HARVARD
The Memorial Church

Order of Worship

The First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2020
11 am

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

Prelude
Wachet auf, rift uns die Stimme, BWV 645
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath
The first Advent candle, representing hope, is lit. During this time congregants are invited to light their Advent wreaths.

Leader: He will come like last leaf’s fall.
One night when the November wind
has flayed the trees to the bone, and earth
wakes choking on the mold,
the soft shroud’s folding.

People: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Leader: Advent is a time of preparation and anticipation for the one who is opening up the heavens to be among us. Today we light the candle of Hope, as we wait for Jesus to come again to turn despair into hope. Thanks be to God.

Hymn
No. 91, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”
Veni Emmanuel
See end of worship bulletin. 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.”

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. 97, “The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”

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.

A Tender Shoot

A tender shoot hath started
Up from a root of grace,
As ancient seers imparted
From Jesse’s holy race:
It blooms without a blight,
Blooms in the cold bleak winter,
Turning our darkness into light.

This shoot, Isaiah taught us,
From Jesse’s root should spring;
The virgin Mary brought us
The branch of which we sing:
Our God of endless might
Gave her this child to save us,
Thus turning darkness into light.


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

ANTHEM
Ave Maria
Tomás Luis de Victoria (ca. 1548–1611)

Ave Maria, gratia plena,
Hail Mary, full of grace,
Dominus tecum.
The Lord is with thee;
Benedicta tu in mulieribus,
Blessed art thou amongst women,
Et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Iesus Christus.
And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus Christ.
Sancta Maria, mater Dei,
Holy Mary, mother of God,
Ora pro nobis peccatoribus,
Pray for us sinners,
Nunc et in hora mortis nostræ. Amen.
Now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

SECOND LESSON

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
Belonging at the Expense of Fitting In

HYMN
No. 211, “Tell Out, My Soul, the Greatness of the Lord”
*Woodlands*

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

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE
Wachet auf, rift uns die Stimme
*Lionel Rogg (b. 1936)*

**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.
WELCOME

Today is the First Sunday of Advent. The preacher is the Reverend Alanna C. Sullivan, Associate Minister in the Memorial Church. 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, 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 with whom we are sheltering and for whose help with the liturgy we are most grateful. The first lesson is read by Kayla Manning ’22, 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.

Franz, Jen, and Helen Lepionka-Lacroix light the first candle of Advent, representing hope. Liturgy for lighting the Advent candles is an adaptation of scripture, the German carol *Vom Himmel Hoch da komm ich her*, and the poem “Advent Calendar” by poet and priest, Rowan Williams.

MUSIC NOTES

Otto Goldschmidt is best remembered as the husband of the “Swedish Nightingale,” the soprano Jenny Lind, but he was also the founding conductor of the London Bach Choir, and a composer of note. *A Tender Shoot* is his gentle setting of a paraphrase of the famous prophecy found in the Book of Isaiah.

Widely regarded as the greatest Spanish Renaissance composer, Tomás Luis de Victoria was, nevertheless, less prolific than many of his contemporaries: indeed, his entire output—which comprises exclusively Latin Church music—is contained in just eleven volumes, all published during his lifetime. His musical education began at Avila cathedral, where he was a choirboy, before moving to Rome to study at the Jesuit College. He was ordained a priest in 1575 and later took chaplaincies at two Roman churches. He returned to Spain in 1587 to become chaplain to Philip II’s sister, the Dowager Empress Maria, at the convent of Descalzas Reales in Madrid. Victoria remained at the convent as organist and choirmaster for the remainder of his life. The delicate “Ave Maria” is an exercise in simplicity and economy of means, whose rhythmic interest is decidedly Spanish in accent.

