

HARVARD

The Memorial Church



ORDER OF WORSHIP

The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 12, 2021

11 am

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Soliloquy (1996)

David Conte (b. 1955)

HYMN

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

Old Hundredth

The congregation stands and remains masked while singing.

CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 36 & Isaiah 2

Minister: Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the clouds.

People: Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains,
your judgments are like the great deep.

Minister: How precious is your steadfast love, O God!
All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

People: For with you is the fountain of life;
in your light we see light.

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"

Melcombe

The congregation stands and remains masked while singing.

THE PEACE & 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. Please donate online at <https://memorialchurch.harvard.edu/donate>. There also is the opportunity to share your offering at the end of the service. There will be offering plates in the Narthex where you can place your monetary gift or checks. Checks can be written to the Memorial Church with the memo line "Grants Committee."

Psalm 19:1–11, 14 *Cæli enarrant*

Chant by Stephen Darlington (b. 1952)

Sung by the choir

The heavens declare the glory of God;

and the firmament showeth his handiwork.

One day telleth another;

and one night certifieth another.

There is neither speech nor language;

but their voices are heard among them.

Their sound is gone out into all lands;

and their words into the ends of the world.

In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun;

which cometh forth as a bridegroom out of his chamber,

and rejoiceth as a giant to run his course.

It goeth forth from the uttermost part of the heaven,

and runneth about unto the end of it again;

and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.

The law of the Lord is an undefiled law, converting the soul;

the testimony of the Lord is sure, and giveth wisdom unto the simple.

The statutes of the Lord are right, and rejoice the heart;

the commandment of the Lord is pure, and giveth light unto the eyes.

The fear of the Lord is clean, and endureth for ever;

the judgments of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold;

sweeter also than honey, and the honeycomb.

Moreover, by them is thy servant taught;

and in keeping of them there is great reward.

Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart,

be always acceptable in thy sight,

O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

DOXOLOGY

The congregation stands and remains masked while singing.

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 50:4–9a

Pew Bible, page 594 (NT)

ANTHEM

“O Sun” from *September Sun* (2002)

David Conte

Grace, ceaseless and abounding,

Overwhelms us;

Descends, by way of

Death. Sweet, tragic death.

Waited upon the rising Sun that

Enveloped, in its warmth, with its rays,

Lives, that morning,

Lived in expectation.

(Sweet, tragic life!)

Innocent lives, it took, those

Not so blessed, too, perhaps. . . yet. . .

Just as God’s love shone

On good and bad alike, back then,

You shine, O Sun, you shine. . .

John Stirling Walker (1962–2011)

SECOND LESSON

Mark 8:27–38

Pew Bible, page 820 (NT)

ANTHEM

“Darkness Sang to the Light”

Ruth Watson Henderson (b. 1932)

from *From Darkness to Light* (2001)

Tell you, darkness was pierced by the rose
Which vanished in a sun. Tell you, it was
A sun of glory the singing rose was
Saying. From the rose to the woman.
From the woman to the man. From the man
To the sun. From the sun to the earth,
Beasts, and all creeping things. To the waters
Divided. To the light created. And the singing
Rose sang in the lap of Mary.

*And the night shall be no more; they need no light of lamp or sun,
For the Lord God will be their light.*

Darkness

Sang to the light and the kiss of love was peace.

Wilfred Watson (1911–1998) and Revelation 22:5a

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.

SERMON

HYMN

No. 285, "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

Cwm Rhondda

The congregation stands and remains masked while singing.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Angel's Farewell" from *The Dream of Gerontius*, Op. 38 (1900) *Edward Elgar (1857–1934)*
arr. Herbert Brewer (1865–1928)

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, September 12, 2021

WELCOME

Today is the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, the First Sunday of Fall Term. The preacher is the Reverend Matthew Ichihashi Potts, Pusey Minister in the Memorial Church, Plummer Professor of Christian Morals, Faculty of Divinity, Harvard University. The worship leaders are the Reverend Alanna C. Sullivan, Associate Minister and Director of Administration in the Memorial Church and the Reverend Calvin Jones, Assistant Minister in the Memorial Church. The first lesson is read by Laurie Sedgwick MDiv III. The second lesson is read by Theo Harper '25. The music is provided by the Harvard University Choir under the direction of Edward Elwyn Jones, Gund University Organist and Choirmaster and David von Behren, Assistant University Organist and Choirmaster.

