A Space of Grace in Harvard Yard

When Stephanie Paulsell began her ministry with you two years ago, she told you she was accompanying you on pilgrimage. What a journey we have all been on since then. Our time away from one another now complete, this fall we return to our church and to our campus. But as Stephanie or any other expert on pilgrimage will tell you, returning can be hard.

Much of our focus this year will be in making sure we return to one another with care. This will be for practical reasons, since adhering to covid guidelines will play an important role in keeping us safe. Most of us will have to mask indoors, some of us will have to remain physically distanced, and all of us will have to bear inconvenience with patience. We’ll need to be adaptive, too, since our Sunday customs may change as the pandemic changes. But returning with care means more than wearing a mask and keeping safe distance. The majority of our students have never spent a full academic year on campus. Our church has not gathered in person for a year and a half. Each of us has wrestled with loss, fear, loneliness, stress, and illness, and we may do so again in the weeks to come. Returning with care means caring for one another as we return.

It will be our privilege as your ministers to welcome you with love this fall and to show you that we care in all the familiar ways. As ever, we will fill our church with song, not only on Sunday mornings but also in special celebrations and events throughout the term. Our 112th Annual Christmas Carol Services will be held Sunday, December 12 and on Tuesday, December 14. In mid-November we will also host a masterclass on Bach’s Cantatas with the renowned conductor Ton Koopman, who will be visiting Harvard this year as the Christoph Wolff Distinguished Visiting Scholar. The Harvard Baroque Chamber Orchestra will also hold its concert on November 7th.

We will share God’s word of love from our pulpit and in our meeting rooms, too. The Rev. Teddy Hickman-Maynard, the new Associate Dean for Ministry Studies at Harvard Divinity School, will share his words and wisdom as the newest member of Harvard’s faculty of divinity. The Rev. Elam Jones, a Harvard PhD student in the Study of Religion and a currently serving lieutenant in the United States Navy, will preach on Founders and Benefactors Day to reflect upon our identity as a memorial to the war dead. And the Right Reverend Carol Gallagher, the first person of indigenous American ancestry consecrated a bishop in the Anglican Communion, will share her perspective on the 400th anniversary of Thanksgiving. These guests and other experts from the Harvard community will lead our Faith and Life forums throughout the term. And on December 12th, as you formally welcome me and my family to this church, our beloved leader the Rev. Professor Stephanie Paulsell will bless the beginning of my ministry with you in a sermon at my installation.

Though we will resume in-person worship this fall, there are many among us for whom returning to the sanctuary remains impossible because they are too ill or far-flung or frail. We are committed to ministering to those far and near, and so we are also developing plans to upgrade our audio amplification and recording system, as well as to install video recording capabilities in the sanctuary. We hope, with your support, to complete this project next summer, so we can expand the reach of our love and welcome in new and exciting ways.

Our church has been sitting empty for a year, waiting for us to fill it. Much of what we find upon our return will be familiar, our spirit of love and welcome I hope most of all. But much has also changed. These changes and the ones to come might feel challenging or stressful at times. But we are a people of transfiguration and of resurrection. In other words, we are a people of courage and of faith. My family and I feel heartened to be among you all, and blessed to accompany you on this journey into our common future.

Faithfully,
Matt

The Rev. Matthew Ichihashi Potts
Pusey Minister in the Memorial Church of Harvard University,
Plummer Professor of Christian Morals,
Faculty of Divinity
A Space of Grace in Harvard Yard

WORSHIP SERVICES
A multi-denominational Protestant worship service open to all regardless of faith, serving the Harvard University community and beyond. Services are in the Memorial Church Sanctuary and are broadcast live on Harvard’s radio station, WHRB 91.1 FM and online at whrb.org.

Aug. 29, 11 a.m. FIRST-YEAR SUNDAY

Sept. 5, 11 a.m. THE FIRST SUNDAY OF FALL TERM

Sept. 12, 11 a.m. FIRST-YEAR FAMILY WEEKEND

Sept. 19, 11 a.m. INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY

Sept. 26, 11 a.m. SEPT. 23, OCT. 12, NOV. 18, AT 5:30 P.M. • APPLETOWN CHAPEL

Oct. 3, 11 a.m. FIRST-YEAR FAMILY WEEKEND

Oct. 10, 11 a.m. INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY

Oct. 17, 11 a.m. FIRST-YEAR FAMILY WEEKEND

Oct. 24, 11 a.m. FIRST-YEAR FAMILY WEEKEND

Oct. 31, 11 a.m. FIRST-YEAR FAMILY WEEKEND

Nov. 7, 11 a.m. ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

Nov. 14, 11 a.m. COMMEMORATION AND THE WAR DEAD

Nov. 21, 11 a.m. REMEMBERANCE SUNDAY
Preacher: The Rev. Emmanuel Akstampong, Ellen Gurney Professor of History and Professor of African and African American Studies, Minister for Worship Formation in the Memorial Church. Anthems: Hogan (arr.): Lord, I Want to Be a Christian; Moore (arr.): We Shall Walk Through the Valley in Peace.

