

HARVARD

The Memorial Church



ORDER OF WORSHIP

The Third Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2020
11 am

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Puer natus in Bethlehem, BuxWV 271
In dulci jubilo, BuxWV 197

Dieterich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The third Advent candle, representing joy, is lit. During this time congregants are invited to light their Advent wreaths.

Leader: He will come like dark.
One evening when the bursting red
December sun draws up the sheet
and penny-masks its eye to yield
the star-snowed fields of sky.

People: And without him not one thing came into being. What has come into
being in him was life.

Leader: Advent is a time of preparation and anticipation for the one who will bring
good news to the oppressed, bind up the brokenhearted, give freedom to
the captives, and comfort those who mourn. Today we light the candle of
joy as we wait for Jesus to come again to turn sadness into joy. 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. 100, "Lo! He Comes, with Clouds Descending"

Helmsley

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

GREETING & THE PEACE

OFFERTORY

Our offering this month goes to support the Phillips Brooks House's annual Toy and Joy drive. This year we have been asked to support the Ella J. Baker House, an organization which offers mentorship and summer enrichment programming to youth in the Dorchester community. This year, they have expressed a need for over 100 toys to support their youth. Give online at <https://memorialchurch.harvard.edu/donate>.

Never Weather-Beaten Sail (1910)

Charles Wood (1866–1926)

Never weather-beaten sail more willing bent to shore,
Never tired pilgrim limbs affected slumber more,
Than my weary sprite now longs to fly out of my troubled breast:
O come quickly, sweetest Lord, and take my soul to rest!
Ever blooming are the joys of heav'n's high paradise,
Cold age deafs not there our ears nor vapor dims our eyes:
Glory there the sun outshines; whose beams the blessed only see:
O come quickly, glorious Lord, and raise my sprite to thee.

Thomas Campion (1567–1620), alt.

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 64: 1-19

from the New Revised Standard Version (OT)

ANTHEM

Keep Your Lamps! (arr. 1982)

*Traditional African American
Arranged by 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

Luke 3: 7-18

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 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.

SERMON

Fruits Worthy of Repentance

HYMN

No. 109, "People, Look East, the Time Is Near"

Besançon

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

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Sortie: Laissez paître vos bêtes (Venez, divin Messie)

César Franck (1822-1890)

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 13, 2020

WELCOME

Today is the Third Sunday of Advent. The preacher is the Reverend Westley P. Conn, Ministry Fellow 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 Alanna C. Sullivan, Associate Minister 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 Laurie Sedgwick MDiv II. The second lesson is read by Lily Gullede '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 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.

The Fechtman-Macedo family light the third candle of Advent, representing joy. 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

Charles Wood taught at the Royal College of Music, London, where his pupils included Ralph Vaughan Williams and Herbert Howells. Wood only started composing music for the church in his later years, but it is for this repertoire that he is primarily remembered today. The beautiful anthem "Never Weather-Beaten Sail" sets words by the English composer, poet, and lutenist Thomas Campton, which are particularly appropriate for the season of Advent.

André Thomas recently retired as Director of Choral Activities at Florida State University and is currently serving as the interim conductor of the Yale Camerata. A noted composer, conductor, and arranger of spirituals for choirs, Dr. Thomas's most recent project is the large-scale *Mass: A Celebration of Love and Joy*, which the Harvard University Choir was due to perform in Arts First 2020. *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.

One of the most significant German baroque composers before J. S. Bach, Dieterich Buxtehude's organ works represent the culmination of the seventeenth-century North German organ tradition. Among Buxtehude's most characteristic works are his chorale preludes, likely written-out versions of his improvised introductions to the congregational singing of Lutheran chorales. This morning we hear two of these chorale settings: *Puer natus in Bethlehem* and *In dulci jubilo*. An ornamented melody is accompanied by two middle voices, played on a separate manual, and a foundational pedal line.

Though Belgian by birth, César Franck became one of France's most influential organists and teachers. In 1858, he was appointed Organist and Precentor of the new Basilica of Ste. Clotilde, Paris—a post which he held until his death. Based on a well-known sixteenth-century French carol, Franck's joyous *Sortie* (or postlude) comes from a set of posthumously published liturgical keyboard pieces.

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

Thank you for tuning in! Our Instagram Live will resume in the Spring Term. Be sure to follow us *@memchurch!*

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Church School offers Christian education classes for children ages three through sixteen. 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 Church School will conclude Sunday, December 20 and resume in the Spring Term.

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 conclude next Sunday, December 20, with the Reverend Kerry A. Maloney, Affiliated Minister in the Memorial Church Chaplain and Director of Religious and Spiritual Life, Harvard Divinity School. To participate, please visit the Faith and Life Forum page on our website. The Forum will resume in the Spring Term.

Contact Ministry Fellow, Rev. Westley (Wes) Conn (westley_conn@harvard.edu) to learn more about opportunities for faith formation.

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 wrb.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 Fourth Sunday of Advent. The preacher will be the Reverend Kerry A. Maloney, Affiliated Minister in the Memorial Church Chaplain and Director of Religious and Spiritual Life, Harvard Divinity School.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Veni veni Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL 88 88 88

*Latin, 8th cent.?**Plainsong, Mode 1*stanzas 1, 2: *John Mason Neale, 1851, alt.**Processionale, 15th cent.*stanzas 3, 4: *Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916**adapt. Thomas Helmore, 1854*

unison

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2 O come, thou Day - spring, now ap - pear and cheer us by thine
 3 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, and or - der all things,
 4 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind all peo - ples in one

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of
 far and nigh; to us the path of knowl - edge
 heart and mind; bid en - vy, strife, and quar - rels

harmony

here, un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 night, and death's dark shad - ows put to flight. Re -
 show, and cause us in her ways to go. Re -
 cease; and fill the world with heav - en's peace.

joyce! Re-joyce! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

100 Lo! He Comes, with Clouds Descending

Charles Wesley, 1758, alt.

HELMSLEY 87 87 87 47
melody Augustine Arne (1710–1778)
harm. Thomas Olivers, 1765

1 Lo! he comes, with clouds de - scend - ing,
2 Ev - ery eye shall now be - hold him,
3 Those dear to - kens of his pas - sion
4 Yea, A - men! Let all a - dore thee,

once for our sal - va - tion slain; thou - sand
robed in dread - ful ma - jes - ty; those who
still his daz - zling bo - dy bears, cause of
high on thine e - ter - nal throne; Sa - vior,

thou - sand saints at - tend - ing swell the
set at nought and sold him, pierced, and
end - less ex - ul - ta - tion to his
take the power and glo - ry; claim the

tri - umph of his train: Al - le -
 nailed him to the tree, deep - ly
 ran - somed wor - ship - ers: with what
 king - dom for thine own: Al - le -

lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le -
 wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly
 rap - ture, with what rap - ture, with what
 lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le -

lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
 wail - ing, shall the true Mes - si - ah see.
 rap - ture gaze we on those glo - rious scars!
 lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone.

1 Peo - ple, look east, the time is near of the
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more
 3 Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the
 4 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more
 5 An - gels, an - nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who

crown - ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are
 seed is plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to
 nest that must be filled. E - ven the hour when wings are
 light the bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y
 brings new life to earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley

a - ble, trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
 nour - ish, that in course the flower may flou - rish. Peo - ple, look
 froz - en now for fledg - ing time is chos - en. Peo - ple, look
 weath - er, bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
 hum - ming with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look

east, and sing to - day: Love, the guest, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day: Love, the rose, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day: Love, the bird, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day: Love, the star, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day: Love, the Lord, is on the way.