Today’s prelude and postlude are two settings of one of the most famous of all German Lutheran chorales, “Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme” (“Awake, for night is flying!”). Philipp Nicolai wrote the text and tune in 1598, in the midst of the Black Plague ravishing the city of Unna, where he was temporarily working on preaching assignment. The primary scriptural inspiration came from the parable of the Ten Virgins in Matthew 25, whose imagery of waiting and allusions to the end
times have often connected it with the season of Advent. Johann Sebastian Bach’s organ setting is an arrangement of a movement from his Cantata No. 140; its noble character and memorable countermelody have made it one of his most recognizable compositions. Organist Lionel Rogg is one of the most distinguished Swiss musicians of the 20th century. Beginning in the early 1960s, Rogg made numerous ground-breaking recordings of the works of Bach, including two complete cycles of his organ music. Rogg has also been active as a teacher to several generations of organists, a champion of the art of serious organ improvisation, and as a composer of works in a variety of styles.

SUSTAINING PRACTICES FOR PERILOUS TIMES
Join the Harvard Chaplains for Sustaining Practices for Perilous Times, an opportunity to learn and share what keeps us going through these fractured and difficult days. This series will take place on Mondays from 5:00–5:30pm, concluding on December 14, and will feature members of the Harvard community offering insight into their personal spiritual practices. Each session will offer a chance to learn from a diversity of ways of creating and sustaining meaningful frameworks for living life in perilous times. Weekly themes will include connection through discussion, prayer, music, contemplative reading, embodied practice, and sabbath/Shabbat. Come every week or for a single session. Contact Rachel_leiken@harvard.edu with any questions. More information and registration is available at https://guestlist.co/events/667452

INSTAGRAM LIVE
Join us on Instagram Live for a 10–15 minute reflection on a spiritual practice each Thursday at 7:00pm. Be sure to follow us @memchurch!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
The Church School offers Christian education classes for children ages three through sixteen. The Church School will not meet today. Classes will resume next Sunday, December 6. All classes are held on Sundays 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 from 9:30–10:30am. The Forum will not meet today and will resume next Sunday, December 6, with Professor Stephanie Paulsell, Interim Pusey Minister in the Memorial Church, Susan Shallcross Swartz Professor of the Practice of Christian Studies, Harvard Divinity School. 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.

MEMCAFÉ
MemCafé will conclude for the semester this Wednesday, December 2 from 9:30–10:15am. 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**
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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 Second Sunday of Advent. 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.
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Veni veni Emmanuel
Latin, 8th cent.
stanzas 1, 2: John Mason Neale, 1851, alt.
stanzas 3, 4: Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916

VENI EMMANUEL  88 88 88
Plainsong, Mode 1
Processionale, 15th cent.
adapt. Thomas Helmore, 1854

unison

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive
2 O come, thou Day-spring, now appear and cheer us by thine
3 O come, thou Wisdom, from on high, and order all things,
4 O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one

Israel, that mourns in lonely exile
advent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of
far and night; to us the path of knowledge
heart and mind; bid envy, strife, and quarrels

harmony

here, until the Son of God appears
night, and death’s dark shadows put to flight. Re-
show, and cause us in her ways to go. Re-
cease, and fill the world with heaven’s peace.

joice! Re-joice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!
The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

Birjina gaztettobat zegoen
Basque
trans. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834–1924)

GABRIEL’S MESSAGE 10 10 12 10
Basque melody
harm. Edgar Pettman (1865–1943)

1 The angel Gabriel from heaven came, his
wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame; “All
hail,” said he, “thou lowly maiden Mary, most
highly favored lady.” Glo - - ri - a!

2 “For known a blessed mother thou shalt be, all
gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee, thy
Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers fore - told, most
highly favored lady.” Glo - - ri - a!

3 Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head, “To
me be as it pleaseth God,” she said, “my
soul shall laud and magnify his holy name.” Most
highly favored lady!” Glo - - ri - a!

4 Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born in
Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn, and
Christian folk throughout the world will ever say “Most
highly favored lady!” Glo - - ri - a!
Tell Out, My Soul, the Greatness of the Lord

1. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord! Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice; tender to known his might, the deeds his arm has done; his mercy and dominions lay their glory by. Proud hearts and is his promise, and his mercy sure. Tell out, my

2. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name! Make stub-born wills are put to flight, the promise of his word; in

3. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might! Powers sure, from age to age the same; his soul, the greatness of the Lord to

4. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his word! Firm
God my Savior shall my heart rejoice.
Holy name—the Lord, the mighty One.
Hungry fed, the humble lifted high.
Children's children and for evermore!