Nov. 28, 11 a.m. THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Dec. 5, 11 a.m. THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Dec. 12, 11 a.m. INSTALLATION OF THE REV. MATTHEW I. POTTAS AS NEW PYPE MINISTER

Dec. 19, 11 a.m. THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Preacher: The Rev. Calvin Jones, Assistant Minister, the Memorial Church of Harvard University.

Dec. 24, 5 p.m. CHRISTMAS EVE
Preacher: The Rev. Matthew Potts, P.D.D.

MONDAY PRAYERS
Monday – Friday in Term, 8:30 – 8:45 a.m. Begins Sept. 1 – Appleton Chapel
Consisting of music, prayer, and a brief address given by a member or friend of the University, this service is a great way to start the day.

LAWRENCE S. BACOW, President of Harvard University, will preside at the first Morning Prayers service of Fall Term on Sept. 1. For the full schedule of speakers, visit mensalchurch.harvard.edu/morningprayers.

FAITH & LIFE FORUM
Oct. 3 – Dec. 19, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. Buttrick Room
The Faith & Life Forum explores matters of faith and public life. For the full list of readings and speakers, visit mensalchurch.harvard.edu/faith-life-forum.

CHURCH SCHOOL
Oct. 3 – Dec. 19, 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
The Church School offers Christian education classes for children ages three through sixteen. All classes are held during Sunday services in the Fall and Spring Terms. Learn more: memorialchurch.harvard.edu/churchschool.

MUSIC
Music in the Memorial Church is performed by the Harvard University Choir. The choir provides the music for weekly and daily services, as well as special concerts throughout the year. Concerts are held in the Memorial Church Sanctuary unless otherwise noted and are free and open to the public.

Nov. 7, 4 p.m.
HANDELS’ ITALY
Harvard Baroque Chamber Orchestra’s fall concert.

Nov. (Date TBA)
MASTER CLASS
Harvard University Choir will host a masterclass with Harvard’s Christoph Wolf Distinguished Visiting Scholar Ton Kooperman, focused on Johann Sebastian Bach’s Cantatas. The Dutch organist and conductor will be working with the UChoir during his residency.

Dec. 12, 5 p.m. & Dec. 14, 8 p.m.
112TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE
The annual carol service is the oldest carol service in America, and long-honored tradition in the Memorial Church. Each year a volunteer collection is offered for a local charity.

CHORAL SERVICES
COMPLINE
Sept. 2, Oct. 7, Nov. 4, Dec. 2 at 9 p.m. • Appleton Chapel
This twenty-minute candlelit evening service is sung by the Harvard University Choir, based upon the traditional evening liturgy of scripture, music, prayers, and silence.

EVENSONG
Sept. 23, Oct. 12 Nov. 18, at 5:30 p.m. • Appleton Chapel
Directed by Edbry Ebyen Jones, Gund Organist and Choirmaster, Memorial Church.

STUDENT PROGRAMS
The Memorial Church is a unique and welcoming community in the center of Harvard Yard. From our Student Advisory Board, Grants Committee and Student Deacon programs, to our robust seminary and internship programs, and fellowship events, we offer many opportunities for students to get involved, connect, and make lifelong friendships. We also offer ongoing pastoral care and support for all students, as well as work-study and volunteer opportunities.

Learn more about our thriving student community: memorialchurch.harvard.edu/students.

STUDENT OASIS
The Student Oasis, located in our lower level, is available to all Harvard students as a place to relax, study, and connect with friends. Hours: Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m.–9 p.m. and Sunday, 1 p.m.–9 p.m. The entrance to the Student Oasis is located across from Canaday Hall.

AFTER SCHOOL SNACK
Students are invited to Sparks House for snacks, soft drinks and fellowship with Matt, his family and their dog “Daks” each Thursday during the academic term, from 4-6 p.m. Start date: TBA.

COVID INFORMATION
The Memorial Church is following health and safety guidelines for the well-being of the Harvard and surrounding communities. Face coverings continue to be required in all indoor University spaces for vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals. This is an ever-changing situation, so please review the latest guidelines before attending services or other events on campus. For the latest information: harvard.edu/coronavirus/campus-access/