

THE HARVARD UNIVERSITY CHOIR PRESENTS

# THE THREE HERMITS

A CHURCH OPERA

BY STEPHEN PAULUS



Icon: Guirguis Boktor, Coptic Art Studio

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2016 + 4 PM

FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL

11 GARDEN ST., CAMBRIDGE, MA

Welcome to First Church, Cambridge, and to this concert performance of Stephen Paulus's church opera *The Three Hermits*. Based on a short story by Leo Tolstoy, the opera features a colorful cast of characters richly portrayed through Paulus's striking and beautiful music. The opera focuses on the themes of humility, tolerance, and servitude, making it of particular relevance in our current climate. It has been a real pleasure to prepare this wonderful work with such an enthusiastic group of young singers and instrumentalists, and we hope that you enjoy the performance.

Stephen Paulus's untimely death in 2014 was a great loss to the American music scene. Paulus had been one of the country's most prolific composers, particularly well-known for his operas and church music. On a personal note, the last time we performed *The Three Hermits* (in 2008), Mr. Paulus spent a few days at Harvard, getting to know the choir and talking to our church community about his work. It was a delight to get to know him and he was greatly enthused by the work of our students and the resulting performance. This afternoon's performance is given in his memory, presented almost two years to the day of his passing, October 19, 2014.

It continues to be my very great privilege to serve in the Memorial Church and to lead a choir of students whose love of singing brings so much joy to the community. Our work would not be possible without the support of so many benefactors, and I would like to thank all of our patrons for their ongoing generosity. This is indeed an exciting time for music and ministry in the Memorial Church, and I encourage you to join our email list by visiting our website, [memorialchurch.harvard.edu](http://memorialchurch.harvard.edu), where you can also make a contribution to our free concert series. In addition, donations can be made at the close of today's concert in support of the choir's upcoming international tour in January 2017.

My sincere thanks go to my colleagues in the Memorial Church, whose friendship and encouragement I cherish. I thank most gratefully my friends and colleagues, the Reverend Daniel Smith and Peter Sykes—along with the entire staff of First Church, Cambridge—for so generously welcoming us during our sabbatical from the Memorial Church. To the Harvard University Choir secretaries, Andy Troska and Cara Jacobson, I give my endless gratitude for all they do to ensure the group's smooth-running. Finally, I thank you, the audience, for your support of this afternoon's concert, and for your continued enthusiasm for the music program in the Memorial Church.

Edward Jones

# *The Three Hermits*

an opera in one act (1997)

music by Stephen Paulus (1949–2014)

libretto by Michael Dennis Browne (b. 1940)

after a story by Leo Tolstoy (1828–1910)

## Cast

Bishop: David McFerrin  
Mother: Clare McNamara  
Fisherman: William Gardner '17  
Sister Angelica: Emily Bishai '17  
Sister Miriam: Emma Woo '17  
Captain: Frederick Metzger '18  
Hermit 1: Andy Troska '17  
Hermit 2: Sean Rodan '18  
Hermit 3: Sydney Mukasa '18  
Pilgrim 1: Cara Jacobson '18  
Pilgrim 2: George Baxter '17

Chorus of Pilgrims: The Harvard University Choir

## Orchestra

Flute: Jessica Lizak  
Oboe: Catherine Weinfeld  
Clarinet: Ryan Yure  
Violins: Omar Guey, Megumi Stohs Lewis  
Viola: Emily Rideout  
Cello: Jackie Ludwig Selby  
Bass: Kate Foss  
Harp: Amanda Romano  
Percussion: Jonathan Hess  
Organ: Thomas Sheehan

Edward Elwyn Jones, conductor

## Synopsis

A bishop, accompanied by his mother and two nuns, is travelling on a ship across the White Sea in Russia. Many pilgrims are also on board. Hearing a fisherman tell of three strange old hermits who live on a remote island, the bishop resolves to go there and deliver some religious instruction to them. After being rowed ashore, the bishop spends the entire day on the island teaching the Lord's Prayer to the hermits, who have considerable difficulty learning it. Finally satisfied that he has done God's work, the bishop is rowed back to the ship at day's end and sails away from the island. As the moon shines over the water and the bishop is sitting on deck with his mother, she notices a disturbance behind them on the water. It turns out to be the three hermits, who are running over the water toward them. When the hermits arrive, they apologize to the bishop for having forgotten the words of the Lord's Prayer after "Who art in heaven." Chastened, the bishop assures the old men that the way they choose to pray is well-loved by God. The hermits then turn and run back over the water. The last words we hear are those of their original prayer: "Three are Ye; three are we; have mercy on us!"

