

HARVARD

The Memorial Church



ORDER OF WORSHIP

The Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

October 31, 2021

11 am

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

“Ich steh mit Fuß in einem Grabe” from BWV 156

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

Air from Suite No. 3 in D major, BWV 1068

transcribed for simultaneous violin and organ performance by David von Behren (b. 1994)

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. 5, “Now Thank We All Our God”

Nun danket alle Gott

The congregation stands and remains masked while singing.

THE PEACE & GREETING

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

OFFERTORY

The offering collected goes directly to fund the Memorial Church Grants Committee’s recipient organizations and their important work in our local communities. Ushers will begin collection from the front of the church. Checks can be written to the Memorial Church with the memo line “Grants Committee.” You may also donate online at <https://memorialchurch.harvard.edu/donate>

Psalm 119:1–8, 15–16 *Beati immaculati*

Chant by Kellow Pye (1812–1901)

Sung by the choir

Blessed are those that are undefiled in the way, and walk in the law of the Lord.

Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and seek him with their whole heart;

Even they who do no wickedness, and walk in his ways.

Thou hast charged that we shall diligently keep thy commandments.

O that my ways were made so direct, that I might keep thy statutes!

So shall I not be confounded, while I have respect unto all thy commandments.

I will thank thee with an unfeigned heart,

when I shall have learned the judgments of thy righteousness.

I will keep thy statutes; O forsake me not utterly.

I will talk of thy commandments, and have respect unto thy ways.

My delight shall be in thy statutes, and I will not forget thy word.

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

Ruth 1:1–18

Pew Bible, page 223 (OT)

ANTHEM

Bitten, Op. 48, No. 1 (ca. 1802)

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827)

Arranged by Waldemar Klink (1715–1769)

Gott, deine Güte reicht so weit die Wolken gehen;

du krönst uns mit Barmherzigkeit und eilst, uns beizustehen.

Herr, meine Burg, mein Fels, mein Hort,

vernimm mein Flehn merk auf mein Wort;

denn ich will vor dir beten.

O Lord, thy love is infinite and higher than the heaven;

Thy loving-kindness crowns our heads; thy help is freely given.

O Lord, my rock, my strength, my tower,

Incline thine ear; accept my prayer:

For I would stand before thee.

Christian Fürchtegott Gellert (1715–1759)

English translation by Jean Lunn (1933–2015)

SECOND LESSON

Mark 12:28–34

Pew Bible, page 42 (NT)

ANTHEM

Komm, Jesu, komm, BWV 229 (ca. 1731)

Komm, Jesu, komm, mein Leib ist müde,
die Kraft verschwindt je mehr und mehr,
ich sehne mich nach deinem Frieden;
der saure Weg wird mir zu schwer!
Komm, komm, ich will mich dir ergeben,
du bist der rechte Weg,
die Wahrheit und das Leben.

Drum schließ ich mich in deine Hände
und sage, Welt, zu guter Nacht!
Eilt gleich mein Lebenslauf zu Ende,
ist doch der Geist wohl angebracht.
Er soll bei seinem Schöpfer schweben,
weil Jesus ist und bleibt
der wahre Weg zum Leben.

Johann Sebastian Bach

*Come, Jesus, come, my body is weary,
My strength wanes more and more,
I long for your peace;
The sour path becomes too difficult for me!
Come, come, I will yield myself to you;
You are the true path,
Truth and life.*

*Therefore I enclose myself in your hands
And say goodnight to you, world!
Even though my lifetime rushes to its end,
My spirit is nevertheless prepared.
It shall soar with its Savior,
Since Jesus is and remains
The true path to life.*

Paul Thymich (1656–1694)

English translation by Pamela Dellal (b. 1960)

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. 281, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

Ein' feste burg

The congregation stands and remains masked while singing.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Wir gläuben all an einen Gott, BWV 680

Johann Sebastian Bach

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, October 31, 2021

WELCOME

Today is the Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost. The preacher is the Reverend Matthew Ichihashi Potts, Pusey Minister in the Memorial Church and 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; Laurie Sedgwick MDiv III; and Cheyenne Boon MDiv II. The first lesson is read by Emily Oster MTS II. The second lesson is read by Cheyenne Boon MDiv II. 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

Ludwig van Beethoven's very small output for choir is often lamented by singers and conductors. One common practice shortly after the composer's death was to arrange his instrumental works and solo songs for chorus—a practice that continues to this day; this morning we hear the composer Waldemar Klink's beautiful choral arrangement of the first of Beethoven's *Six Gellert Songs*.

Unlike the cantatas, Passions, and oratorios of Johann Sebastian Bach—which were written as part of his duties as cantor of St. Thomas's Church, Leipzig, and which were neglected for a long period after the composer's death—the six motets were written for specific private commissions, and have remained in the repertory since their inception. Mozart famously heard a performance of the first motet in 1789, and many credit this event with his subsequent interest in contrapuntal mastery. During Bach's lifetime, the German motet was already an antiquated form: the cantata held the position of prime importance within the service, and although motets were still sung, they were usually drawn from the existing repertory. BWV 229, "Komm, Jesu, komm" is a setting of Paul Thymich's paraphrase of John 14:6, originally written in 1684 for the funeral of Jacob Thomasius, rector of St. Thomas's school, and set to music by one of Bach's predecessors, Johann Schelle. Bach's setting uses only the first and last stanzas of Thymich's text, and was composed at some point prior to 1732. The motet is scored for eight-part chorus and is in the traditional motet-style, whereby each phrase of text is set to an enclosed musical phrase. Bach responds to this evocative text in a very personal and emotional way, with a strong sense of musical imagery employed throughout. Indeed Bach's true genius is here revealed: the ability to manipulate his encyclopedic knowledge of all compositional styles to the required *affekt* presented by the text, which in this case ranges from utter despair to joy and near ecstasy. A few examples will suffice: the initial sense of supplication heightened by the repetitions of the word "komm"; the dissonant intervals on the words "der saure Weg" ("the

bitter path”); the dance-like enthusiasm of “du bist der rechte Weg, die Wahrheit und das Leben” (“You are the way, the truth, and the life”). The motet ends with a beautiful chorale, probably of Bach’s own invention, filled with hope and anticipation at the thought of a heavenly union with “the true way of life.”

