

HARVARD

The Memorial Church



ORDER OF WORSHIP

The First Sunday of Advent
Holy Baptism
Holy Communion

Sunday, December 1, 2019

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

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

HYMN

No. 91, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Veni Emmanuel

The congregation standing.

During the singing of this hymn, the first Advent candle, representing hope, is lit.

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. 99, “Hark, a Thrilling Voice Is Sounding”

Merton

THE BAPTISM

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Minister: Let us pray.

Gracious God, by our Baptism, you welcome us into the household of faith and open the way to new life in this world and the next. Receive this child who is baptized today, and strengthen us all to be your people in the world and a blessing to the Earth.

The candidate for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

Parents: We present *Eliot Catherine Baldwin* to receive the sacrament of Baptism.

Minister: Will you, as the parents of Eliot, be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life?

Parents: We will with God's help.

Minister: Will you by your prayers and witness help Eliot grow into the life of God's grace and love?

Parents: We will with God's help.

Minister: Will you continue to honor your own spiritual journeys, as role models for the child you present?

Parents: We will with God's help.

Minister: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being?

Parents: We will with God's help.

To the congregation:

Minister: Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support Eliot's life in Christ?

People: We will.

Minister: Let us pray for this child who is to receive the Sacrament of new birth.

Litanist: Open their hearts, O God, to your grace and truth.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Litanist: Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Litanist: Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.
Litanist: Send them into the world in witness to your love.
People: Lord, hear our prayer.

BLESSING OF THE WATER

Minister: In the beginning, O God, your Spirit brooded over the waters of creation. You led your people Israel through the waters of the Red Sea, and in the waters of the River Jordan, Jesus was baptized. May your Spirit move over this water, O God, blessing it and making it a fountain of new life.
People: Amen.

THE BAPTISM

Minister: Eliot Catherine Baldwin, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. You are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own forever.

PRAYER FOR THE BAPTIZED

Minister: Let us pray.
People: Eternal and loving God, give to this child receiving the Sacrament of Baptism an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. Amen.
Minister: Let us welcome the newly baptized.
People: We receive you, with joy, into the household of God, and into the priesthood of all believers.

THE PEACE

All are invited to join in singing of Hymn No. 27, stanza 1.

GREETING

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 122 *Lætatus sum*

Tone I.2

Sung by the choir

I was glad when they said unto me, we will go into the house of the Lord.

Our feet shall stand in thy gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity in itself.

For thither the tribes go up, even the tribes of the Lord,

to testify unto Israel, to give thanks unto the Name of the Lord.

For there is the seat of judgment, even the seat of the house of David.

O pray for the peace of Jerusalem; they shall prosper that love thee.

Peace be within thy walls, and plenteousness within thy palaces.

For my brethren and companions' sakes, I will wish thee prosperity.

Yea, because of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek to do thee good.

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

Isaiah 2:1–5

Pew Bible, page 591–592 (OT)

KYRIE from Mass XVII

Tone VI

Kyrie eleison.

Christe eleison.

Kyrie eleison.

Lord have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 24:36–44

Pew Bible, page 24 (NT)

SERMON

Beginning at the End

HYMN

No. 102, “Savior of the Nations, Come”

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland

The congregation standing

Order for Holy Communion

All are welcome to share in the Lord's Supper without regard to denomination.

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The minister continues:

O God, you created and redeemed us and, in every moment of every day, you sustain our lives.

Fountain of life, and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing. You created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

And so with the angels and saints and every creature under heaven
we find a voice to sing your praise.

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord. God of power and might,
heaven and earth_ are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in_ the
high - est. Bless - ed is_ the one who comes in the name of the
Lord._ Ho - san-na in_ the high - est._ Ho - san-na in_ the high - est.

The congregation may be seated.

The minister continues with the Eucharistic Prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Albert H. Malotte (1895–1964)

Sung by the choir

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The minister says:

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Holy food for the journey of life. Come now, for all things are ready.

AT THE COMMUNION

Communicants will proceed to the foot of the chancel steps at the direction of the ushers and will return to their seats by the side aisles. Grape juice is in the outer cup and wine is in the inner cup. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. At the giving of the bread and the cup, the people respond with "Amen."

AGNUS DEI from Mass XVII

Tone V

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi: miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi: miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi: dona nobis pacem.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

ANTHEM

Ad te levavi animam meam

Tone II

Ad te levavi animam meam, Deus meus, in
te confido: non erubescam neque irrideant
me inimici mei.

*Unto thee will I lift up my soul; my God,
I have put my trust in thee: O let me not be
confounded, neither let mine enemies triumph over me.*

Etenim universi qui te expectant non
confundentur.

*For all they that hope in thee shall not be
ashamed.*

Vias tuas, Domine, demonstra mihi: et
semitas tuas edoce me.

*Show me thy ways, O Lord, and teach me thy
paths.*

Psalm 25:1–3

HYMN

No. 65, "Let Us Break Bread Together"

Let Us Break Bread

The congregation standing

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 661 (ca. 1748)

Johann Sebastian Bach

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, December 1, 2019

WELCOME

Today is the First Sunday of Advent. 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 worship leaders are the Rev. Alanna C. Sullivan, Associate Minister in the Memorial Church, Kevin P. Bryant, Affiliated Minister in the Memorial Church of Harvard University, Harvard University Baptist Chaplain, Security Services Coordinator, Diversity/Community Liaison & Police Chaplain, Harvard University Police Department, Grace Killian MDiv III, Seminarian in the Memorial Church, Elizabeth Propst '22, Memorial Church Student Advisory Board Member, and Chandra Plowden MDiv '17. The first lesson is read by Francesca Cipriani MDiv III. The second lesson is read by Sonia David MDiv '16. The music is provided by the Harvard University Choir, under the direction of Edward E. Jones, Gund University Organist and Choirmaster, and David von Behren, Assistant University Organist and Choirmaster. The Yao Wu family will light the first candle of Advent, representing hope. We especially welcome the family of Andrew Christian William Baldwin and Courtney Joan Gemmato, whose child Eliot Catherine Baldwin receives the sacrament of Baptism today.