### Scene One

Onboard a ship on the White Sea in Northern Russia in the 1880s. The ship is travelling from Archangel to the Solovetsk monastery. Among the travellers are a bishop, his mother, two companion nuns, and a band of pilgrims. The time is dawn.

### Scene Two

On a remote island inhabited by the three hermits, and also onboard the ship.

### Scene Three

Back onboard the ship at night time.

"And in praying do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him." — Matthew 6:7, 8

**Stephen Paulus** (1949–2014) was one of the most prominent and beloved American composers of his generation. A prolific composer of over 400 works, he was fluent in all genres, including orchestra, opera, chorus, chamber ensemble, solo voice, concert band, piano, and organ. Paulus co-founded the American Composers Forum in 1973 and continued to work on behalf of his colleagues as the Symphony and Concert Representative on the ASCAP Board of Directors. His music has been commissioned, recorded, and performed by such varied performers as the New York Philharmonic, Cleveland Orchestra, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Minnesota Orchestra, Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, Washington Opera, Los Angeles Master Chorale, The Dale Warland Singers, VocalEssence, Doc Severinsen, Thomas Hampson, and Deborah Voigt.

## The Harvard University Choir

Edward Elwyn Jones, Gund University Organist and Choirmaster

Thomas Sheehan, Associate University Organist and Choirmaster

Carson Cooman, Research Associate in Music and Composer in Residence

Andy Troska, Choir Secretary

Cara Jacobson, Choir Secretary

### Sopranos

*Emily Bishai*

Olivia Brown

Ellie Corbus

Jessie King

*Cara Jacobson*

*Alice Newkirk*

Lynnea Shuck

Madeleine Snow

Maggie Vo

*Eliza Wiant*

May Wang

### Altos

Jordan Abbasi

Bo Young Choi

*Clare Duncan*

Annaleah Ernst

Evelynne Fulda

David Hughes

Silvia Golumbeanu

*Theodora Mautz*

*Elba Alonso Monsalve*

Faith Pak

*Emma Woo*

### Tenors

*George Baxter*

Ethan Craig

*William Gardner*

Joey Goodknight

Rahul Kulka

*Sydney Mukasa*

Harrison Phelps

Crispin Smith

*Andy Troska*

*Micah Walter*

### Basses

James Baskerville

Adrian Cho

Razaak Eniola

Lucas Guzman

Robert Kim

Mateo Lincoln

Max Masuda-Farkas

*Frederick Metzger*

Thomas Michaels

*Maxime Rischard*

*Sean Rodan*

Fraser Weist

*Italics denote members of the Choral Fellows.*

For over 175 years the **Harvard University Choir** has provided a unique opportunity for student singers to perform choral literature at the highest level, both in concert and during the services of the Memorial Church. Its program of daily choral services, broadcasts, tours, commissions, and recordings make it one of the premier college chapel ensembles in the United States, and each year the choir presents America's longest-running Christmas Carol Services to packed congregations. Highlights of recent seasons include concert performances of J. S. Bach's *St. John Passion* and *Mass in B minor*, C. P. E. Bach's *Die Israeliten in der Wüste*, Glück's *Orfeo ed Euridice*, Handel's *Athalia*, *Saul*, and *Messiah*, Mozart's *Requiem* and *Mass in C minor* (in completions by Harvard Professor Robert Levin), Roxanna Panufnik's *Westminster Mass*, Alice Parker's *Melodious Accord*, Stephen Paulus's *The Three Hermits*, Benjamin Britten's *St. Nicolas*, and the world premiere of composer-in-residence Carson Cooman's *The Acts of the Apostles*. Committed to the presentation of new music, the choir has premiered works by today's most prominent composers, including David Conte, Tarik O'Regan, Alice Parker, Daniel Pinkham, Craig Phillips, and John Rutter.

**Edward Elwyn Jones** is the Gund University Organist and Choirmaster at Harvard University, a post he has held since 2003. Mr. Jones directs the music program in the Memorial Church in the midst of Harvard Yard and leads the 180-year old Harvard University Choir in its daily choral services, broadcasts, tours, commissions, and recordings. Mr. Jones is also Music Director of the Harvard Radcliffe Chorus, the Lowell House Opera (New England's longest-running opera company), and is a frequent collaborator with Yale's Schola Cantorum. As a conductor, he has guested with such organizations as Boston Modern Orchestra Project, Grand Harmonie, Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra of Boston, Boston Camerata, Emmanuel Music (Boston), Longwood Symphony Orchestra, and the Handel and Haydn Society Orchestra. He has led opera productions with Iceland's Reykjavik

Summer Opera Festival, New England's Intermezzo Opera, Lowell House Opera, and the Harvard Early Music Society. Mr. Jones has worked alongside William Christie, Christopher Hogwood, Nicholas McGegan, and Gil Rose, and has served as continuo player and assistant conductor to Sir John Eliot Gardiner and the English Baroque Soloists.