The composer Nicolaus Bruhns (whose organ works influenced those of Bach) is said to have sat on the organ bench playing the violin, accompanying himself on the pedals. Assistant Organist and Choirmaster David von Behren (an accomplished violinist himself) will perform exactly this feat during the prelude, with his own transcriptions of two of Bach’s beloved works. The postlude is taken from Bach’s monumental keyboard study, *Clavierübung*: four publications of the composer’s keyboard music, the third of which is devoted to organ music. *Wir gläuben all an einen Gott* is a setting of one of Luther’s Catechism hymns—a paraphrase of the Creed, whose melody was itself based on Credo IV from the *Liber usualis*. Nicknamed the “Giant” in English-speaking countries, the heavy-footed pedal part has often been interpreted as representing the steadfast foundations of faith.

MORNING PRAYERS

Our daily service of Morning Prayers takes place at 8:30 am. Monday: Leslie Jiménez ’09, Ed.LD ’21; Tuesday: Steve Watson; Wednesday: Matthew Ichihashi Potts; Thursday: Lawrence Jia ’23; Friday: Alta Mauro

CHORAL FELLOWS RECITAL

On Sunday, October 31 at 1:15 pm, the Choral Fellows of the Harvard University Choir will present a recital of works for chorus and piano, including choral cycles by Gwyneth Walker and Alfred V. Fedak.

THE OFFICE OF COMPLINE

On Thursday, November 4 at 9 pm, Compline, a twenty-minute candlelit evening service, will be sung by the Harvard University Choir, based upon the traditional evening liturgy of scripture, music, prayers, and silence.

HARVARD BAROQUE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA CONCERT

On Sunday, November 7 at 4 pm, the Harvard Baroque Chamber Orchestra will present a concert of works that represent G. F. Handel’s time in Italy. Countertenor Benjamin Perry Wenzelberg and cellist Phoebe Carrai will be featured soloists. Harvard ID or proof of vaccination required.

CHRISTOPH WOLFF MASTERCLASS PERFORMANCE

On Sunday, November 14 at 4 pm, noted Bach scholar and Adams University Professor *Emeritus* Christoph Wolff will lead the Harvard University Choir, the Harvard-Radcliffe Collegium Musicum, and the Harvard Baroque Chamber Orchestra in a masterclass performance featuring cantatas by Johann Sebastian Bach. Harvard ID or proof of vaccination required.

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. We are 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 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. Seating with physical distancing is available.

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.

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

FAITH & LIFE FORUM

The Faith & Life Forum of the Memorial Church explores matters of faith and public life. The Forum takes place in the Buttrick Room in the lower level of the Memorial Church from 9:30–10:30 am on Sundays. Each week we explore themes such as love, justice, suffering, and salvation in relation to the world in which we live. We learn from scholars and practitioners of religion, religious intellectuals, writers, activists, and artists whose work captures conceptions of the sacred and wrestles with the mysterious dimensions of life. All are welcome to join. Participants will need to register and attest to their health in order to participate in the weekly forum gatherings. There is both a virtual and in-person component. Please visit our website to learn more.

CHURCH SCHOOL

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 participate in the Church School program, parents or guardians need to register their children, and to attest to the state of their children's health weekly. Please visit our website to learn more or email Assistant Minister, Calvin Jones (calvon_jones@harvard.edu), with any questions.

The Rev. Jones and the Church School team are excited to announce the launch of our newly designed MemChurch School digital platform. Our children and families will have access to fun, exciting, and educational episodes, steeped in stories of love and humanity. Take a virtual journey to a digital place where the Bible comes to life. You can find episodes at: <https://bit.ly/3iUtEWW>

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!

AFTER-SCHOOL SNACK

Looking for a space to relax, connect with other students, and grab some good food towards the end of your week? Join Professor Potts, his family, and their dog Suki for weekly After-School Snack at Sparks House, 21 Kirkland St., Thursdays from 4-6 pm. Feel free to drop in and out as you need. Bring a friend!

SUPPER AT SPARKS HOUSE

Colette and Matt Potts would like to invite vaccinated members of the congregation to join them for small group, casual suppers at Sparks House over the coming months. If you would like to gather with Colette, Matt, and a few other Memorial Churchgoers for conversation and fellowship, please contact Elizabeth Montgomery (elizabeth_montgomery@harvard.edu). As Elizabeth gathers names, we will begin scheduling suppers to match the Pottses' and others' schedules over the coming months.

STUDENT OASIS

The Student Oasis in the lower level of the Memorial Church is a tranquil and relaxing space for study, for meeting friends and fellow students, even cooking a favorite meal in the full-service kitchen. Located in the heart of Harvard Yard, the Oasis is open daily to Harvard students during the academic term. For more information and the hours of operation, visit <https://memorialchurch.harvard.edu/studentoasis>

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 All Saints' Day. The preacher is the Reverend Matthew Ichihashi Potts, Pusey Minister in the Memorial Church and Plummer Professor of Christian Morals, Faculty of Divinity, Harvard University.

DONATE TO THE MEMORIAL CHURCH

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