Our “Baby Oasis” is available for young children and infants in the lower level of the church. Parents and their children are welcome to use the respite space during worship. Audio from the service streams in the Baby Oasis.

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

MORNING PRAYERS

Monday: Gina McCarthy; Tuesday: Daniel Smith MDiv '99; Wednesday: Sienna Leis '00; Thursday: Deborah Forger; Friday: KMarie Tejada MDiv III

THE OFFICE OF COMPLINE

This Thursday, Compline, a twenty-minute candlelit evening service, will be sung by the Harvard University Choir, based upon the traditional evening liturgy of scripture, music, prayers, and silence. The service will be held in Appleton Chapel at 9 pm.

CHORAL ENSEMBLE CONCERT

On Tuesday, December 3 at 8 pm in the Sanctuary of the Memorial Church, the Tactus Ensemble presents “Gloria in Excelsis Deo”: Choral music for Advent and Christmas by Leonarda, Aleotti, Schütz and Rheinberger. Admission is free and all are welcome.

LUNCHTIME ORGAN RECITAL

On Wednesday, December 4 at 12:15 pm, Carson Cooman will present a half-hour organ recital on the organs of the Memorial Church featuring music by Carlotta Ferrari, Frederick Frahm, and David Schelat.

THE 110TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICES

The 110th Annual Christmas Carol Services will be held in the Memorial Church Sanctuary on Sunday, December 8 at 5 pm, and on Tuesday, December 10 at 8 pm. Doors open one hour before each service. Admission is free; an offering for charity is collected. If you would like to usher at one of the Carols Service, please contact Jesus Romo Llamas (jesus_romo_llamas@harvard.edu).

SEASONS OF LIGHT

The Office of the Chaplain and Religious and Spiritual Life at Harvard Divinity School invites you to Seasons of Light on December 3, 2019 at 5:30 pm, 60 Oxford, Room 119. As the nights grow longer and the days shorter, this beloved annual multireligious service honors the interplay of holy darkness and light in the world's religious traditions, including choral and instrumental music, readings by HDS students, the ritual kindling of many flames, and communal prayers and songs. All are welcome!

AUTHOR DISCUSSION: RELIGION AROUND VIRGINIA WOOLF

Please join us as Stephanie Paulsell discusses her recent publication, *Religion Around Virginia Woolf*. Amy Hollywood and Terry Tempest Williams will serve as respondents. It will be held at the Center for the Study of World Religions (42 Francis Avenue, Cambridge) on Monday, December 2nd from 5:30–7 pm. The Memorial Church will be hosting a celebration afterwards from 7–8 pm. All are welcome!

PILGRIMAGE TO THE INTERIOR CASTLE

Join us on Tuesday, December 3, 7:00–8:30 pm, for an interior pilgrimage, using St. Teresa of Avila's *Interior Castle* as our guide. The interior journey, Teresa told the nuns in her care, is one you can take whenever you want, without asking anyone's permission. All are welcome!

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER AT MEM CHURCH

Let us offer to God a sacrifice of silence! In our new weekly prayer group, we will explore the rich history of Christian contemplation, and practice praying contemplatively together. Whether you are totally new to this practice or a contemplative veteran, you are most welcome to come rest in God's presence with us! Wednesdays from 3–4pm in the Seminar Room off of the Student Oasis. For more information, please contact Aidan Stoddart '21 (aidanstoddart@college.harvard.edu).

FAITH FORMATION

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. The Church School will not meet today; however, worship bags and books are available for young people in worship. Classes will resume Sunday, December 8. To register and learn more, please visit the Church School for Children page on our website.

For adults in the MemChurch community, 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 in the Buttrick Room from 9:30 am to 10:30 am. Speakers include scholars, pastors, and other public figures whose work enhances our awareness of the pivotal role religion plays across space and time. To learn about upcoming speakers, please visit the Faith & Life Forum page on our website. The Faith and Life Forum will continue next Sunday, December 8 with Emmanuel Akyeampong, Minister for Worship and Formation in the Memorial Church. To learn about upcoming speakers, please visit the Faith & Life Forum page on our website.

Contact Ministry Fellow, Westley (Wes) Conn (westley_conn@harvard.edu) for more information about faith formation at MemChurch.

MUSIC NOTES

The eighteen plainsong settings of the Ordinary of the Mass form a repository of chants containing some of the oldest music of the Roman Catholic liturgy. Mass XVII—selections of which are heard this morning—is prescribed for the Sundays in Advent and Lent; Ad te Domine is the offertory anthem for the First Sunday of Advent.

To welcome in the new liturgical year, today's organ music comprises two settings of the Advent hymn, "Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland" ("Savior of the Nations, Come") from Bach's collection of large-scale chorale preludes known as the *Great Eighteen*. The prelude is plaintive in mood with florid elaborations of the melody in the treble; while the postlude is a lively toccata which presents the chorale melody in the pedals.

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 wbrb.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 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.

For more information on upcoming services and events:

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