During his time at Harvard, Mr. Jones has overseen the publication of a new university hymnal, the installation of two new pipe organs in the Memorial Church, and has commissioned works from some of America's most prominent contemporary composers, including Daniel Pinkham, Alice Parker, and David Conte. A native of Wales, Mr. Jones studied music at Cambridge University, where he was Organ Scholar of Emmanuel College, and served as conductor of three university orchestras. He received his Master of Music degree in orchestral conducting from Mannes College of Music in New York City, where he was the recipient of the Felix Salzer Memorial Award.

Baritone **David McFerrin**, hailed for a "voice of seductive beauty," has won critical acclaim in a variety of repertoire. His opera credits include Santa Fe Opera, Seattle Opera, Florida Grand Opera, the Rossini Festival in Germany, and numerous roles with Boston Lyric Opera. As a concert soloist he has sung with the Cleveland Orchestra, Israel Philharmonic, and Boston Pops, and in recital at the Caramoor, Ravinia, and Marlboro Festivals. Last season Mr. McFerrin was a featured Adams Fellow at the Carmel Bach Festival in California; debuted with the Vermont Symphony and Boston's groundbreaking chamber orchestra, A Far Cry; and appeared with the Handel and Haydn Society in Boston, Canada, and California. He was also runner-up in the Oratorio Society of New York's 2016 Lyndon Woodside Solo Competition, the premier contest for this repertoire. Upcoming highlights include solo appearances with the Handel and Haydn Society in performances of Bach and the Monteverdi Vespers, a debut with Boston Baroque as Achilla in Handel's *Giulio Cesare*, and various programs with the renaissance group Blue Heron.

Praised for her "lushly evocative mezzo" and "attentive and precise" musicianship, **Clare McNamara** is a Boston-based soloist and chamber musician who gravitates towards early and new music. Her affiliations include Lorelei Ensemble, Skylark Vocal Ensemble, Handel and Haydn Society, Cut Circle, The Boston Camerata, Tapestry, and other prestigious vocal ensembles with which she sings throughout the United States and abroad. Since 2011, Clare has been a core member of Boston's award-winning Lorelei Ensemble, a unique all-female vocal octet dedicated to performing early and new music for women's voices. The 2015–16 season included the premiere of David Lang's *love fail* for eight voices at Boston's Isabella Stewart Gardner museum, as well as the ensemble's debut at Tanglewood in George Benjamin's "The Dream of the Song" for countertenor and eight female soloists. Lorelei will reprise this performance with the Boston Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Andris Nelsons at both Boston's Symphony Hall and Carnegie Hall in early 2017. Clare made her European debut with the Renaissance ensemble Cut Circle at the 2014 Musica Sacra Festival in Maastricht, Netherlands. Clare also joined them at the 2015 AMUZ/Laus Polyphoniae Festival-Conference in Antwerp, Belgium, and the 2016 Tage Alter Musik Festival in Regensburg, Germany. Solo engagements from past seasons include a critically-acclaimed Jordan Hall debut with The Boston Cecilia in Bach's *Mass in B Minor*, as well as Handel's *Dixit Dominus* and Mozart's *Requiem* with Boston's Coro Allegro. This fall, she once again joins Coro Allegro for their upcoming performance of Bach's *Magnificat*. Clare can be heard as the soloist on the soundtrack for "On the Nature of Things," a piece by the internationally-recognized modern dance troupe Pilobolus Dance Theatre. Recent discography includes Skylark Ensemble's second album "Crossing Over," released in early 2016, and Lorelei's third album "Impermanence." Both albums were created in collaboration with the GRAMMY-nominated Sono Luminus production team. Clare holds an A.B. in Music from Princeton University and an M.M. in Early Music Performance from the Longy School of Music of Bard College. ([www.claremcnamara.com](http://www.claremcnamara.com))

**Libretto**  
by Michael Dennis Browne  
after a story by Leo Tolstoy

**Scene One**

*(The time is dawn. The sun is rising. The pilgrims are performing various reverences in front of the icons set up on the deck: they cross themselves; they bow; they touch their hands to the deck.)*

**PILGRIMS**

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal,  
Have mercy upon us.  
Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal,  
Have mercy upon us.  
Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal,  
Have mercy upon us.

*(The bishop appears on deck and begins his own private prayer, walking about the deck. He is a vigorous man in early middle age with a full beard. He wears the traditional robes of a bishop of the Russian Orthodox Church.)*

**BISHOP**

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—

*(The bishop's mother and two nuns appear. They join in the bishop's prayer. The mother is vigorous, like her son. She is in her late 60s. The two nuns are approximately ten years younger.)*

**MOTHER, NUNS**

As we forgive those  
Who trespass against us.

