

HARVARD

The Memorial Church



ORDER OF WORSHIP

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 23, 2018
11 a.m.

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Magnificat sexti toni

Johann Pachelbel (1653–1706)

HYMN

No. 91, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Veni Emmanuel

The congregation standing

INVOCATION

One: The lights of hope, peace, and joy burn bright. Today we light the candle of love.

Many: May we kindle God’s light together as we journey on.

One: Let us give thanks for God’s gift of love, made known to us through Christ Jesus.

Many: Help us prepare to receive him.

One: In Christ, the light of God’s love shines in our hearts, and we are given the strength to share love in the world.

Many: Be not afraid; the light of God’s love is at hand. Amen.

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. 97, “The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”

Gabriel’s Message

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 front of the church.

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BuxWV 211

Dieterich Buxtehude (ca. 1637–1707)

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

Luke 1:39–45

Pew Bible, page 49 (NT)

HYMN

No. 102, "Savior of the Nations, Come"

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland

The congregation standing

SECOND LESSON

Luke 1:46b–55

Pew Bible, page 49 (NT)

PRAYER HYMN

Sung by 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.

SERMON

An Attitude of Gratitude

Text: "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior..."

Luke 1:46b-47

HYMN

No. 128, "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

Es ist ein Ros

The congregation standing

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 661

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

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 23, 2018

WELCOME

Today is the Fourth 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 the Reverend Katherine A. Schofield, Interim Minister in the Memorial Church. The music is provided by Edward E. Jones, Gund University Organist and Choirmaster. The Pengelly 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 this respite space during worship.

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

FAITH FORMATION

The Church School and Faith & Life Forum will resume in the spring term on Sunday, February 10.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

The Memorial Church’s Christmas Eve service will be held tomorrow, December 24, at 5 p.m. If you would like to sing in the volunteer choir, please arrive at 3:45 p.m. in Appleton Chapel.

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*

JANUARY 6 SERVICE

There will be no service on Sunday, December 30, in observance of the university's winter recess. The next service will be the Feast of the Epiphany, Sunday, January 6. The preacher will be the Reverend Francis X. Clooney, S.J.

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.

