

HARVARD

The Memorial Church



ORDER OF WORSHIP

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ: Christmas Eve
Holy Communion

December 24, 2018
5 p.m.

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Noëls

Louis-Claude Daquin (1694–1772)

HYMN

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

Adeste fideles

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

HYMN

No. 120, st. 4–5, “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

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. 111, “It Came upon the Midnight Clear”
The congregation standing

Carol

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.

ANTHEM

Sung by the choir

What Child Is This? (1871)

What child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?

*This, this is Christ the king,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary.*

Traditional English, arr. John Stainer (1840–1901)

Why lies he in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
The silent word is pleading.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come, peasant, king, to own him;
The king of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone him.

William Chatterton Dix (1837–1898)

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 9:2–7

Pew Bible, page 598 (OT)

ANTHEM

A Stable Lamp Is Lighted (1983)

A stable lamp is lighted
Whose glow shall wake the sky;
The stars shall bend their voices,
And every stone shall cry.
And every stone shall cry,
And straw like gold shall shine;
A barn shall harbor heaven,
A stall become a shrine.

David Hurd (b. 1950)

This child through David's city
Shall ride in triumph by;
The palm shall strew its branches,
And every stone shall cry.
And every stone shall cry;
Though heavy, dull, and dumb,
And lie within the roadway
To pave his kingdom come.

Yet he shall be forsaken,
And yielded up to die;
The sky shall groan and darken,
And every stone shall cry.
And every stone shall cry,
For stony hearts of men:
God's blood upon the spear-head,
God's love refused again.

But now, as at the ending,
The low is lifted high;
The stars shall bend their voices,
And every stone shall cry.
And every stone shall cry,
In praises of the child
By whose descent among us
The worlds are reconciled.

Richard Wilbur AM '47 (1921–2017)

SECOND LESSON

Luke 2:1–20

Pew Bible, pages 50–51 (NT)

HYMN

No. 113, st. 1–3, “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

St. Louis

The congregation standing

SERMON

A Generous Gospel

Text: “And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.”

Luke 2:7

HYMN

No. 113, st. 4–5, “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

The congregation standing

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.

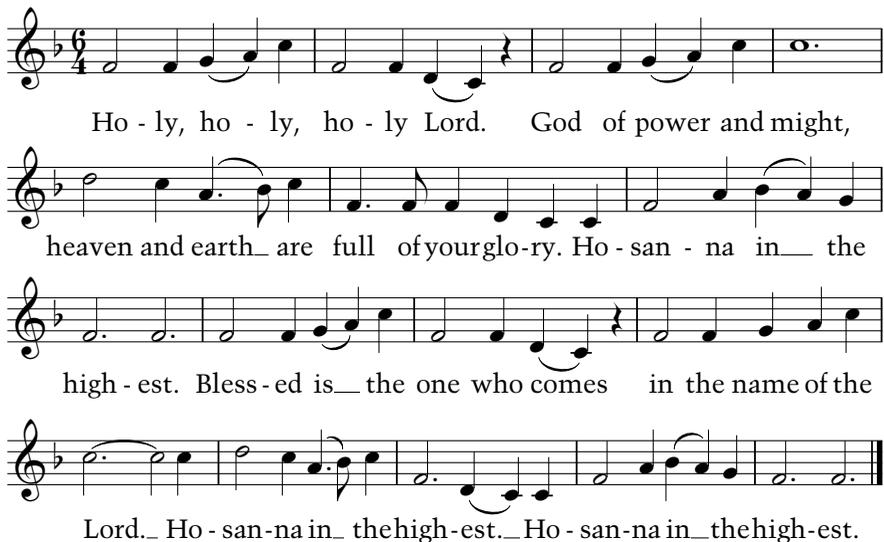
Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect flesh of Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your name:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord. God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san-na in the high-est. Ho - san-na in the high-est.

The congregation may be seated.

The minister continues with the Eucharistic Prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

In unison, at the invitation of the presider:

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.

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 communion at the direction of the ushers. 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."

ANTHEM

Still, Still, Still (1958)

*Traditional Austrian Carol
Arranged by Norman Luboff (1917–1987)*

Still, still, still, one can hear the falling snow.
For all is hushed, the world is sleeping,
Holy star its vigil keeping.
Still, still, still, one can hear the falling snow.
Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'tis the eve of our Savior's birth.
The night is peaceful all around you,
Close your eyes, let sleep surround you.
Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'tis the eve of our Savior's birth.
Dream, dream, dream, of the joyous day to come.
While guardian angels without number
Watch you as you sweetly slumber.
Dream, dream, dream, of the joyous day to come.

Marilyn Bergman (b. 1929) and Alan Bergman (b. 1925)

HYMN

No. 65, "Let Us Break Bread Together"

Let Us Break Bread

The congregation standing

PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION

At the conclusion of the distribution, the presider says:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your son our savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with the spiritual food of his body and blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN

No. 115, "Silent Night, Holy Night"

Stille Nacht

The congregation standing

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Noël Suisse, grand jeu et duo: «Il est un p'tit l'ange»

Louis-Claude Daquin

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

Monday, December 24, 2018

WELCOME

Today is Christmas Eve. 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; the Reverend Katherine A. Schofield, Interim Minister in the Memorial Church; and the Reverend Westley P. Conn, Ministry Fellow in the Memorial Church. The music is provided by the Memorial Church Community Choir, under the direction of Edward E. Jones, Gund University Organist and Choirmaster.

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, 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.

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:

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