**PILGRIMS**

For Thine is the kingdom,  
And the power, and the glory  
Of the Father and of the Son  
And of the Holy Spirit,

Now and ever and unto ages of ages.  
Amen.

**BISHOP, MOTHER, NUNS**

And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil. Amen.

**BISHOP**

Mother—good morning. Sister Angelica, Sister Miriam—a good morning to you. The Lord be with you.

**MOTHER**

Good morning, my son. And the Lord with you.

**NUNS**

Your Grace—a blessed morning to you.

**BISHOP**

How good of you to join my prayer.

**NUNS**

The honor is ours, Your Grace.

*(The bishop, his mother, and the nuns begin to stroll about the deck.)*

**MOTHER**

Did you sleep well, my son?

**BISHOP**

Ah, Mother, sleep—no, alas. That dream again.

**MOTHER**

And again you were swimming, my son?

**BISHOP**

Swimming, or drowning. I know I was among the fishes. All the time I was trying to rise, to breathe. But there was something keeping me down. And you, Mother? How did you sleep?

**MOTHER**

I dreamed of your father.

**BISHOP**

And it was summer, I suppose?

**MOTHER**

Always. And we were sailing. A little strange, don't you think? Your parents on the water, and you—below.

*(She shakes her head.)*

Dreams, dreams. But now, it is morning, and we are—awake!

**PILGRIMS**

We reverence Thy spotless Icon,  
O gracious Lord,  
We ask forgiveness of our sins,  
O Christ our God.  
Wherefore we cry aloud to Thee:  
Thou hast filled all things with joy,  
Our savior who didst come  
To save the world.

**BISHOP**

I like the mornings quite the best. The light upon the water—see. And to greet the Lord with His own prayer—how else to begin the day?

**MOTHER**

I can remember a time when you composed your own prayers, my son.

**BISHOP**

My own prayers?

**MOTHER**

When you were five, for example. When your pet mouse, little Leo, died—something he swallowed—

**BISHOP**

I had forgotten.

**MOTHER**

“Please take, dear Lord,  
This little mouse of mine  
Into Thy kingdom,  
With love from Alexei,  
If it be Thy holy will. Amen.”

*(The bishop is alarmed.)*

**BISHOP**

Mother—hush!

**SISTER ANGELICA**

Very touching indeed, Your Grace.

**SISTER MIRIAM**

Such a little boy to pray so—imagine!

**BISHOP**

Mother—enough! If anyone should hear...

**MOTHER**

*(smiling)*

You were not always such a... bishop.

**BISHOP**

“When I was a child, I spoke as a child. I understood as a child, thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.”

**MOTHER**

Yes, that's all very well. But keep in mind—“Unless you become as little children.” Forget that and you won't be able to enter the kingdom, my reverend son, and meet that mouse again.

**BISHOP**

Mother!

*(A pilgrim approaches.)*

**PILGRIM**

Master—bless!

**BISHOP**

With all my heart.

*(The pilgrim kneels. She places her right hand over her left hand, palms up. The bishop places his hand on her head.)*

**BISHOP**

May the blessing of the Lord be upon you always. In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Now and forever. Amen.



## PILGRIMS

Amen.

*(The pilgrim crosses herself. The bishop places his hand on her hand; she kisses his hand, rises, bows, and resumes her prayer. The bishop turns back to his mother and the two nuns.)*

*(He looks around the deck. At the bow, a group of pilgrims is gathered by a fisherman, who is pointing over the water and telling them something. The bishop, his mother, and the two nuns begin to move toward the bow of the boat. When the pilgrims see the bishop, they take off their caps and bow.)*

## FISHERMAN

They're strange and then some.  
Let me tell you friends,  
You've never seen the like.  
They're holy ones,  
They're Christian men, all right.

That big storm last year,  
You never saw such waves!  
When I was washed ashore,  
They came straight away to help me.  
Three days it took—they healed me  
Just like I was a child.

## BISHOP

Who are you speaking of?

## PILGRIM

Three old hermits, Your Lordship. It seems they live on that island over there—you can just barely see it.

## BISHOP

I see nothing.

## PILGRIM

Look along my hand—see that cloud there?  
Below it, a bit to the left, there's a faint little streak.  
That's the island.

## BISHOP

Still nothing.

## NUNS

*(to the fisherman)*

How do they look, these holy men, these hermits? Can you tell us something about them? Are they like you and me? Are they different at all?

## FISHERMAN

Now the first one's old, really old.  
Must be a hundred.  
He's small! The wrinkles!  
And he smiles all the time:  
It's just smile, smile, smile with him.

Then there's the middle one:  
He's strong, oh, strong—  
The muscles on him! So strong!  
He righted my boat  
Just like that—with one arm!

