HARVARD
The Memorial Church

Order of Worship

The Commemoration of the Fourth Sunday of Advent
Christmas Eve
Holy Communion

Sunday, December 24, 2017

Please silence all electronic devices upon entering
the sanctuary of the Memorial Church.
PRELUDE
Veni Redemptor gentium, SSWV 149  
Samuel Scheidt (1587–1654)

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.

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

PRAYER FOR ADVENT
Minister: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Minister: Let us pray.
Prepare in us, Almighty God, a place in our hearts where your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a spirit of love and the desire to welcome peace; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
People: Amen.

HYMN
No. 109, “People, Look East, the Time Is Near”  
Besançon
The congregation remains standing.

FIRST LESSON
Isaiah 9:2–7  
Pew Bible, page 598 (OT)
ANTHEM

Gabriel’s Message (arr. 1892)  
Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,  
“The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
To me be as it pleaseth God,” she said,  
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;  
“My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name.”  
“All hail,” said he, “thou lowly maiden Mary,  
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!”  
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!  
“For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be,  
Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born  
All generations laud and honor thee,  
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,  
Thy son shall be Emmanuel,  
And Christian folk throughout the world  
by seers foretold,  
will ever say,  
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!”  
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!”

Basque carol, arr. Edgar Pettman (1866–1943)  
Sabine Baring-Gould (1834–1924), after Basque carol

GREETING

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.

“Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring”  
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

from Herz und Mund und That und Leben, BWV 147 (1723)  
Edited by Hugh Allen (1869–1946)

Sung by the choir

Jesu, joy of man’s desiring,  
Through the way where hope is guiding,
Holy wisdom, love most bright,  
Hark, what peaceful music rings,
Drawn by thee, our souls aspiring,  
Where the flock in thee confiding,
Soar to uncreated light.  
Drink of joy from deathless springs.
Word of God our flesh that fashioned  
Theirs is beauty’s fairest pleasure,
With the fire of life impassioned.  
Theirs is wisdom’s holiest treasure.
Striving still to truth unknown,  
Thou dost ever lead thine own,
Soaring, dying round thy throne.  
In the love of joys unknown.

Martin Janus (ca. 1620–ca. 1682), translated by Robert Bridges (1844–1930)
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.

COLLECT FOR CHRISTMAS EVE
Minister: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Minister: Let us pray.
People: O God, you have caused this day to break from night, shining with the brightness of true light. Grant that we, who receive the Christ child, may bring your light to a world that awaits his dawning grace. Startle us in these moments and give us deep and abiding peace. Amen.

ANTHEM
Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light
Melody by Johann Schop (ca. 1590–1667)
Harmony by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)
Johann von Rist (1607–1667), English translation by John Troutbeck (1832–1899)
During the singing of the Anthem, the Christ candle is lit.

SECOND LESSON
HYMN
The congregation standing
No. 120, st. 1–3, “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

SERMON
From Stable to Table
Text: “This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”

HYMN
The congregation standing
No. 120, st. 4 & 5, “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

ORDER FOR HOLY COMMUNION
All are welcome to share in the Lord’s Supper without regard to denomination.

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING
Minister: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Minister: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them to the Lord.
Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The minister continues:
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, all holy God, creator of heaven and earth. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us this day in a lowly crib; who, by the power of the Holy Spirit and through the joy of the Virgin Mary his mother, took on human form to live in poverty among us; so that we might be freed from the bonds of sin and receive new life to become your children. Therefore we rejoice with all of creation, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the choirs of heaven, who forever sing this hymn of praise and glory to your name:
SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy Lord. God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The congregation may be seated.
The minister continues with the Eucharistic Prayer.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Said in unison:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The minister says:
The Gifts of God for the People of God. Holy food for the journey of life. Come now, for all things are ready.
AT THE COMMUNION
Communicants will proceed to the foot of the chancel steps at the direction of the ushers and will return to their seats by the side aisles. Cross arms to indicate preference of receiving a blessing instead of being served Communion. Grape juice is in the outer cup and wine is in the inner cup. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. At the giving of the bread and the cup, the people respond with “Amen.”

ANTHEMS

In dulci jubilo  
Anonymous 14th cent., harmony by Bartholomäus Gesius (ca. 1562–1613)

In dulci jubilo  
(In sweet gladness)
Now sing with hearts aglow!
Our delight and pleasure
Lies in præsepio,  
(In the manger)
Like sunshine is our treasure
Matris in gremio.  
(Held by his mother)
Alpha es et O!  
(He is Alpha and Omega)
O Jesu parvule,  
(O tiny Jesus)
For thee I long alway;
Comfort my heart’s blindness,
O puer optime,  
(O greatest child)
With all thy loving-kindness,
O princeps gloriae.  
(O prince of glory)
Trahe me post te!  
(Take me with you)
O Patris caritas!  
(O love of the Father)
O Nati lenitas!  
(O gentleness of the Son)
Deeply were we stained
Per nostra crimina;  
(By our sin)
But thou for us hast gained
Cælorum gaudia.  
(The joys of heaven)
O that we were there!
Ubi sunt gaudia  
(Where there is joy)
In any place but there!
There are angels singing,
Nova cantica,  
(New songs)
And there the bells are ringing
In Regis curia.  
(In the court of the king)
O that we were there!

Anonymous German 14th cent., translated by Percy Dearmer (1867–1936)
Joy to the World (1836)  
 Joy to the world! the Lord is come:  
 Let earth receive her king;  
 Let every heart prepare him room,  
 And heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns:  
 Let us our songs employ;  
 While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
 Repeat the sounding joy.

after George Frideric Handel (1685–1759)

No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
 Nor thorns infest the ground;  
 He comes to make his blessings flow  
 Far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
 And makes the nations prove  
 The glories of his righteousness,  
 And wonders of his love.

Isaac Watts (1674–1748), alt.

HYMN
No. 65, “Let Us Break Bread Together”
Let Us Break Bread

The congregation standing

PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION
Minister: Let us pray.
Eternal God, you have indeed opened the heavens and come down among
us, making each person an invited guest at your table, filling us with the
bread of heaven and the cup of salvation, and assuring the world of your
goodness and that we are your beloved. Send us now from this place to
be like the shining star so that we too, with your Spirit, may be a light
showing the way to love and life; through Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

HYMN
No. 121, “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”  
 Mendelssohn
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 Christmas Eve. The preacher is the Reverend Alanna C. Sullivan, Associate Minister in the Memorial Church. The service is led by the Reverend Westley P. Conn, Ministry Fellow in the Memorial Church; Minister Kevin Bryant, the Reverend Gregory W. McGonigle, the Reverend Dr. Stephanie Paulsell, and the Reverend Dudley Rose, Affiliated Ministers in the Memorial Church; and the Reverend Martin B. Copenhaver, President, Andover-Newton Theological School. The first lesson is read by Jorden Sharick MDiv ’15, G3. The second lesson is read by Amanda Sharick. The music is provided by the Memorial Church Community Choir, under the direction of Edward E. Jones, Gund University Organist and Choirmaster; and Thomas M. Sheehan, Associate University Organist and Choirmaster. The Lim family will light the fourth Advent candle, representing love.

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.

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.

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