

HARVARD

The Memorial Church



ORDER OF WORSHIP

The Third Sunday of Advent
December 14, 2025, 11 am

PRELUDE

Ave Maria d'Arcadelt, S. 183/2 (1862)

Franz Liszt (1811–1886)

HYMN

No. 91, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Veni Emmanuel

The congregation stands and sings

CALL TO WORSHIP

from Isaiah 40 and Isaiah 2

Minister: A voice cries out: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

People: Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;

Minister: The uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

People: Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together.”

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. 101, “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

Macht hoch die Tür

The congregation stands and sings

THE PEACE AND GREETINGS

Minister: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

All are invited to join in the singing of Hymn No. 27, stanza 1

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing.

He chastens and hastens his will to make known;

The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing.

Sing praises to his name; he forgets not his own.

OFFERTORY

Your offering supports the work of the Memorial Church, especially our ministries to students and to our neighbors in need through the Grants Committee. Ushers will begin collection from the front of the church. Checks can be written to the Memorial Church. You may also donate online at <https://memorialchurch.harvard.edu/donate>

Psalm 146 *Lauda, anima mea*

Plainchant, Tone VII.1

Sung by the choir

DOXOLOGY

The congregation stands and sings.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all people here below.

Praise God above, ye heavenly host.

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.

Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 35:1–10

ANTHEM

Magnificat (No. 1) in E-flat (1891)

Charles Wood (1866–1926)

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.

For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden.

For behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me, and holy is his name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations.

He hath showed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel, as he promised to our forefathers,

SERMON

The Rev. Alanna C. Sullivan

HYMN

No. 95, "Watchman, Tell Us of the Night"
The congregation stands and sings

Aberystwyth

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Fuga sopra il Magnificat, BWV 733

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

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