

# HARVARD

The Memorial Church



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

---

The Second Sunday of Advent

December 6, 2020  
11 am

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

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

---

## PRELUDE

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland

*Nicolaus Bruhns (1665-1697)*

## THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*The first Advent candle, representing peace, is lit. During this time congregants are invited to light their Advent wreaths.*

*Leader:* He will come like frost.  
One morning when the shrinking earth  
opens on mist, to find itself  
arrested in the net  
of alien, sword-set beauty.

*People:* He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him.

*Leader:* Advent is a time of preparation and anticipation for the One who will lift up the low places, make the mountains small, and the uneven ground smooth. Today we light the candle of Peace, as we wait for Jesus to come again to turn violence into peace. Thanks be to God.

## HYMN

No. 91, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

*Veni Emmanuel*

*See end of worship bulletin. The congregation stands and sings.*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

*From Isaiah 40 and Isaiah 2:*

*Minister:* A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

*People:* Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;

*Minister:* The uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.

*People:* Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together."

*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. 94, "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"

*Genevan 42*

*See end of worship bulletin. The congregation stands and sings.*

## GREETING & THE PEACE

## 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." Give online at <https://memorialchurch.harvard.edu/donate>.*

"And the Glory of the Lord" from *Messiah*, HWV 56 (1741) *George Frideric Handel (1685–1759)*

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

Isaiah 40:5

## 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

Isaiah 40: 1–11

*from the New Revised Standard Version (OT)*

## ANTHEM

“And He Shall Purify” from *Messiah*, HWV 56 (1741)

*George Frideric Handel*

And he shall purify the sons of Levi, that they may offer  
unto the Lord an offering in righteousness

Malachi 3:3

## SECOND LESSON

Mark 1: 1–8

*from the New Revised Standard Version (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.*

## SERMON

Searching for the Beginning

## HYMN

No. 96, “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

*Winchester New*

*See end of worship bulletin. The congregation stands and sings.*

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

Improvisation on “Savior of the Nations, Come”

*Paul Manz (1919–2009)*

---

### 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, December 6, 2020

---

## WELCOME

Today is the Second Sunday of Advent. The preacher is Professor Stephanie Paulsell, Interim Pusey Minister in the Memorial Church, Susan Shallcross Swartz Professor of the Practice of Christian Studies, Harvard Divinity School. The service is led by the Reverend Alanna C. Sullivan, Associate Minister in the Memorial Church and the Reverend Westley P. Conn, Ministry Fellow in the Memorial Church. You will also hear the voices of some of the family members and friends with whom we are sheltering and for whose help with the liturgy we are most grateful. The first lesson is read by Alden Fossett '21, Student Deacon and Student Advisory Board. The second lesson is read by Howard Kaye Jr. The music for this Sunday's service is provided by Edward Elwyn Jones, Gund University Organist and Choirmaster. The offertory and anthem are taken from archival recordings of the Harvard University Choir and the Harvard Baroque Chamber Orchestra. The prelude and postlude this morning were recorded on the organ at First-Plymouth Church in Lincoln, Nebraska this past week by David von Behren, Assistant University Organist and Choirmaster.

Eric, Carey, and Liam Andersen light the second candle of Advent, representing peace. Liturgy for lighting the Advent candles is an adaptation of scripture, the German carol *Vom Himmel Hoch da komm ich her*, and the poem "Advent Calendar" by poet and priest, Rowan Williams.

## MUSIC NOTES

George Frideric Handel's most famous work, *Messiah*, was composed in London in 1741 and was premiered in Dublin in 1742. Handel repeatedly revised the work, which reached its most familiar version in a performance to benefit the Foundling Hospital in 1754. This morning's choral offerings come from a 2011 performance by the Harvard University Choir and the Harvard Baroque Chamber Orchestra, and feature two famous choruses from the work's opening part, subtitled by its librettist, Charles Jennens, "the prophecy and realization of God's plan to redeem mankind by the coming of the Messiah."