Then there's the tall one,  
A very tall one, let me tell you.  
There's a look in his eye, that one,  
He's got a look in his eye,  
A look in his holy eye  
That I wasn't too sure of,  
That very tall one.

## BISHOP

My friend, did they speak to you?

## FISHERMAN

Nothing—just about nothing.  
I asked them, I said—have you been living here a long time?

All the old one said,  
The one with the smile,  
All he said was:  
“Have mercy on us.”

## PILGRIMS

Amen.

*(By now, the island is visible.)*

## PILGRIM

There's the island—you can see it plainly now.

**BISHOP**

And what is the name of the island?

**FISHERMAN**

No name, Your Grace. Too small for a name.

**BISHOP**

My good man, I should like to set foot on this island and meet these holy men. I should like to see for myself what manner of prayer they follow.

**FISHERMAN**

Well, I don't know, Your Grace, and begging your pardon. The ship couldn't get much closer than this. Too shallow, you understand. You could be rowed there, I suppose. Begging your pardon, you'd have to ask the captain.

**BISHOP**

Send for him, please.

**MOTHER**

Why this, Alexei? What is it about these men? It might be better, do you think, if they were left to themselves?

**BISHOP**

I'm not certain, Mother. I would simply like to see how they work for their salvation. And perhaps I might be of some help to them.

*(The captain appears.)*

**CAPTAIN**

With all respect, Your Grace, it's not the best idea.

**BISHOP**

Is it out of the question?

**CAPTAIN**

From what I've heard, these are stupid old men. Not worth your time. They don't understand anything, They don't say anything. They're dumb as fish. Stupid old men. Not worth your time.

**BISHOP**

*(a little impatiently)*

I can pay for your trouble, Captain. Could you then have something take me there?

**CAPTAIN**

Of course, but we would lose some time.

**BISHOP**

I will pay for that time. I should like to see them.

**CAPTAIN**

Very well, Your Grace.

**BISHOP**

And so—a boat, if you please. I will meet these holy ones.

**Scene Two**

*(A boat is lowered. The bishop descends a ladder on the side of the ship. The fisherman joins him in the boat and begins to row him toward the island. As the bishop travels toward the island, the pilgrims are singing on board ship.)*

**PILGRIMS**

Bless the Lord, O my soul!  
Blessed art Thou, O Lord!  
Bless the Lord, O my soul!  
And all that is within me  
Bless His holy name.  
Bless the Lord, O my soul!  
And forget not all His benefits.  
The Lord is compassionate and merciful.

*(The mother and the two nuns pray before one of the icons.)*

**MOTHER, NUNS**

It is truly right to bless Thee,  
O Theotokos,  
Who art ever blest and blameless:  
Mother of our God.

More honorable than the angels,  
Thou who without stain  
Bearest God, the Word;  
We magnify Thee.

*(The bishop steps ashore, where the hermits are standing. They are holding hands. One hermit is small, very old, and bald, and bent. He wears a cassock. His skin is very dry and wrinkled. His white beard has a greenish tinge. He smiles continually. Sometimes he scratches the top of his head with his free hand. The second hermit is also old, but taller and straighter. He wears a tattered coat. He is strongly built and his skin is shiny. His beard is yellowish gray, shorter than the first hermit's. His feet are planted very firmly on the earth. His manner is also kind. Sometimes he rolls his eyes. The third hermit is very tall, with a narrow face. He has a white beard down to his knees, piercing eyes, huge bushy eyebrows, and a stern look. He frowns often. He wears only a piece of matting tied around his waist. He sways from time to time, and shifts from one foot to another. The hermits bow to the bishop. When he gives them his blessing, they bow still lower.)*

### **BISHOP**

I am here, O servants of God,  
To see if I may be of service to you,  
To save your souls and to pray for your sins.

*(The hermits look at each other.)*

I am here, O servants of God,  
Called to do God's work,  
To instruct His flock.

It is my mission  
To do whatever I can  
In His Holy name.

However scattered the sheep may be,  
However few in the fold,  
However humble the means,  
It is my solemn duty  
To bring His word.

*(The hermits exchange more looks. The first hermit scratches his head. The second rolls his eyes. The third shifts from one foot to the other.)*

### **BISHOP**

Tell me now, my good men—  
What are you doing to save your souls?  
Tell me—how are you serving our Savior here  
on this little island of yours?

### **HERMIT ONE**

How to serve God? We don't know how.  
We only serve ourselves, servant of God,  
Finding a little something to eat  
Here and there, Your Reverence,  
Begging your pardon, just here and there.

### **BISHOP**

*(surprised)*

But how do you pray? How do you pray?

