

HARVARD

The Memorial Church



ORDER OF WORSHIP

The Second Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 12, 2017

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

An Wasserflüssen Babylon, BWV 653

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

HYMN

No. 146, “Jesus, Who This Our Lententide”

Rockingham

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. 200, “I to the Hills Will Lift Mine Eyes”

Dundee

GREETING AND THE PEACE

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

TESTIMONY

This term community members reflect upon what the Memorial Church means to them.

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.

ANTHEM

Starlight, Starbright

Richard K. Avery (b. 1934) and Donald S. Marsh (1923–2010)

*Starlight, starbright, first star I've seen tonight,
Wish I may, wish I might, have the wish I wish tonight.*

I wish this world, that in my eyes seems awfully big, would recognize
It's only as big as a baby boy, who lived and died to give me joy.

I wish that those who seem so wise could just resist the tempting lies
Of silver and gold and the other things that make us turn to phony kings.

I wish for clear and peaceful skies, for love and truth without disguise.

I wish most of all that my own two hands could make my wishes my commands.

DOXOLOGY

Sung by the congregation, standing

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly host,

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

FIRST LESSON

John 3:1–17

Pew Bible, page 81 (NT)

ANTHEM

Hymn of Promise (1985)

Natalie Sleeth (1930–1992)

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
There's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
In our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity,
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

SECOND LESSON

Psalm 121

Pew Bible, page 534 (OT)

PRAYER HYMN

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

Following the Lord's Prayer, the Prayer Hymn is repeated.

ANTHEM

I Am Singing—Es una historia (ca. 1974–76)

Stevie Wonder (b. 1950)

I am singing of tomorrow. I am singing of love.

I am singing someday love will reign throughout this world of ours.

I am singing of love from the heart.

Es una historia de mañana. Es una historia de amor.

Es una historia que amor reinará por nuestro mundo.

Es una historia de mi corazón.

There're songs to make you smile, there're songs to make you sad.

But with a happy song to sing it never seems as bad.

To me came this melody, so I've tried to put in words how I feel,

Tomorrow will be for you and me.

Let's all sing some day sweet love will reign, throughout this world of ours.

Let's start singing of love from the heart.

English text Stevie Wonder, Spanish translation Raymond Maldonado (1946–1982)

SERMON

Conversion Conversations

HYMN

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

St. Bees

The congregation standing

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Wir glauben all' an einen Gott, BWV 680

Johann Sebastian Bach

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, March 12, 2017

WELCOME

Today is the Second Sunday in Lent. The preacher is Westley Conn MDiv III, Church School Director in the Memorial Church. The service is led by Professor Jonathan L. Walton, Plummer Professor of Christian Morals and Pusey Minister in the Memorial Church; and Jane Moran MDiv II, seminarian in the Memorial Church. The first lesson is read by Lizzy McGill. The second lesson is read by Lauren McGill. The testimony before the offering is given by Tom McGill. We especially welcome our guest choir today from the Esperanza Academy in Lawrence, MA, under the direction of Bernadette Colley Ed.D. '89 and MarQuis Chappell.

The flowers on the dais are given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for the marriage of Rebecca and David.

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

CHURCH SCHOOL

Church School will not be held next Sunday, March 19, and will resume Sunday, March 26. The Church School offers Christian education classes for children of ages three through twelve. Classes are held in the ground level of the Memorial Church during Sunday services and emphasize biblical themes and scripture. The confirmation class will also meet during this time. At the conclusion of the worship service, parents are asked to promptly pick up their children in the Buttrick Room. To register, please visit the Church School for Children page on our website. Contact Church School Director Westley (Wes) Conn (westley_conn@harvard.edu) to register for this class, or for more information about Church School programs.

SPRING RECESS

There are no services of Morning Prayers this week due to the University's Spring Recess.

FAITH & LIFE FORUM

The Faith and Life Forum meets at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings in the Pusey Room, with coffee service at 9 a.m. The Forum explores matters of faith and public life. This term, we will explore the theme of "Faith & Uncertainty." For the full list of readings and speakers, please visit memorialchurch.harvard.edu/faith-life-forum

INCLEMENT WEATHER INFORMATION

In the event of inclement weather, any and all changes to the worship schedule or opening hours of the church will be posted on the church website: *memorialchurch.harvard.edu*

NEW STUDENT POSITION

MemChurch is hiring! We are looking to hire college students as front desk attendants for the Memorial Church's brand-new lower level including the Student Oasis. Front Desk Attendants will be the first points of contact for students and patrons during evenings and weekends. For more information please reach out to Allison Berger (*allison_berger@harvard.edu*).

MUSIC NOTES

The Esperanza Academy Music Program, now in its third year and under the direction of Bernadette Colley Ed.D. '89, consists of weekly music instruction during which all students learn to play piano keyboards and practice fundamentals of good singing. Assisting in our program this year is Teaching Fellow MarQuis Chappell from Chattanooga, TN. Current scheduling constraints prevent a formal choral program at Esperanza, but various groups of our girls sing in public four to five times per year within and beyond the Esperanza and greater Lawrence communities. We are delighted to participate in this morning's service.

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 *wrb.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*

USHERING AND READING SIGN-UP

Ushers and lesson readers play a vital role in worship services for the Memorial Church. If you are interested in ushering or reading, please add your name and e-mail to the sign-up sheet at the Welcome Table. We would love to have you join us!

NEXT SUNDAY'S SERVICE

Next Sunday is the Third Sunday in Lent. The preacher will be the Reverend Dr. Monica A. Coleman, Professor of Constructive Theology and African American Religions, Claremont School of Theology.

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

