

HARVARD

The Memorial Church



ORDER OF WORSHIP

The Second Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 8, 2020

11 am

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

“Lullaby” from *Suite No. 2* (1976)

Calvin Hampton (1938–1984)

HYMN

No. 146, “Jesus, Who This Our Lententide”
The congregation stands.

Rockingham

CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 130 & Isaiah 2

Minister: Out of the depths we cry to you, O God.
God, hear our voice!

People: Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of our supplications!

Minister: If you should mark iniquities, O God,
who of us could stand?

People: But there is forgiveness with you;
and plenteous redemption.

Minister: I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,
and in God’s word I hope.

People: My soul waits for the Lord
more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the morning.

Minister: Come, let us set out in the light of the Lord.

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. 47, "New Every Morning Is the Love"
The congregation stands.

Melcombe

GREETING

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 back of the church.

Psalm 121 *Levavi oculos*

Tone V.1

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills;
 from whence cometh my help?
My help cometh even from the Lord,
 who hath made heaven and earth.
He will not suffer thy foot to be moved;
 and he that keepeth thee will not sleep.
Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.
The Lord himself is thy keeper; the Lord is thy defence upon thy right hand;
 So that the sun shall not burn thee by day, neither the moon by night.
The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil;
 yea, it is even he that shall keep thy soul.
The Lord shall preserve thy going out, and thy coming in,
 from this time forth for evermore.

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

Genesis 12:1-4a

Pew Bible, pages 9 (OT)

ANTHEM

Drop, Drop, Slow Tears (2007)

Philip W. J. Stopford (b. 1977)

Drop, drop, slow tears,
and bathe those beautiful feet,
which brought from heaven
the news and Prince of Peace.

Cease not, wet eyes,
his mercies to entreat;

to cry for vengeance
sin doth never cease.

In your deep floods
drown all my faults and fears;
nor let his eye
see sin, but through my tears.

Phineas Fletcher (1582–1650)

SECOND LESSON

Hebrews 11:1–3; 8–13a

Pew Bible, pages 198–199 (NT)

PRAYER HYMN

The congregation remains seated.

Day by day, dear Lord, of thee three things I pray: to
see thee more clear - ly, love thee more dear - ly,
fol - low thee more near - ly, day by day.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

In unison:

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.

Following the Lord's Prayer, the Prayer Hymn is repeated.

ANTHEM

God Speaks to Each of Us (1999)

Gwyneth Walker (b. 1947)

God speaks to each of us as he makes us,
then walks with us silently out of the night.

These are the words we dimly hear:

You, sent out beyond your recall,
go to the limits of your longing.
Embody me.

Flare up like a flame
and make big shadows I can move in.

Let everything happen to you: beauty and terror.
Just keep going. No feeling is final.
Don't let yourself lose me.

Nearby is the country they call life.
You will know it by its seriousness.

Give me your hand.

Rainer Maria Rilke (1875–1926)

Translated by Joanna Macy and Anita Barrows

SERMON

Things Unseen

HYMN

No. 216, “O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High”
The congregation stands.

Deus tuorum militum

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Toccata-Carillon (1986)

Andreas Willscher (b. 1955)

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

Sunday, March 8, 2020

WELCOME

Today is the Second Sunday in Lent. The preacher is Professor Stephanie Paulsell, Interm Pusey Minister in the Memorial Church, Susan Shallcross Swartz Professor of the Practice of Christian Studies, Harvard Divinity School. The worship leaders are the Reverend Alanna C. Sullivan, Associate Minister in the Memorial Church and the Reverend Westley P. Conn, Ministry Fellow in the Memorial Church. The first lesson is read by KMarie Tejada MDiv III, Seminarian in the Memorial Church. The second lesson is read by Grace Killian MDiv III, Seminarian in the Memorial Church. The music is provided by the Harvard University Choir, Carson Cooman, Research Associate in Music and Composer and Residence, and David von Behren, Assistant 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 the respite space during worship.

Listening devices are available to help the hearing impaired participate in the service; please ask an usher for assistance.

MORNING PRAYERS

Monday: Jasmine Brown; Tuesday: Jeff Barneson MPA '95; Wednesday: Ann Braude; Thursday: Grace Killian MDiv III; Friday: Patrick Braga G2

ORGAN RECITALS

This afternoon at 4 pm, there will be an organ recital presented by Carson Cooman, Research Associate in Music and Composer in Residence in the Memorial Church, featuring music by Kris Rizzotto, Thomas Åberg, Linda Catlin Smith, and Bernard Heyes.

On Thursday, March 12 at 7:30 pm, there will be an organ recital presented by Daniel Forger '99 entitled “Math, Music and Music”, featuring performances of music by Johann Sebastian Bach.