*(The hermits exchange glances. The first hermit sighs before he speaks.)*

### **HERMIT ONE**

This is the way we pray, Your Grace;  
This is what we know:

### **HERMITS**

"Three are Ye—

*(The hermits look up at the sky.)*

Three are we—

*(The hermits look down at the ground.)*

Have mercy on us!"

### **HERMIT TWO**

This is the way we pray.

*(The bishop shakes his head. He is frowning.)*

### **BISHOP**

You know the Trinity, at least,  
But that is not enough.  
You mean to please the Lord, but  
You hardly know how to serve Him.

It's true there is the Trinity—  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit—  
And when the Son walked on this earth,  
He taught us all to pray.

Now, my good men, let me see  
If there is something I can do  
To help you in your life of prayer.

See now: repeat after me—

Our Father—

**HERMIT ONE**

Our Father—

**HERMIT TWO**

Our Father—

**HERMIT THREE**

Our... Our...

**BISHOP**

Our Father—

**HERMIT THREE**

Father—

*(He frowns and shifts from one foot to the other.)*

**BISHOP**

Our Father, Who art in heaven—

**HERMIT ONE**

Who art in...

**BISHOP**

Heaven—Who art in heaven...

**HERMIT ONE**

Who art in heaven...

**HERMIT TWO**

Who... Who... art...

*(He rolls his eyes.)*

**HERMIT THREE**

Have mercy on us!

**BISHOP**

Who art in heaven—

**HERMITS**

Who art... who art... in heaven—

**BISHOP**

*(quite irritated)*

Our Father, Who art in heaven—

**HERMITS**

Have mercy on us!

*(The bishop sighs, shakes his head, and sits down wearily on a rock. The hermits continue to stand in front of him. Back on the boat, the mother and the nuns are watching through the captain's telescope, with the captain standing beside them.)*

**MOTHER**

Sister, what can you see now?

What is happening?

**SISTER MIRIAM**

He's shaking his head, Madame. He is sitting down.

**MOTHER**

Shaking his head? That is never a good sign.

**SISTER ANGELICA**

My turn, I believe, Sister.

**MOTHER**

And what would you say is going on?

**SISTER MIRIAM**

*(handing over the telescope)*

Some sort of teaching, I would say, Madame.

**CAPTAIN**

If that's what it is, His Grace will be needing every last ounce of his patience, begging your pardon.

**MOTHER, NUNS**

And we must be patient too. God moves in most mysterious ways.

*(Back on the island, the bishop is continuing the lesson. It is now the middle of the afternoon.)*

**BISHOP**

Give us this day our—

**HERMIT ONE**

Give us this day... this day...

**BISHOP**

Give us this day our—

**HERMIT ONE**

Give us this day—

**HERMIT TWO**

Give us this day

**HERMIT THREE**

*(frowning)*

Give... this... us... this...

**BISHOP**

*(a little impatiently)*

Give us this day our... Our Father, Who art in heaven—

**HERMIT ONE**

Our Father, Who art in—

**HERMIT TWO**

Heaven—

**HERMIT ONE**

Hallowed be Thy name—

**HERMIT THREE**

Give us this our this... Give us our day this Father!

**HERMIT TWO**

Our Father, Who art in heaven... so hallowed...

**HERMIT ONE**

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Give us this day!

*(The bishop and the hermits mime the words and continue the lesson. Back on board ship, the mother and the nuns continue taking their turns looking through the telescope.)*

**SISTER ANGELICA**

Now what? What can you see?

**SISTER MIRIAM**

He looks a little tired.

**SISTER ANGELICA**

I would say so. It has been hours... hours.

**SISTER MIRIAM**

But he surely seems to be teaching them something.

**MOTHER**

He's good at that, all right. He's a teacher. He'll make his point.

**SISTER ANGELICA**

I wonder how much longer he will stay.

**MOTHER**

Until he's done. He is a stubborn man. As well as a holy one, that son of mine.

**CAPTAIN**

Not too long till sunset now, Madame. It would be best if he'd rejoin us soon. I'd like to get under way.

**SISTER MIRIAM**

Here, Sister: your turn again.

*(Back on the island, the hermits are approaching the end of their task.)*

**BISHOP**

And lead us not—

**HERMITS**

And lead us not—

**BISHOP**

Into temptation—

**HERMITS**

Into...

**BISHOP**

Into temptation—

**HERMITS**

Into temptation—

**BISHOP**

But deliver us—

**HERMITS**

But deliver us—

**BISHOP**

From evil—

**HERMITS**

From evil—

**BISHOP, HERMITS**

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the  
glory of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—  
Now and ever,  
Unto ages of ages,  
Amen.