The German-Danish composer Nicolaus Bruhns was a pupil of Dietrich Buxtehude. Though his life was short, and very few of Bruhns's compositions survive, the pieces that exist are recognized as some of the finest works in the North German organ tradition. His fantasia on the familiar Advent chorale is a continuous work, though it is divided into clear sections. Each section develops a different phrase from the chorale's melody. Paul Manz was born in Cleveland and, following studies in Chicago, studied in Belgium with Flor Peeters and Germany with Helmut Walcha. In addition to an active career as recitalist, teacher, and composer, Manz had a long tenure at Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Manz was known for popularizing the genre of the "hymn festival" in America, where his performance of organ solos based on hymns would be interspersed with congregational singing. His influential and widely-played organ arrangements combined American style elements with the then-contemporary German neo-baroque chorale prelude style; today's postlude is a flashy toccata whose chorale melody is heard in the pedals.

## SUSTAINING PRACTICES FOR PERILOUS TIMES

Join the Harvard Chaplains for Sustaining Practices for Perilous Times, an opportunity to learn and share what keeps us going through these fractured and difficult days. This series will take place on Mondays from 5:00–5:30pm, concluding on December 14, and will feature members of the Harvard community offering insight into their personal spiritual practices. Each session will offer a chance to learn from a diversity of ways of creating and sustaining meaningful frameworks for living life in perilous times. Weekly themes will include connection through discussion, prayer, music, contemplative reading, embodied practice, and sabbath/Shabbat. Come every week or for a single session. Contact [Rachel\\_leiken@harvard.edu](mailto:Rachel_leiken@harvard.edu) with any questions. More information and registration is available at <https://guestlist.co/events/667452>

## INSTAGRAM LIVE

Join us on Instagram Live for a 10–15 minute reflection on a spiritual practice each Thursday at 7:00pm. Be sure to follow us *@memchurch!*

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Church School offers Christian education classes for children ages three through sixteen. All classes are held on Sundays in the Fall and Spring Terms from 10:00–10:45am. To register and learn more, please visit the Church School for Children page on our website. The Church School will conclude Sunday, December 20 and resume in the Spring Term.

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 from 9:30–10:30am. The Forum will continue next Sunday, December 13, with Professor Stephanie Paulsell, Interim Pusey Minister in the Memorial Church, Susan Shallcross Swartz Professor of the Practice of Christian Studies, Harvard Divinity School. To participate, please visit the Faith and Life Forum page on our website.

Contact Ministry Fellow, Rev. Westley (Wes) Conn ([westley\\_conn@harvard.edu](mailto:westley_conn@harvard.edu)) to learn more about opportunities for faith formation.

## WORSHIP

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](http://whrb.org). Recordings of Sunday Worship Services and Sunday Sermons are available on our website, [memorialchurch.harvard.edu](http://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 Third Sunday of Advent. The preacher will be the Reverend Westley P. Conn, Ministry Fellow in the Memorial Church.



## O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Veni veni Emmanuel

*Latin, 8th cent.?*

stanzas 1, 2: John Mason Neale, 1851, alt.

stanzas 3, 4: Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916

VENI EMMANUEL 88 88 88

*Plainsong, Mode 1**Processionale, 15th cent.*

adapt. Thomas Helmore, 1854

**unison**

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
 2 O come, thou Day - spring, now ap - pear and cheer us by thine  
 3 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, and or - der all things,  
 4 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind all peo - ples in one

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile  
 ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of  
 far and nigh; to us the path of knowl - edge  
 heart and mind; bid en - vy, strife, and quar - rels

**harmony**

here, un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 night, and death's dark shad - ows put to flight. Re -  
 show, and cause us in her ways to go.  
 cease; and fill the world with heav - en's peace.

