading and discussing books about practicing hope: on March 10, we'll discuss Philip Hallie's *Lest Innocent Blood Be Shed*; and we'll conclude on April 14 (Selected reading: TBA). To register, please visit the Calendar on our website.

DAILY NEWSLETTER

Our daily newsletter is back! In our newsletter we share the meditations, music, spiritual practices, and prayers of our far-flung community. This is also the way to receive the most up to date information about the communal and worship life of the Memorial Church. If you would like to receive our newsletter, please subscribe on our website.

MEMCAFÉ

Held virtually on Wednesday mornings from 9:30–10:15am from February 3 to April 28. Sit down at your computer or mobile device with your morning coffee and gather with us over Zoom. Each week as we check in with one another, we invite you to share a 1-2 sentence quote that has been grounding for you. Everyone is welcome! To register, please visit the Calendar on our website.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Church School offers Christian education classes for children ages three through sixteen. All classes are held on Sundays in the Fall and Spring Terms from 10:00–10:45am. To register and learn more, please visit the Church School for Children page on our website.

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 from 9:30–10:30am. The Forum will continue next Sunday, February 28 with the Reverend Adam Lawrence Dyer, Lead Minister of the First Parish in Cambridge, Unitarian Universalist Chaplaincy at Harvard. To participate, please visit the Faith and Life Forum page on our website.

Contact Ministry Fellow, Rev. Westley (Wes) Conn (westley_conn@harvard.edu) to learn more about opportunities for faith formation.

WORSHIP

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.

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 Second Sunday in Lent. The preacher will be the Reverend Adam Lawrence Dyer, Lead Minister of the First Parish in Cambridge, Unitarian Universalist Chaplaincy at Harvard.

Jesus, Who This Our Lententide

Jesu quadragenariae

Latin, 10th cent.

trans. Walter Howard Frere, 1932

ROCKINGHAM LM

Second Supplement to Psalmody in Miniature, c. 1780

adapt. Edward Miller, 1790

1 Je - sus, who this our Len - ten - tide, of ab - sti -
2 And as thou dost, for - give the past, thy shel - tering
3 Make, Lord, this Lent - en dis - ci - pline an ex - pi -

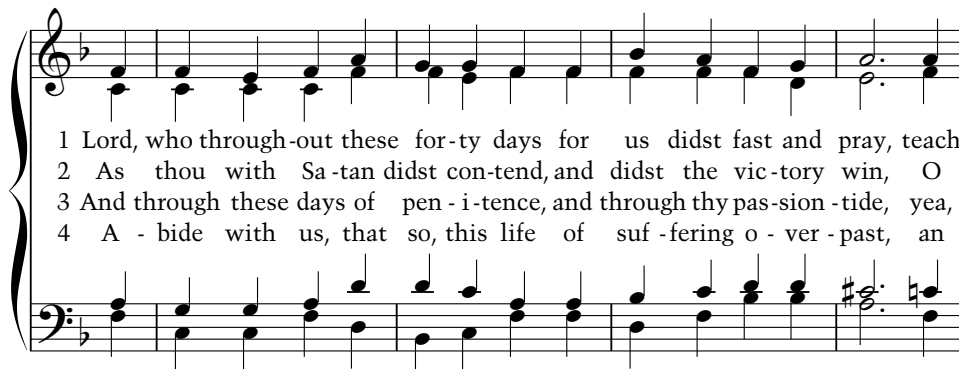
nence, hast sanc - ti - fied, be with thy Church in
arms ar - ound us cast that we may in thy
a - tion for our sin; and through these days our -

sav - ing power, in this her pen - i - ten - tial hour.
grace re - main, and fall not back to sins a - gain.
selves pre - pare the joys of Eas - ter - tide to share.

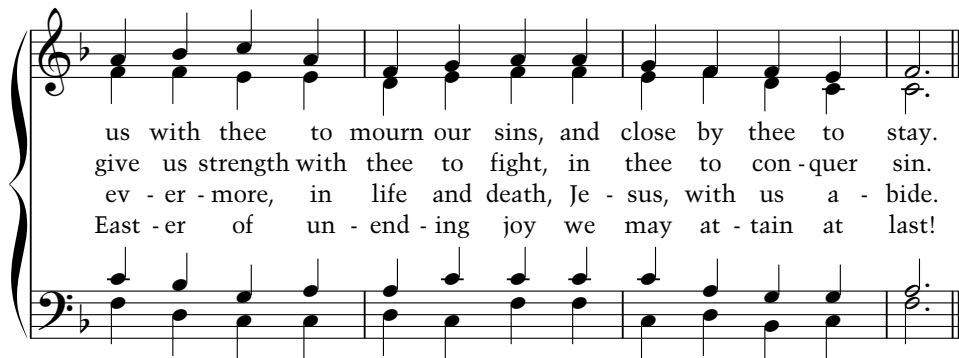
Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days 145

Claudia F. Hernaman, 1873

ST. FLAVIAN CM
English Psalter, 1562
adapt. Richard Redhead, 1853



1 Lord, who through-out these for-ty days for us didst fast and pray, teach
2 As thou with Sa-tan didst con-tend, and didst the vic-tory win, O
3 And through these days of pen-i-tence, and through thy pas-sion-tide, yea,
4 A-bide with us, that so, this life of suf-fering o-ver-past, an



us with thee to mourn our sins, and close by thee to stay.
give us strength with thee to fight, in thee to con-quer sin.
ev-er-more, in life and death, Je-sus, with us a-bide.
East-er of un-end-ing joy we may at-tain at last!

Send Down Thy Truth, O God

243

Edward Rowland Sill, 1867

NOVA VITA SM
Lister R. Peace, 1914

1 Send down thy truth, O God, too long the shad - ows frown!
2 Send down thy Spir - it free till wil - der - ness and town
3 Send down thy love, thy life, our less - er lives to crown,
4 Send down thy peace, O Lord, earth's bit - ter voic - es drown

Too long the dark - ened way we've trod: thy truth, O Lord, send down!
one tem - ple for thy wor - ship be: thy Spir - it, O send down!
and cleanse them of their hate and strife: thy liv - ing love send down!
in one deep o - cean of ac - cord: thy peace, O God, send down!