MUSIC NOTES

David Conte is Professor of Music at San Francisco Conservatory and is particularly known for his widely-performed choral works. “O Sun” is an excerpt from *September Sun*, written in memory of those who perished on September 11, 2001. Setting a text by the poet and librettist John Stirling Walker, the work is slow-moving and contemplative; it was premiered at St. Bartholomew’s Church, New York City, in September 2002. Walker’s complete poem (of which “O Sun” forms the first half) is an acrostic poem, in which the first letters of each line reveal the message “God dwells in joy in the midst of sorrow.”

Canadian composer and pianist Ruth Watson Henderson has written prolifically in many genres and produced a catalog of more than 300 works. She was the longtime pianist for several of the most prominent choirs in Toronto and has specialized particularly in writing choral music. The large-scale cantata *From Darkness to Light* was commissioned by the American Guild of Organists and premiered at its 2002 National Convention in Philadelphia; its poignant closing section features luscious harmonies and a rich choral texture.

The prelude is Conte’s pensive *Soliloquy*: premiered at the Cleveland Museum of Art in 1996, it is dedicated to the organ builder Walter Holtkamp, Jr., in celebration of his legacy in that art. Sir Edward Elgar’s elegiac oratorio *The Dream of Gerontius* was written for the Birmingham Music Festival of 1900. A setting of words by John Henry Newman, the work’s closing section is a beautiful lullaby sung by the Guardian Angel; today’s organ arrangement was made by Elgar’s friend, Sir Herbert Brewer.

MORNING PRAYERS

Our daily service of Morning Prayers takes place at at 8:30 am. Monday: Laurie Sedgwick; Tuesday: Diana L. Eck; Wednesday: Matthew Ichihashi Potts; Thursday: Nathan Samayo MDiv II; Friday: Rita Powell

NEW STAFF MEMBERS

We are delighted to welcome three new staff members to the Memorial Church—the Reverend Calvin Jones as our Assistant Minister, Anna Burnham as our Student Program Coordinator, and Theresa Lungu as our Program Manager! We look forward to introducing them to the Memorial Church community during worship in the coming weeks.

COVID-19 GUIDELINES

The wellbeing of our visitors, students, and staff remains our top commitment at the Memorial Church. Harvard University continues to closely monitor the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and it is an ever-changing situation.

We are taking important steps to protect against COVID-19 as we prepare to resume in-person worship this fall term. We grateful for your assistance helping us to take these precautionary measures to prevent the spread of infection and to prioritize the wellbeing of our community, especially the most vulnerable in our midst.

We ask that all visitors, students, and staff abide by the following:

- All individuals will be masked indoors.
- All individuals/households will maintain a physical distance of six feet during services and other public events.
- All individuals/households will attest to the state of their health upon arrival. Individuals will be asked to leave if they have been diagnosed with COVID-19 and/or exhibiting symptoms with COVID-19.
- All individuals will refrain from public consumption of food and beverage indoors.

Please review the latest guidance for on-campus activity before attending services or other events on campus. Guidance may be subject to additions and changes based upon the distribution of the disease and local disease dynamics. We appreciate your understanding and patience during this time.

Some of the details of our worship life are altered to accommodate pandemic restrictions. Some of our programming has been adjusted to keep everyone safe. But what we hope you find entirely familiar will be the love and openness and welcome with which we intend to fill our church each day.

FAITH FORMATION

Church School and the Faith and Life Forum will begin on Sunday, October 3th.

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.

The Faith & Life Forum seeks to enrich our spirituality by promoting religious literacy and cultural competency. Speakers include scholars, pastors, and other public figures whose work enhances our awareness of the pivotal role religion plays across space and time. All are welcome to join.

More information, including registration details, about both programs are forthcoming.

Please look at our website for the latest and email Assistant Minister, Calvin Jones (calvon_jones@harvard.edu), with any questions.

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

Looking for a way to get more involved with the Memorial Church? Student Deacons might be the answer! Student Deacons is a volunteer, ecumenical Christian program involving both undergraduate and graduate students. Their service involves a ministry of hospitality and welcome during Sunday services and in the wider MemChurch community. If you're looking for a new opportunity for spiritual growth, please contact Student Program Coordinator, Anna Burnham (anna_burnham@harvard.edu), for more information!

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.

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*

NEXT SUNDAY'S SERVICE

Next Sunday is the Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost. The preacher is the Reverend Alanna C. Sullivan, Associate Minister and Director of Administration in the Memorial Church.