

HARVARD

The Memorial Church



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Senior Sunday
Holy Baptism

Sunday, May 26, 2019
11 a.m.

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

King David's Dance (2002)

Stephen Paulus (1949–2014)

HYMN

No. 1, st. 1 & 4, "All People That on Earth Do Dwell"

Old Hundredth

The congregation standing

INVOCATION

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. 25, "When in Our Music God Is Glorified"

Engelberg

The congregation standing

THE BAPTISM

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Minister: Let us pray.

Gracious God, by our Baptism, you welcome us into the household of faith and open the way to new life in this world and the next. Receive this person who is baptized today, and strengthen us all to be your people in the world and a blessing to the Earth.

The congregation seated

Minister: I now invite the candidate for Holy Baptism to come forward.

Minister: Omar Sultan Haque, do you desire to be baptized?

Candidate: I do.

Minister: Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, will you turn from the ways of sin and trust in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, being his faithful disciple, obeying his word and showing his love?

Candidate: I will with God's help.

Minister: Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior?

Candidate: I do.

Minister: Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love, to your life's end?

Candidate: I will.

To the congregation:

Minister: Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support this person in his life in Christ?

People: We will.

Minister: Let us pray for this person who is to receive the Sacrament of new birth.

Litanist: Open his heart, O God, to your grace and truth.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Litanist: Fill him with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Litanist: Teach him to love others in the power of the Spirit.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Litanist: Send him into the world in witness to your love.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

BLESSING OF THE WATER

Minister: Bless by your Holy Spirit, gracious God, this water. By the same Holy Spirit save them who confess the name of Jesus Christ, that sin may have no power over them. Create new life in all who are baptized that they may rise in Christ. Glory to you, eternal God, the one who was, and is, and shall always be, world without end.

People: Amen.

THE BAPTISM

Minister: I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. You are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own forever.

PRAYER FOR THE BAPTIZED

Minister: Let us pray.

People: Eternal and loving God, give to this person receiving the Sacrament of Baptism an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. Amen.

Minister: Let us welcome the newly baptized.

People: We receive you, with joy, into the household of God, and into the priesthood of all believers.

THE PEACE

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

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 67 *Deus misereatur*

Edward Bairstow (1874–1946)

God be merciful unto us, and bless us,
and show us the light of his countenance, and be merciful unto us;
That thy way may be known upon earth,
thy saving health among all nations.
Let the peoples praise thee, O God;
yea, let all the peoples praise thee.
O let the nations rejoice and be glad;
for thou shalt judge the folk righteously, and govern the nations upon earth.
Let the peoples praise thee, O God;
yea, let all the peoples praise thee.
Then shall the earth bring forth her increase;
and God, even our own God, shall give us his blessing.
God shall bless us;
and all the ends of the world shall fear him.

DOXOLOGY

Sung by the congregation, standing

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

FIRST LESSON

John 5:1–9

Pew Bible, page 83 (NT)

ANTHEM

“Pilgrims’ Hymn” from *The Three Hermits* (1997)

Stephen Paulus

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.

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.

Michael Dennis Browne (b. 1940)

SECOND LESSON

John 14:23–29

Pew Bible, page 95 (NT)

PRAYER HYMN

Sung by the congregation, 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

Geistliches Lied, Op. 30 (1856)

Lass dich nur nichts nicht dauren mit Trauren,
sei stille, wie Gott es fügt,
so sei vergnügt mein Wille!

Was willst du heute sorgen auf morgen?
Der Eine steht allem für,
der gibt auch dir das Deine.

Sei nur in allem Handel ohn Wandel,
steh feste, was Gott beschleußt,
das ist und heißt das Beste.

Amen.

Johannes Brahms (1833–1897)

*Do not be sorrowful or regretful;
Be calm, as God has ordained,
And thus my will shall be content.*

*What do you want to worry about from day to day?
There is One who stands above all
Who gives you, too, what is yours.*

*Only be steadfast in all you do,
Stand firm; what God has decided,
That is and must be the best.*

Amen.

Paul Fleming (1609–1640)

SERMON

The Problem with Pity

Text: "When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, 'Do you want to be made well?'"

John 5:6

HYMN

No. 90, "God Be with You Till We Meet Again"

Randolph

The congregation standing

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Toccata-Improvisation

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, May 26, 2019

WELCOME

Today is the Sixth Sunday of Easter. The preacher is Professor Jonathan L. Walton, Plummer Professor of Christian Morals and Pusey Minister in the Memorial Church. The worship leaders are the Reverend Alanna C. Sullivan, Associate Minister in the Memorial Church; the Reverend Westley P. Conn, Ministry Fellow in the Memorial Church; and Aric B. Flemming MDiv III and KMarie Tejeda MDiv II, Seminarians in the Memorial Church. The music is provided by the Harvard University Choir, under the direction of Edward E. Jones, Gund University Organist and Choirmaster, and Thomas M. Sheehan, Associate University Organist and Choirmaster.

A “Baby Oasis” is available for young children and infants in the lower level of the church. Parents and their children are welcome to use this respite space during worship.

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

SUMMER SCHEDULE

The Memorial Church Sanctuary will be closed this summer for maintenance upgrades, starting Wednesday, July 3. Today is the last service of the spring term. Due to the planned renovations, worship services will not be held this summer. The sanctuary will reopen and worship services will resume in the fall on Sunday, September 1.

MUSIC NOTES

This morning I would like to thank the members of the Harvard University Choir for another wonderful year of music-making in the Memorial Church under the leadership of Senior Choir Secretary Theodora Mautz, whose dedication and devotion to UChoir over the past four years have been exemplary. It is with sadness that we say farewell to our graduands and leavers, and we wish them every success in their future endeavors.

Before his untimely death in the fall of 2014, Stephen Paulus was one of America's most prolific contemporary composers, especially well-known for his operas and choral music. "Pilgrims' Hymn" forms the poignant conclusion of the one-act church opera, *The Three Hermits* and has become one of Paulus's most widely-performed choral works.

Geistliches Lied is Johannes Brahms's earliest accompanied choral work, which was written as part of a series of compositional exercises that the composer traded with Joseph Joachim to improve his contrapuntal writing. The work is a strict double canon at the ninth across the four voices, and yet the sheer beauty of the vocal lines conceals the mathematical wizardry involved in such a contrapuntal feat.

Today also marks the final Sunday service for Thomas Sheehan, our wonderful associate organist and choirmaster who has served in the Memorial Church for the past five years. Tom's extraordinary talents as a musician have dazzled students, staff, and congregation on a daily basis, and we have all been nourished by his remarkable skills. In addition, Tom is the most gracious human being, a terrific colleague, and a dear friend. It has been a joy and an honor to work with him over these past five years, and I wish him every success in his new post as Organist of the National Cathedral in Washington, DC, where I know he will thrive. Tom's improvisations in Morning Prayers and Sunday services have become legendary, and it is only fitting that this morning's musical offerings conclude with one of these amazing displays.

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