FAITH FORMATION

Church School will not be held next Sunday, March 15, and will resume Sunday, March 22. The Church School offers Christian education classes for children of age three through sixteen. All classes are held during Sunday services in the Fall and Spring Terms. To register and learn more, please visit the Church School for Children page on our website.

For adults in the MemChurch community, the Faith and Life forum seeks to enrich our spirituality by promoting religious literacy and cultural competency. The Forum is held Sunday mornings during the Fall and Spring Terms in the Buttrick Room from 9:30 am to 10:30 am. Speakers include scholars, pastors, and other public figures whose work enhances our awareness

of the pivotal role religion plays across space and time. To learn about upcoming speakers, please visit the Faith & Life Forum page on our website. The Faith and Life Forum continues next Sunday, March 15 with Dudley Rose, Associate Dean for Ministry Studies, Harvard Divinity School.

THE PILGRIMAGE PROJECT

The Pilgrimage Reading Group will meet next on Wednesday, March 25, 7:00-8:30 pm in the Seminar Room of the Student Oasis. We will be discussing Valeria Luiselli's *Tell Me How It Ends: An Essay in Forty Questions*.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Harvard Square Homeless Shelter and Y2Y Harvard Square are short on volunteers for Harvard's Spring Break (March 14-22). During school breaks when students are not on campus, they rely on others in the Harvard community to help provide a warm, welcoming space for individuals experiencing homelessness in the community. Please contact Student Program Fellow Lara Glass (lara_glass@harvard.edu) or Ministry Fellow Wes Conn (westley_conn@harvard.edu) for information about how to sign up.

MUSIC NOTES

The English composer Philip W. J. Stopford has quickly become one of the most popular sacred choral composers of his generation. He began his career as a member of the choir of Westminster Abbey and was the director of the choir at St. Anne's Cathedral in Belfast. More recently, Stopford emigrated to the USA and is currently director of music at Christ Church in Bronxville, New York. The expressive anthem *Drop, Drop, Slow Tears* was originally written for his Belfast choir; the work is unified throughout by a musical motive that represents the falling of the tears.

American composer Gwyneth Walker has created works in many genres, and her music is frequently performed throughout the country. After several years on the faculty of Oberlin Conservatory, she left academic employment in the early 1980s to pursue a career as a full-time composer. Living for several decades on a dairy farm in rural Vermont, she more recently returned to her childhood hometown of New Canaan, Connecticut. *God Speaks to Each of Us*, a setting of an exquisite poem by Rainer Maria Rilke, was commissioned by Trinity Episcopal Church in Rutland, Vermont. The composer writes: "The poem by Rainer Maria Rilke provides an especially thoughtful and sensitive text. The central image is that of a God who 'walks with us silently out of the night.' God's spirit is within us, moves in our shadows and holds our hand. The musical setting takes the form of two waves of growth, each time returning to the central lines: 'God speaks to each of us as he makes us, and walks with us silently out of the night.' For, as we set out in life, we are constantly reminded that God is with us. The first wave moves from 'These are the words we dimly hear' to 'make big shadows I can move in.' And the second carries from 'Let everything happen to you' to 'give me your hand.' The closing section merges the words 'give

me your hand' and 'walks with us silently out of the night.' For, these are the essential images of the poetry. The final patterns of high sixteenth notes in the organ might be heard as stars."

Calvin Hampton, composer of today's organ prelude, was active for many years in New York City before his tragic death of AIDS in 1984. He spent most of his career as the music director at the Parish of Calvary-St. George's in New York City and was consultant for several significant organ projects. Some of his organ compositions have entered the standard American repertoire. "Lullaby" (the middle movement of his Suite No. 2) is constructed as a theme followed by three variations and a coda. The postlude is festive music by Andreas Willscher, a native of Hamburg and one of the most significant contemporary composers of German organ music.

LISTEN TO SUNDAY WORSHIP AND MORNING PRAYERS

Sunday services are broadcast on Harvard's radio station, WHRB 95.3 FM in term; a live stream of the service is available at whrb.org. Recordings of Sunday Worship Services and Sunday Sermons are available on our website, memorialchurch.harvard.edu, during the week following the service. Sunday Sermons and Morning Prayers are also available on SoundCloud at <http://bit.ly/sundaysermons> and <http://bit.ly/morningprayers> respectively, and on iTunes—search "Harvard Memorial Church" from your iTunes app.

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and **Instagram:** instagram.com/memchurch

Watch us on YouTube: youtube.com/memchurchharvard

NEXT SUNDAY'S SERVICE

Next Sunday is the Third Sunday in Lent. The preacher will be the The Reverend Westley P. Conn, Ministry Fellow in the Memorial Church.