HARVARD
The Memorial Church

Order of Worship

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 27, 2020
11 am

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

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 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!
People: All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.
Minister: For with you is the fountain of life;
People: 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. 41, “Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies”  Ratisbon
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.

Heyr, himna smiður (1973)  
Kolbeinn Tumason (ca. 1171–1208); Anonymous English translation

Heyr, himna smiður,  
Hear, smith of heavens.
Hvers skáldið bídur,  
The poet seeketh.
Komi mjúk til mín  
In thy still small voice.
Miskunnin þín.  
Mayest thou show grace.
Því heit eg á þig,  
As I call on thee,
Þú hefur skaptan mig,  
Thou my creator.
Eg er þrællinn þínn,  
I am thy servant,
Þú ert drottinn minn.  
Thou art my true Lord.

Guð, heit eg á þig,  
God, I call on thee;
Að græðir mig,  
For thee to heal me.
Minnst, mildingur, mín,  
Bid me, prince of peace,
Mest þurfum þín.  
Thou my supreme need.

Ryð þú, röðla gramur,  
Ever I need thee,
Ríklyndur og framur,  
Generous and great,
Hölds hverri sorg  
O’er all human woe,
Úr hjartaborg.  
City of thy heart.

Gæt, mildingur, mín,  
Guard me, my savior.
Mest þurfum þín  
Ever I need thee,
Helzt hverja stund  
Through ev’ry moment
Á hölda grund.  
In this world so wide.

Set, meyjar mögur,  
Virgin—born, send me
Máls efni fógur,  
Noble motives now.
Öll er hjálp af þér,  
Aid cometh from thee,
Í hjarta mér.  
To my deepest heart.

Porkell Sigurbjörnsson (1938–2013)
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 44: 1–3
from the New Revised Standard Version (OT)

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.

SECOND LESSON
Romans 8: 35–39
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 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.

SERMON
Nothing Can Separate Us
HYMN
No. 236, “At the Name of Jesus”

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

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE
Finale Jubilante (publ. 1959)

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, September 27, 2020

WELCOME

Today is the Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost. The preacher is Melissa Wood Bartholomew MDiv ’15, Associate Dean for Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging, Instructor in Ministry, Harvard Divinity School. The service is led by Professor Stephanie Paulsell, Interim Pusey Minister in the Memorial Church, Susan Shallcross Swartz Professor of the Practice of Christian Studies, Harvard Divinity School, 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 for whose help with the liturgy we are most grateful. The first lesson is read by Maggie Beazer ’20, HMS G1, Student Advisory Board. The second lesson is read by Liam Simons ’21, Student Advisory Board. 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 service 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

The text of the thirteenth-century Icelandic hymn, Heyr himna smíður was penned by chieftain Kolbeinn Tumason on his deathbed; the music was written some 700 years later by the prolific composer Þorkell Sigurbjörnsson. The work became beloved of the Harvard University Choir during its tour of Iceland in January 2017, when the group sang it in Reykjavik’s beautiful Hallgrímskirkja.

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 by the composer which reflect the sentiments of traditional Gaelic and Native American benedictions.

Born in England, Healey Willan emigrated to Toronto, Canada, and in 1914 was appointed organist/choirmaster of St. Paul’s Anglican Church, Bloor Street of Toronto. In 1921, he became Precentor at Toronto’s Anglo-Catholic parish of Saint Mary Magdalene. His cultivation of the Gregorian chant repertoire and publication of numerous compositions for choir and organ made him world famous, influencing several generations of Anglican musicians. Willan’s Prelude and Fugue in G minor is improvisatory in nature. The slow, somber fugue subject, first stated in the pedals, emerges from the prelude without break. The Finale Jubilante is a triumphal march. Characterized by its syncopated rhythms and flourishes for full organ, the work ends with a dramatic crescendo and grand finish.
STUDENT DEACON PROGRAM
Student Deacons is an ecumenical Christian program involving both undergraduate and graduate students. Students explore spiritual development and leadership formation within a supportive and caring faith community. To learn more, contact Student Program Fellow, Lara Glass (lara_glass@harvard.edu) and Ministry Fellow, Rev. Westley (Wes) Conn (westley_conn@harvard.edu).

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
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 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 and continues next Sunday, October 4, 9:30–10:30am with the Reverend Alanna C. Sullivan, Associate Minister in the Memorial Church and the Reverend Westley P. Conn, Ministry Fellow in the Memorial Church. We are implementing a new registration method for our Fall Term programs. 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.

INSTAGRAM LIVE
Join us on Instagram Live for a brief reflection on a practice on Thursdays at 7:00pm, beginning on September 3. 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 be reading and discussing three books on practices: on October 14 we’ll discuss Timothy Snyder’s On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century; and on November 18, we’ll discuss Howard Thurman’s Disciplines of the Spirit. We are implementing a new registration method for our Fall Term programs. To register, please visit the Calendar on our website.

DAILY NEWSLETTER
Our daily newsletter is back! We will 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 September 9 to December 2. 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! We are implementing a new registration method for our Fall Term programs. To register, please visit the Calendar on our website.
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 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost. The preacher will be Professor Stephanie Paulsell, Interim Pusey Minister in the Memorial Church, Susan Shallcross Swartz Professor of the Practice of Christian Studies, Harvard Divinity School.
1 All people that on earth do dwell, sing praise to the Lord with cheerful voice.

2 Know that the Lord is God indeed; with our aid he did us make; we are his folk,

3 O enter then his gates with praise, approach with joy his courts unto; praise, laud, and bless his mercy is forever sure; his truth at all times endure.

4 For why? The Lord our God is good, his name always, for it is seemly so to do.

     doth us feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.

     firm ly stood, and shall from age to age endure.
Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

Charles Wesley, 1740

RATISBON

Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524
adapt. William Henry Havergal, 1861, alt.

1 Christ, whose glory fills the skies, Christ, the true, the only light,
2 Dark and cheerless is the morn unacquainted by thee;
3 Vis- it, then, this soul of mine; pierce the gloom of sin and grief;

Sun of Righteousness, arise, triumph o'er the shades of night,
joyless is the day's return, till thy mercy's beams I see,
fill me, Radiant divinity, scatter all my unbelievel;

Day-spring from on high, be near; Day-star, in my heart appear.
till they inward light impart, glad my eyes, and warm my heart.
more and more thyself display, shining to the perfect day.
At the Name of Jesus

1. At the name of Jesus ev'ry knee shall bow,
   At his voice creation sprang at once to sight,
   Humbled for a season, to receive a name
   In your hearts enthrone him; there let him subdue

2. Ev'ry tongue confess him King of glory now;
   All the angel faces, all the hosts of light,
   From the lips of sinners, unto whom he came.
   All that is not holy, all that is not true.

3. 'Tis the Father's pleasure we should call him Lord,
   Thrones and dominions, stars upon their way,
   Faithfully he bore it, spotless to the last,
   Crown him as your captain in temptation's hour.

Caroline Maria Noel, 1870, alt.
KING'S WESTON 65 65 D
Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1925
who from the beginning was the mighty Word.
all the heavenly orders, in their great array.
brought it back victorious, when from death he passed.
let his will enfold you in its light and power.

Music © 1925 Oxford University Press.