

HARVARD

The Memorial Church



ORDER OF WORSHIP

The Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 10, 2017

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Thee Preludes on Advent Hymns (2001)

Sandra Gay (b. 1943)

I. Creator of the Stars of Night

II. Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

III. Prepare the Way, O Zion

HYMN

No. 91, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Veni Emmanuel

The congregation standing

During the singing of this hymn, the second Advent candle, representing peace, is lit.

INVOCATION

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. 94, "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"

Genevan 42

The congregation standing

GREETING AND THE PEACE

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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 front of the church.

Luke 1:46b–55

Magnificat anima mea

Tone VII

Antiphon: Come, O Lord, visit us in peace, that we may rejoice before thee with all our heart.

My soul doth magnify the Lord,
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.
For he hath regarded
the lowliness of his handmaiden:
For behold, from henceforth
all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me;
and holy is his name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him
throughout all generations.
He hath showed strength with his arm;
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat,
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things;
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel;
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed, for ever.

DOXOLOGY

Sung by the congregation, standing

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Psalm 27:1–3, 13–14

Pew Bible, pages 466–467 (OT)

ANTHEM

Keep Your Lamps (arr. 1982)

*African American Spiritual
arr. André Thomas (b. 1952)*

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh.
Children, don't get weary 'til your work is done.
Christian, journey soon be over, the time is drawing nigh.

SECOND LESSON

Hebrews 11:1-3

Pew Bible, page 198 (NT)

PRAYER HYMN

The congregation 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.

ANTHEM

We Shall Walk through the Valley in Peace (arr. 2001)

*A. L. Hatter,
arr. Moses Hogan (1957–2003)*

We shall walk through the valley in peace.

For Jesus himself will be our leader.

We shall walk through the valley in peace.

We will meet our loved ones there.

There will be no trials there.

SERMON

Hope in a Weary Throat

Text: “The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?”

Psalm 27:1

HYMN

No. 107, “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

Houston

The congregation standing

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Lucis Creator (2002)

Dorothy Papadakos (b. 1960)

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 10, 2017

WELCOME

Today is the Second Sunday of Advent. The preacher is Dr. Keri L. Day, Associate Professor of Constructive Theology and African American Religion, Princeton Theological Seminary. The first lesson is read by Abraham Rebollo '20. The second lesson is read by Michelle Odonkor '18. The music is provided by the Harvard University Choir, under the direction of Edward E. Jones, Gund University Organist and Choirmaster; and Thomas M. Sheehan, Associate University Organist and Choirmaster. The Janyce McGregor and Michael Petrou family will light the second Advent candle, representing peace.

A crying room 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, complete with an audio broadcast of the service.

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

FAITH FORMATION

The Church School offers Christian education classes for children of ages three through fifteen. New this year is our Teen Class. All classes are held during Sunday services in the Fall and Spring Terms. To register or learn more, please visit the Church School for Children page on our website. All families are kindly asked to register their children. Church School will conclude for the Fall Term next Sunday, December 17, and will resume for its Spring Term on Sunday, January 28.

For adults in the MemChurch community, the Faith and Life Forum seeks to enrich our spirituality by promoting religious literacy and cultural competency. These programs are held Sunday mornings during the Fall and Spring Terms in the Buttrick Room from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Speakers include scholars, pastors, and other public figures whose work enhances our awareness of the pivotal role religion plays across space and time. Today marks the conclusion of the Fall Term of the Forum; the forum will resume for its Spring Term on Sunday, February 4.

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

108TH CHRISTMAS CAROLS SERVICES

The 108th Annual Christmas Carol Services will be held this evening at 5 p.m. and this Tuesday, December 12, at 8 p.m.

MUSIC NOTES

André Thomas is Director of Choral Activities at Florida State University and a noted composer, conductor, and arranger of spirituals for choirs. “Keep Your Lamps” is a traditional spiritual from the Georgia Sea Islands, which takes as its theme the parable of the wise and foolish virgins from the Gospel of Matthew.

Moses Hogan was a gifted concert pianist, conductor, and founder of the Moses Hogan Chorale; he died at a tragically young age in 2003. He is most widely remembered for his contemporary settings of spirituals: “We Shall Walk Through the Valley in Peace” is one of his most powerful arrangements.

The organ prelude comprises settings of three Advent hymns: in the first, the stars are portrayed with sparkling filigree, the second is a lush pastorale, and the third is a sprightly rondo. Dorothy Papadakos was Organist and Director of Music at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, New York City, and is famed as an improviser in a number of styles. Today’s postlude is based on the plainsong hymn “Lucis creator optime” (“O blest creator of the light”): the chant is heard in the right hand, while the accompaniment is full of jazzy rhythms, and colorful harmonies.

COLLECTING 850 TOYS FOR OUR 85TH

Please join with the Church School in supporting Phillips Brooks House’s 2017 Holiday Gift Drive. Our goal this year is to collect 850 new toys in honor of the 85th anniversary of the church! This annual event provides gifts to children of all ages in Cambridge and Boston, many of whose families are without necessary resources. Gifts should be new and unwrapped. Contributions can be placed in the large, gift-wrapped boxes in the narthex and downstairs in the Student Oasis until Sunday, December 17.

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 Third Sunday of Advent. The preacher will be Professor Jonathan L. Walton, Plummer Professor of Christian Morals and Pusey Minister in the Memorial Church.

For more information on upcoming services and events:

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