

HARVARD

The Memorial Church



ORDER OF WORSHIP

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ: Christmas Eve
December 24, 2025, 5 pm

PRELUDE

Christmas Lullaby & Pastorale (2018)

Dan Locklair (b. 1949)

HYMN

No. 120, "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Adeste fideles

The congregation stands and sings

CALL TO WORSHIP

Minister: Alleluia. To us a child is born;
O come, let us adore him.

People: Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.

Minister: God is our everlasting light;
God has shown forth glory.

People: The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness did not overcome it.

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. 123, "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Gloria

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

ANTHEM

What Child Is This? (arr. 1871)

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

Sung by the choir

LESSON

Isaiah 9:2–7

HYMN

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

St. Louis

The congregation stands and sings

THE GOSPEL

Luke 2:1–20

HYMN

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

The congregation stands and sings

SERMON

The Rev. Alanna C. Sullivan

THE SUMMARY OF THE LAW

Minister: Hear the words of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and all your mind and all your strength. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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>

Still, Still, Still (arr. 1958)

Traditional Austrian Carol, arr. Norman Luboff (1917–1987)

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.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The congregation remains standing

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

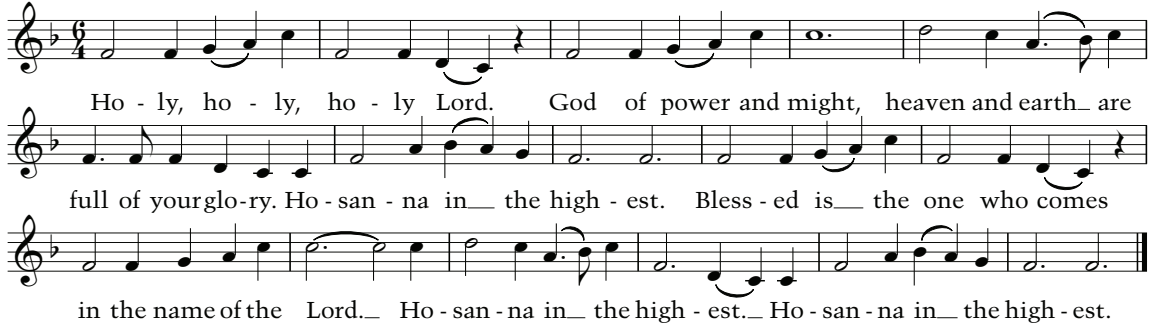
People: We lift them to the Lord.

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

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Minister: ... Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever 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 remains standing

Minister: ... Therefore, according to his command, O God,

People: We remember his death.

We proclaim his resurrection.

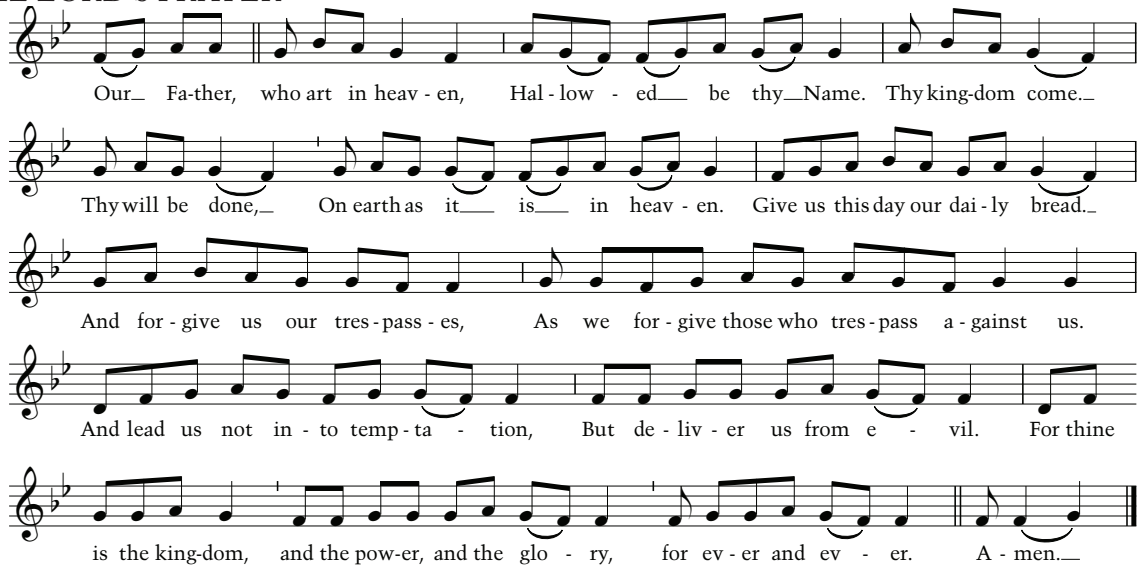
We await his coming in glory.

The minister continues

Minister: ... By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

People: AMEN.

THE LORD'S PRAYER



Our Fa-ther, who art in heav - en, Hal - low - ed be thy Name. Thy king - dom come.
Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heav - en. Give us this day our dai - ly bread.
And for - give us our tres - pass - es, As we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us.
And lead us not in - to temp - ta - tion, But de - liv - er us from e - vil. For thine
is the king - dom, and the pow - er, and the glo - ry, for ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Minister: Behold what you are.

People: May we become what we receive.

The congregation sits

THE MINISTRATION OF COMMUNION

ANTHEM

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear (1850)

Richard Storrs Willis (1819–1900)

Sung by the choir

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

The congregation stands

Minister: Let us pray.

People: Eternal God, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament 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.

BLESSING

HYMN

No. 115, “Silent Night, Holy Night”

Stille Nacht

DISMISSAL

Minister: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Toccata on “Antioch” (1996)

Craig Phillips (b. 1961)

SUPPORT THE MEMORIAL CHURCH

Please make your donation to support our ministries and programs at memorialchurch.harvard.edu/donate or by scanning the following QR code.



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