

HARVARD

The Memorial Church



ORDER OF WORSHIP



Senior Sunday
The Last Sunday of Spring Term
The Sixth Sunday of Easter

Sunday, May 21, 2017

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

“Passacaglia” from *Symphony for Organ* (1930)

Leo Sowerby (1895–1968)

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. 218, “O Love of God, How Strong and True”
The congregation standing

de Tar

ACT OF CONFIRMATION

At the appropriate time in the confirmation liturgy, the congregation responds with:

We rejoice, O merciful God, with these confirmands in the affirmation of their faith and their desire to be a part of this faith community and the wider Body of Christ. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit awaken them to new truth and inspire them to venture into fullness of life. Help them to live not for themselves but for Christ and those whom Christ loves. Grant them love for others, joy in serving you, peace in disagreement, patience in suffering, kindness toward all people, goodness in evil times, faithfulness in temptation, gentleness in the face of opposition, and self-control in all things. Thereby strengthen them for their service in the world, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

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.

Psalm 150 *Laudate Dominum* *Chant by Charles Villiers Stanford (1852–1924)*

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 God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host,
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Acts 17:22–31

Pew Bible, page 120–121 (NT)

ANTHEM

“Achieved Is the Glorious Work”

Joseph Haydn (1732–1809)

from *The Creation*, Hob. XXI:2 (1796–98)

Achieved is the glorious work; the Lord beholds it, and is well pleased.
In lofty strains let us rejoice, our song let be the praise of God.

Gottfried van Swieten (1733–1803)

SECOND LESSON

Psalm 66:8–20

Pew Bible, page 491–492 (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

A Parting Blessing (2008)

Alfred V. Fedak (b. 1953)

Walk softly upon the earth.
May its beauty forever surround you,
Its wonders forever astound you,
May its wisdom delight you,
Its music invite you
To dance and to play and to sing.
May you love and be loved by all that you meet.
May you know and practice compassion.
Rejoice in the earth and in all of creation.
Rejoice in life.

SERMON

We Are What We Worship

Text: “For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’” *Acts 17:23a*

HYMN

No. 90, “God Be with You Till We Meet Again”

Randolph

The congregation standing

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Grand chœur dialogué (1881)

Eugène Gigout (1844–1925)

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, May 21, 2017

WELCOME

Today is Senior Sunday, the Last Sunday of Spring Term, and the Sixth Sunday of Easter. The preacher is Professor Jonathan L. Walton, Plummer Professor of Christian Morals and Pusey Minister in the Memorial Church. The first lesson is read by Caroline Hubbard '17. The second lesson is read by Douglas Maggs '17. The testimony is given by Tobias Cremer G2. 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. Today we especially acknowledge Anna Betancourt, Henry Dallman, Darwin Gundy, Elizabeth McGill, Elijah Walton, and Zora Walton, who are being confirmed.

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

CHURCH SCHOOL

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. Church School will resume in the Fall Term. Beginning this fall, the Church School will offer a teen class for students of age fourteen through high school. 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 classes, or for more information about Church School programs.

The Church School is also offering confirmation for students in grades 7–8. This program is designed to guide students in the formation of their Christian identity and personal faith. To register for the 2017–18 confirmation class or for questions, please contact Church School Director Westley (Wes) Conn.

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!

MUSIC NOTES

Alfred V. Fedak is organist and composer-in-residence at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Albany, New York. Widely regarded as one of the greatest living composers of

original hymn tunes, he is also a prolific composer of choral works. *A Parting Blessing* is a gentle, contemplative setting of words whose sentiments seem particularly appropriate as our leavers begin their new journeys.

The Harvard University Choir performed Haydn's *The Creation* as their spring concert this year. This joyful chorus celebrates the completion of the creation of the heavens and the earth, and its text is also fitting for the end of the academic year.

Leo Sowerby's Passacaglia is a fine example of early 20th-century modernism. Its sweeping melody and open harmonies are typical of Midwestern composers of this time, seeming to represent the open plains of America. Gigout's most popular organ piece, the *Grand chœur dialogué* naturally lends itself to an antiphonal treatment due to the call and response structure of its main theme. It is heard today using the two organs of the Memorial Church in dialogue.

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](https://www.facebook.com/harvardmemorialchurch)

Follow us on Twitter: twitter.com/memchurch

and **Instagram:** [instagram.com/memchurch](https://www.instagram.com/memchurch)

Watch us on YouTube: [youtube.com/memchurchharvard](https://www.youtube.com/memchurchharvard)

SUMMER TERM SUNDAY WORSHIP

Services for the Summer Term begin on June 25 at 11:00 a.m. and continue for six weeks, concluding on July 30.

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