*(The bishop rises. He smiles wearily.)*

**BISHOP**

You have worked hard, O servants of God.  
And now you know how to pray  
The way our Savior wished us to pray.  
You have worked very hard.

The time has come for me to leave you.  
There are others of the flock who need me.  
Pray as I have just now taught you,  
And may all go well with you.

*(The hermits, each in his turn, bows to the ground before  
the bishop. He raises each one of them, kisses them, and  
blesses them. Then he gets into the boat, which pulls away  
from shore. As the bishop is on his way back to the ship,  
the hermits are standing, holding hands, repeating The  
Lord's Prayer.)*

**HERMITS**

Our father, Who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be Thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done  
On earth as it is in heaven.

*(As the bishop comes closer to the ship, the sound of the  
hermits grows fainter, and we begin to hear the pilgrims  
singing the evening prayer.)*

**PILGRIMS**

Now that the day has come to a close,  
I thank thee, O Lord,  
And I ask that the evening with the night  
May be sinless;  
Grant this to me, O grant this to me,  
O Savior, and save me.

Glory to the Father,  
And to the Son,  
And to the Holy Spirit.

**HERMITS**

*(faintly)*  
Our Father,  
Who art in heaven—

**PILGRIMS**

Now that the blessed day has passed,  
I praise Thee, O Lord,  
And I ask that the evening with the night  
May be without blame;  
Grant this to me, O grant this to me,  
O Savior, and save me.

Both now and forever,  
And unto ages of ages,  
Amen.

**HERMITS**

*(very faintly)*  
Hallowed be Thy Name—

*(The bishop boards the boat and is embraced by his  
mother.)*

**PILGRIMS**

Lord, have mercy.

**Scene Three**

*(Night. The moon is up. The pilgrims are sleeping on deck.  
The bishop is seated in a chair at the stern of the ship. His  
mother and the two nuns are with him.)*

**MOTHER**

*(tenderly)*  
Such a moon. And you have had quite a day, my son.  
Now you should sleep.

**BISHOP**

I cannot get them out of my mind.

**SISTER MIRIAM**

They were holy men, Your Grace?

**BISHOP**

They were holy men. But they knew so little.  
Next to nothing. But yes—holy.

**SISTER ANGELICA**

But now they know, Your Grace, what you have taught them.

**BISHOP**

That is true. But one entire day to teach just one prayer...

**MOTHER**

“Unless you become as little children.”  
Remember, Alexei?

**BISHOP**

Yes, Mother. They were like little children, so grateful to learn. I feel blessed to have been able to bring them the Word of God. And yet...

**MOTHER**

God will bless your work.  
*(She rises.)*  
Time for sleep. Tonight, Alexei, only good dreams after the good work you have done.

**BISHOP**

They have so little. They know so little.  
Their little hut is made of earth. They scarcely eat. All so simple. The ways of God are strange. I cannot get them out of my head.

*(The mother is peering out over the sea.)*

**MOTHER**

What is that?

**BISHOP**

What is it, mother?

**MOTHER**

There on the water—over there!

*(The bishop and the two nuns rise. They join the mother at the railing of the ship.)*

**SISTER ANGELICA**

A boat... a sailing boat...

**SISTER MIRIAM**

No, those are gulls, I think...

**MOTHER**

It is following us.

**SISTER MIRIAM**

Following?

**BISHOP**

Yes... yes... every moment it comes closer.

**SISTER MIRIAM**

The moon is so bright; it is hard to tell just what it is.

**SISTER ANGELICA**

It must be a boat—that gleam must be its sail in the moonlight.

**BISHOP**

It might be fish—a school of fish, leaping.

**MOTHER**

Dolphins—blooming in the White Sea!

**SISTER ANGELICA**

It must be a boat—it’s gleaming in the moonlight.

**SISTER MIRIAM**

The moon is so bright, so bright.

**BISHOP**

Wait! No... Wait! It looks like a man, but it’s too large for a man. Besides, what man could be in the midst of the sea?

Enough! Time for a professional opinion—Captain!

*(The captain appears.)*

**CAPTAIN**

Your Grace, how may I help you?

**MOTHER**

*(excitedly, almost girl-like)*

We are seeing something, Captain, over there.  
There! We think it might be a boat, but it's closing  
much too fast for... The moon is so bright, it's hard to  
tell.

**CAPTAIN**

Let me see.

*(The Captain put the telescope to his eye. His mouth falls  
open. He drops the telescope.)*

The three... the three... Lord!

**NUNS**

The hermits! It is the hermits!  
The hermits are running over the water,  
As though it were dry land!

**MOTHER**

*(ecstatic)*

As though it were dry land!

**BISHOP**

The hermits? Lord, have mercy on us!

