

HARVARD

The Memorial Church



ORDER OF WORSHIP

The Day of Pentecost
Senior Sunday and the Last Sunday of Spring Term

May 23, 2021
11 am

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Fuge, Kanzona, und Epilog, Op. 85 No. 3 (1911)

Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877–1933)

David von Behren, organ

Michael Keelan, violin

Laurelin Berkley, Janet Campbell, Adrienne Dickson, Anne Gray, Becky Shane, sopranos

HYMN

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

Old Hundredth

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 118

Minister: The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

People: This is the Lord’s doing;
and it is marvelous in our eyes.

Minister: The Lord is God and has given us light.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

People: This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

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

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>.

Pilgrims' Hymn (1997)

Stephen Paulus (1949–2014)

Even before we call on Your name
To ask You, O God,
When we seek for the words to glorify You,
You hear our prayer;
Unceasing love, O unceasing love,
Surpassing all we know.

Glory to the Father,
And to the Son,
And to the Holy Spirit.

Even with darkness sealing us in,
We breathe Your name,
And through all the days that follow so fast,
We trust in You;
Endless Your grace, O endless Your grace,
Beyond all mortal dream.

Both now and for ever,
And unto ages and ages,
Amen.

Michael Dennis Browne (b. 1940)

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

Psalm 104: 24–30

from the New Revised Standard Version (OT)

ANTHEM

Der Geist hilft unser Schwachheit auf, BWV 226 (1729) *Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)*

Der Geist hilft unser Schwachheit auf,
denn wir wissen nicht, was wir beten sollen,
wie sich's gebühret;
sondern der Geist selbst vertritt uns aufs beste
mit unaussprechlichem Seufzen.

Der aber die Herzen forschet,
der weiß, was des Geistes Sinn sei,
denn er vertritt die Heiligen
nach dem, das Gott gefällt.

Du heilige Brunst, süßer Trost,
nun hilft uns fröhlich und getrost
in deinem Dienst beständig bleiben,
die Trübsal uns nicht abtreiben!
O Herr, durch dein Kraft uns bereit
und stärk des Fleisches Blödigkeit,
dass wir hie ritterlich ringen,
durch Tod und Leben zu dir dringen.
Halleluja, halleluja!

*The Spirit gives aid to our weakness,
For we do not know for what we should pray,
What is proper;
But the Spirit itself intercedes for us in the best way
With unutterable sighs.*

*He, however, who examines hearts,
He knows what the Spirit's intention is,
Since it intercedes for the saints
According to that which pleases God.*

*You holy fire, sweet comfort,
Now help us joyfully and confidently
To remain constantly in your service,
Although trouble is not driven away from us!
O Lord, through your strength prepare us
And sharpen the dullness of the flesh,
So that we might battle here nobly,
Pressing to you through death and life.
Hallelujah, Hallelujah!*

*st. 1, Romans 8:26–27 (Luther Bible); st. 2, Martin Luther (1483–1546)
English translation Pamela Dellal*

SECOND LESSON

Acts 2: 1-21

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

Breaking Through

HYMN

No. 276, “Go Forth for God”

Magda

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

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Choral varié sur le theme du “Veni Creator”, Op. 4 (1926/30) *Maurice Duruflé (1902-1986)*

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 23, 2021

WELCOME

Today is the Day of Pentecost, Senior Sunday, and the Last Sunday of Spring Term. 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. The first lesson is read by Aidan Stoddart '21, Student Advisory Board. The second lesson is read by Lily Gullede '21, Student Advisory Board. The music for this Sunday's service is provided by Edward Elwyn Jones, Gund University Organist and Choirmaster. Today's choral offerings come 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; Michael Keelan, violin; Laurelin Berkley, Janet Campbell, Adrienne Dickson, Anne Gray, Becky Shane, sopranos.

MUSIC NOTES

This morning I would like to thank the members of the Harvard University Choir for their dedication and perseverance during this difficult year. It is with sadness that we say farewell to our graduands and leavers—including our wonderful choir secretary Katharine Courtemanche—and we wish them every success in their future endeavors. My thanks also go to David von Behren, Carson Cooman, and the staff of the Memorial Church; to Stephanie Paulsell, I offer my heartfelt gratitude for her ministry, collegiality, and friendship—it has been a great blessing to serve under her leadership.

