Order of Worship

The Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 17, 2017
ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 599
Gott, durch deine Güte, BWV 600
Herr Christ, der ein'ge Gottessohn, BWV 601
Lob sei dem allmächtigen Gott, BWV 602
Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645

HYMN

No. 91, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

The congregation standing

During the singing of this hymn, the third Advent candle, representing joy, 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. 96, “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

The congregation standing

GREETING AND THE PEACE

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

BaShana HaBa’a (1970)

Nurit Hirsh (b. 1942)

Next year

We’ll sit on the porch

And count migrating birds.

Children on vacation

Will play tag

Between the house and the fields.

You will yet see

How good it will be

Next year.

Red grapes

Will ripen until the evening

And will be served chilled to the table.

And languid winds

Will carry to the crossroads

Old newspapers and a cloud.

Next year

We will spread out our hands

Towards the radiant light.

A white heron

Like a light will spread her wings

And within them the sun will rise.

Ehud Manor (1941–2005)

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
Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11
Pew Bible, pages 651–652 (OT)

ANTHEM
Siyahamba (1952)
Andries van Tonder (1882–1955)
arr. Anders Nyberg (b. 1955)
Siyahamba ekukhanyeni kwenkhos’.
We are marching in the light of God.
Original Afrikaans by Andries van Tonder, Zulu translation by Thabo Mkize

SECOND LESSON
Pew Bible, page 49 (NT)

PRAYER HYMN
The congregation 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.
ANTHEM
Carol of the Bells (1914)  
Mykola Leontovych (1877–1921)

Hark how the bells,  
Sweet silver bells,  
All seem to say,  
Throw cares away.  
Christmas is here,  
Bringing good cheer,  
To young and old,  
Meek and the bold.  
“Ding dong, ding dong,”  
That is their song,  
With joyful ring  
All caroling.

One seems to hear  
Words of good cheer  
From everywhere  
Filling the air.  
Oh, how they pound,  
Raising the sound,  
O’er hill and dale,  
Telling their tale.  
Gaily they ring  
While people sing  
Songs of good cheer,  
Christmas is here.

On on they send,  
On without end,  
Their joyful tone  
To every home.

Peter J. Wilhousky (1902–1978)

SERMON
An Attitude of Gratitude
Text: “…for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.” Luke 1:49

HYMN
No. 131, “Jesus, the Light of the World”  
We’ll Walk in the Light  
The congregation standing
BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE
Fugue on the Magnificat, BWV 733  

*Johann Sebastian Bach*

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**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 Third Sunday of Advent. The preacher is Professor Jonathan L. Walton, Plummer Professor of Christian Morals and Pusey Minister in the Memorial Church. The service is led by the Reverend Alanna C. Sullivan, Associate Minister in the Memorial Church; and Aric Flemming MDiv II and Michael Robinson MDiv III, seminarians in the Memorial Church. The first lesson is read by Anna Betancourt. The second lesson is read by Henry Dallman. The music is provided by VOICES Boston, under the direction of Steven Lipsitt, Artistic Director. The Rossano family will light the third Advent candle, representing joy.

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 concludes its Fall Term today 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. 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.
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. Today is the last day to place contributions in the large, gift-wrapped boxes in the narthex and downstairs in the Student Oasis.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Due to Christmas Eve falling on a Sunday this year, the Memorial Church’s Christmas Eve service will be held next Sunday morning at 11 a.m. If you would like to sing in the community choir, please arrive for rehearsal at 9:30 a.m.

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 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

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 Christmas Eve and the Commemoration of the Fourth Sunday of Advent. The preacher will be the Reverend Alanna C. Sullivan, Associate Minister in the Memorial Church.

For more information on upcoming services and events:
memorialchurch.harvard.edu • facebook.com/harvardmemorialchurch • twitter.com/memchurch

To subscribe to the Memorial Church e-mail list, visit our website: memorialchurch.harvard.edu