*(The bishop stumbles. The captain catches him. He leans  
against the railing. The pilgrims wake at the noise, rise,  
and crowd to the sides of the ship. They point toward the  
hermits.)*

**PILGRIMS**

The hermits are running, running over the water;  
running, gliding over the waves.

**BISHOP**

*(crossing himself)*

Hallowed be Thy name.

*(He bares his head.)*

Thy kingdom come,

Thy will be done.

**NUNS**

Praise God!

**MOTHER**

As though it were dry land!

**FISHERMAN**

Their feet are not even moving!

**BISHOP**

Our father, Who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be Thy name.

**ALL**

Over the waves,  
Gliding over the waves!  
Amen.

*(The hermits appear beside the ship. Standing on the  
water, they address the bishop, hand in hand.)*

**HERMITS**

Servant of God, we have forgotten—  
what comes after “Who art in heaven”?

While you were teaching,  
we could remember everything

As soon as you left us, oh  
our memory began to fail us.

Servant of God, for love of Him,  
teach us again...

Our Father, Our Father...

*(The bishop crosses himself again. He bows low to the  
hermits.)*

**BISHOP**

*(solemnly)*

Your prayer, your prayer, you holy ones,  
your own prayer is loved by God.

It is not for me to teach you.  
In my pride, I tried to change you.

Pray for us, you holy ones;  
your own prayer is loved by God.

*(The hermits bow, turn, and begin running back over the  
sea.)*



**PILGRIMS**

Even before we call on Your name  
To ask You, O God,  
When we seek for the words to glorify You,  
You hear our prayer;  
Unceasing love, O unceasing love,  
Surpassing all we know.

Glory to the Father,  
And to the Son,  
And to the Holy Spirit.

**BISHOP**

Pray for us.  
Have mercy on us.

**HERMITS**

*(faintly)*  
Our Father, Who art in heaven—

**MOTHER, NUNS**

In Your mercy,  
Look on us.  
In Your wisdom,  
Look on us.  
In Your bounty,  
Look on us.

**PILGRIMS**

Even with darkness sealing us in,  
We breathe Your name,  
And through all the days that follow so fast,  
We trust in You;  
Endless Your grace, O endless Your grace,  
Beyond all mortal dream.

Both now and for ever,  
And unto ages and ages.  
Amen.

**HERMITS**

*(very faintly)*  
Three are Ye,  
Three are we—  
Have mercy on us!  
Amen.

# UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

**The Memorial Church building will be closed for renovations during Fall Term 2016.**  
See specific listings for event locations. Events are subject to change. For the latest schedule,  
please visit [memorialchurch.harvard.edu/calendar](http://memorialchurch.harvard.edu/calendar).

All concerts are free and open to the public.



## FALL 2016

### FALL CONCERT

Sunday, November 20, 8 PM

Sanders Theatre, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge, MA.

Handel's oratorio *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato*.

Harvard University Choir and Harvard Baroque Chamber  
Orchestra; Nicholas McGegan, guest conductor.

### 107<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

### CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICES

Sunday, December 11 & Tuesday, December 13, 7:30 PM  
St. Paul Church, 29 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge, MA.

An offering for charity is collected.

## SPRING 2017

### EVENSONG

Sunday, February 5, 4 PM  
Appleton Chapel

Harvard University Choir;  
Barry Rose, guest conductor.

### ARTS FIRST CONCERT

Saturday, April 29, 7:30 PM  
Memorial Church Sanctuary

Haydn's oratorio *The Creation*.  
Harvard University Choir and Grand Harmonie.

### SPRING CONCERT

Sunday, March 5, 4 PM  
Memorial Church Sanctuary

American Music by Chris De Blasio,  
Carson Cooman, Alfred V. Fedak and others.  
Harvard University Choir and orchestra.

### ORGAN RECITAL

Sunday, April 30, 4 PM  
Memorial Church Sanctuary

Mark Dwyer, Organist and Choirmaster,  
The Church of the Advent, Boston, MA.

### HOLY WEEK MUSICAL MEDITATION

Tuesday, April 11, 7 PM  
Memorial Church Sanctuary

Carson Cooman's *Thieves* and Douglas E. Wagner's  
*Hear Us, Holy Jesus*. Harvard University Choir.

### EVENSONG

Sunday, May 7, 4 PM  
Appleton Chapel

Sung by the  
Harvard University Choir.

### ORGAN RECITAL

Wednesday, April 12, 7 PM  
Memorial Church Sanctuary

Thomas Sheehan, Associate University Organist and  
Choirmaster, The Memorial Church.

### ORGAN RECITAL

Tuesday, May 16, 7:30 PM  
Memorial Church Sanctuary

Carson Cooman, Research Associate in Music and  
Composer in Residence, The Memorial Church.





**HARVARD**  
The Memorial Church

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