Before his untimely death in the fall of 2014, Stephen Paulus was one of America's most prolific contemporary composers, especially well-known for his operas and choral music. *Pilgrims' Hymn* forms the poignant conclusion of the one-act church opera, *The Three Hermits*, and has become one of Paulus's most widely-performed choral works.

There are few musical forms that have endured and flourished as the motet, which has been in continuous existence since the twelfth century. Johann's Sebastian Bach's examples in the genre are pinnacles of the choral literature; indeed, of all Bach's vocal works, the motets are the only category that continued in an unbroken tradition of performance from the composer's time to the present day. *Der Geist hilft unser Schwachheit auf*, BWV 226, was written for the funeral of the veteran headmaster of the Thomasschule (where Bach worked as a somewhat reluctant schoolmaster), Johann Heinrich Ernesti, which took place in the University Church of St. Paul on October 16, 1729. The motet is cast in three main sections: the text of the first two coming from the longest of the Pauline Epistles, Romans; the final

section is the third strophe of Martin Luther's Pentecost chorale, *Komm, Heiliger Geist, Herre Gott*. The work opens with a dancing, airy, melismatic figure that surrounds the listener with the comfort and aid of the Holy Spirit; Bach exploits the antiphonal possibilities of the double-choir formation to great dramatic effect. "Denn wir wissen nicht" is appropriately portrayed through the staggered entrances of the choirs; the *affekt* changes on the words "sondern der Geist," where more angular and broken up lines represent the "unutterable sighs." The choirs unite for a confident and affirming fugue, "Der aber die Herzen," full of optimism and fortitude, and the work closes with Bach's gorgeous setting of Luther's chorale.

The German composer Sigfrid Karg-Elert is best known for his organ, harmonium, and flute compositions. The "Fuge, Kanzone und Epilog" is the last of three *Sinfonische Kanzone*, Op. 85, written in 1911. The theme is first stated on a solo tuba stop; the fugue subject is this theme in inversion and is developed throughout a highly chromatic fugal crescendo. A solo violin begins the "Epilog," playing a melody from Karg-Elert's Op. 84 *Passion Canzona* with the text "Your grace will give me resurrection, light, and life." A quartet of distant treble voices interjects the Credo chant, but with the words, "I believe in life everlasting." The work concludes with a polyphonic sung "Amen" evoking the soul ascending to heaven and the promise of everlasting life. Maurice Durufle's *Chorale Variations on "Veni Creator"* is the final movement of a larger triptych on this Pentecost plainchant melody. Concluding today's service, we hear the fourth and final variation, a brilliant toccata. This final movement seamlessly modulates a tritone away and back again in a few short measures; in the final bars, the pedal plays the theme for the plainchant's "Amen."

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. The Church School has concluded for the Spring Term, and will resume in the Fall Term.

The Faith and Life Forum seeks to enrich our spirituality by promoting religious literacy and cultural competency. The Faith and Life Forum is held on Sundays, and has concluded for the Spring Term, and will resume in the Fall Term.

Contact Associate Minister, Rev. Alanna C. Sullivan (alanna_sullivan@harvard.edu) to learn more.

WORSHIP

Today marks the last Sunday service for the 2020-21 academic year. We will resume worship with the start of the 2021-22 academic year.

The university is working on re-entry guidance for the fall, and later this summer we will have more details about what worship might look like next academic year. In the meantime, we encourage you to stay connected with us through our website and social media channels.

Thank you for worshipping with us this year. You have created a faith community and worship experience that sings to the soul and stirs the spirit. Thank you for being a balm and source of hope during this challenging time.

No matter who you are, no matter where you are, no matter what you believe, no matter who you love, you are a part of the Memorial Church.

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*

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

1

para. of Psalm 100
William Kethe, 1561, alt.

