PRELUDE
Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 659 (ca. 1748)  
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

INTROIT
Drop Down, Ye Heavens (Rorate cæli desuper)  
Plainsong, Tone I

HYMN
No. 91, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”  
Veni Emmanuel

The congregation stands and sings

CALL TO WORSHIP
from Isaiah 40 and Isaiah 2

Minister: A voice cries out: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

People: Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;

Minister: The uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.

People: Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together.”

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. 102, “Savior of the Nations, Come”  
Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland

The congregation stands and sings
THE PEACE & GREETING
All are invited to join in the singing of Hymn No. 27, stanza 1

OFFERTORY
Your offering supports the work of the Memorial Church, especially our ministries to students and to our neighbors in need through the Grants Committee. Ushers will begin collection from the front of the church. Checks can be written to the Memorial Church. You may also donate online at https://memorialchurch.harvard.edu/donate

Psalm 122  Laetatus sum
Sung by the choir

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
Isaiah 2:1–5
Pew Bible, page 591 (OT)

ANTHEM
How Long, Dear Savior, O How Long (“Northfield”)  Jeremiah Ingalls (1764–1838)

How long, dear Savior, O how long
Shall this bright hour delay,
Fly swifter round the wheel of time,
And bring the welcome day.

From the third heaven, where God resides,
That holy, happy place,
The new Jerusalem comes down,
Adorned with shining grace.

Isaac Watts (1674–1748)

SECOND LESSON
Matthew 24:36–44
Pew Bible, page 24 (NT)
ANTHEM
Hark, the Glad Sound! (“Raymond”)  
John G. McCurry (1702–1751) after Stephen Jenks (1772–1856)

Hark the glad sound: the Savior comes,
the Savior promised long;
let every heart prepare a throne
and every voice a song.

He comes the prisoner to release,
in Satan’s bondage held;
the gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.

Philip Doddridge (1593–1632)

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.

PRAYER RESPONSE

The congregation remains seated

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.

SERMON

The Rev. Matthew Ichibashi Potts

HYMN

No. 100, “Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending”

The congregation stands and sings

Helmsley
BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE
Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 661 (ca. 1748)  
Johann Sebastian Bach

TODAY’S SERVICE
Additional information about today’s service and music notes are available from our website at memorialchurch.harvard.edu/service-and-music-notes or by scanning the following QR code.

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