HARVARD
The Memorial Church

Order of Worship

The Fourth Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 22, 2019

Please silence all electronic devices upon entering the sanctuary of the Memorial Church.
ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Peace, Salaam, Shalom  
Christmas is Coming  
Feliz Navidad

Pat Humphries (b. 1960)  
Traditional English Round  
Pat Humphries (b. 1945)

HYMN

No. 91, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”  

Veni Emmanuel

The congregation standing.
During the singing of this hymn, the fourth Advent candle, representing Love, 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. 95, “Watchman, Tell Us of the Night”  

Aberystwyth
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._
_Stille Nacht/Silent Night_  
_Franz Gruber (1781–1863)_

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
_Psalm 139:1–18_  
_Pew Bible, page 540–541 (OT)_

ANTHEM
_We Will Rise Up Together_  
_Jim Papoulis (b. 1964)_

SECOND LESSON
_Matthew 1:18–25_  
_Pew Bible, page 1 (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

Al Shlosha D’varim  
_Allan Naplan (b. 1972)_

SERMON

A Shameless Christmas
Text: “Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly.”  
_Matthew 1:19_

HYMN

No. 109, “People, Look East, the Time Is Near”  
_Besançon_

_Benediction standing_

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Introduction et Variations sur un Ancien Noël Polonais  _Alexandre Guilmant (1837–1911)_

**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 22, 2019

WELCOME
Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent. The preacher is the Rev. Laura Everett MDiv ’04, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Council of Churches. The worship leaders are Professor Stephanie Paulsell, Interim Pusey Minister in the Memorial Church, Susan Shallcross Swartz Professor of the Practice of Christian Studies, Harvard Divinity School, the Rev. Alanna C. Sullivan, Associate Minister in the Memorial Church, and the Rev. Aric Flemming MDiv ’19, Worship Leader in the Memorial Church. The first lesson is read by Dori Hale. The second lesson is read by Franz Lepionka. Today’s choral music is provided by VOICES Boston, under the direction of Steven Lipsitt. The Lim and Tom family will light the fourth candle of Advent, representing Love.

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
Morning Prayers have ended for the Fall Term and will resume in the Spring Term.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
The Memorial Church’s Christmas Eve service will be held December 24, at 5 pm. If you would like to sing in the volunteer choir, please arrive at 3:30 pm in Appleton Chapel.

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. Church School has concluded for the Fall Term. 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 has concluded for the Fall Term. 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.

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 SERVICE: JANUARY 5
There will be no service on Sunday, December 29, in observance of the university’s winter recess. The next service will be the Second Sunday after Christmas Day, on Sunday, January 5. The preacher will be Minister 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.

For more information on upcoming services and events:
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