OLD HUNDREDTH LM
Genevan Psalter, 1551

1 All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing
2 Know that the Lord is God in - deed, with -
3 O en - ter then his gates with praise, ap -
4 For why? The Lord our God is good, his

to the Lord with cheer - ful voice; him serve with mirth, his
out our aid he did us make; we are his folk, he
proach with joy his courts un - to; praise, laud, and bless his
mer - cy is for - ev - er sure; his truth at all times

praise forth tell, come ye be - fore him and re - joice.
doth us feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.
name al - ways, for it is seem - ly so to do.
firm - ly stood, and shall from age to age en - dure.

Walter C. Smith, 1867, alt.

ST. DENIO 11 11 11 11

Welsh melody, c. 1810

adapt. John Roberts, 1839

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise, in
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light, nor
 3 To all life thou giv - est, to both great and small; in
 4 Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pure Fa - ther of light, thine

light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes, most
 want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might; thy
 all life thou liv - est, the true life of all; we
 an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight; all

bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days, al -
 jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove thy
 blos - som and flour - ish as leaves on the tree, and
 praise we would ren - der; O help us to see 'tis

might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.
 clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.
 on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee.

Go Forth for God

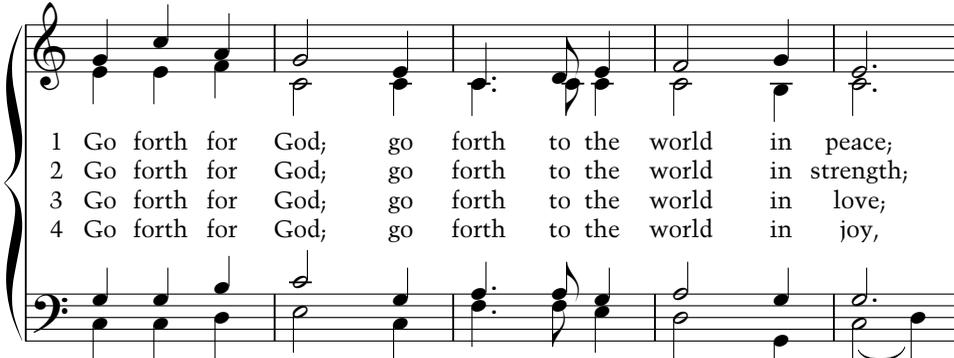
276

J. R. Peacey, 1970

adapt. New English Hymnal, 1986, alt.

MAGDA 11 10 10 10

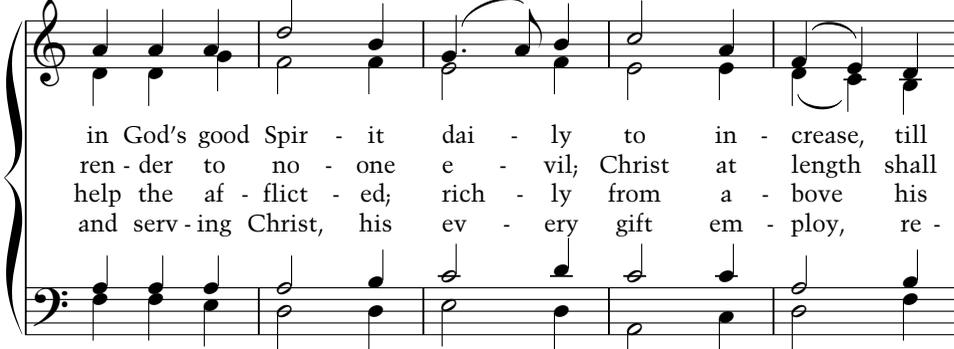
Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1925



1 Go forth for God; go forth to the world in peace;
2 Go forth for God; go forth to the world in strength;
3 Go forth for God; go forth to the world in love;
4 Go forth for God; go forth to the world in joy,



be of good cour - age, armed with heaven - ly grace,
hold fast the good, be ur - gent for the right,
strength - en the faint, give cour - age to the weak,
to serve God's peo - ple ev - ery day and hour,



in God's good Spir - it dai - ly to in - crease, till
ren - der to no - one e - vil; Christ at length shall
help the af - flict - ed; rich - ly from a - bove his
and serv - ing Christ, his ev - ery gift em - ploy, re -



in the king - dom we be - hold God's face.
o - ver - come all dark - ness with true light.
love sup - plies the grace and power we seek.
joic - ing in the Ho - ly Spir - it's power.