joyce! Re-joyce! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

## Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

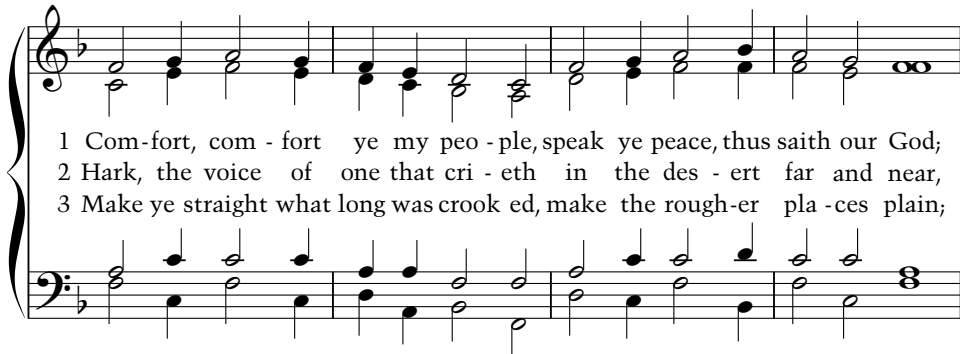
Tröstet, tröstet meine Lieben

Johannes G. Olearius, 1671

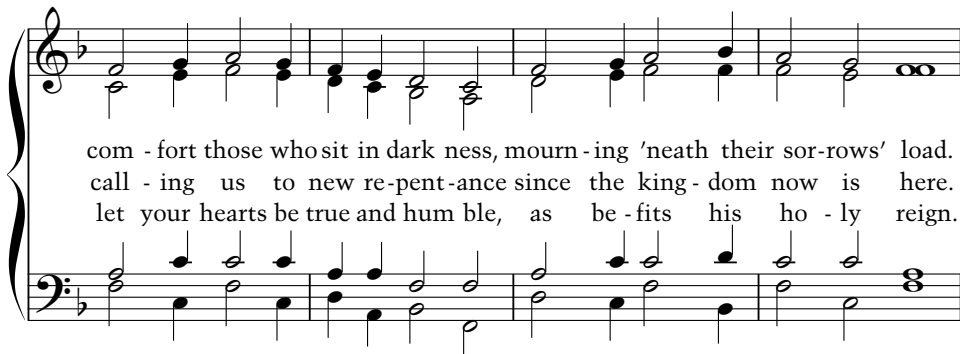
trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt.

GENEVAN 42 87 87 77 88

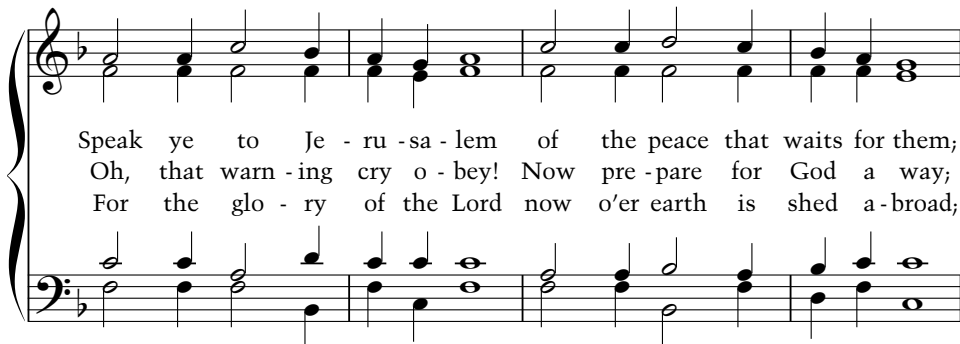
Claude Goudimel (1514-1572)



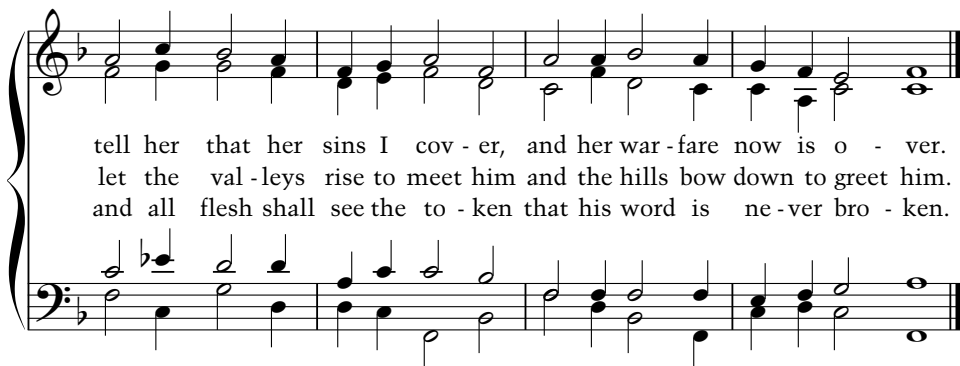
1 Com-fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus saith our God;  
2 Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert far and near,  
3 Make ye straight what long was crook ed, make the rough-er pla - ces plain;



com - fort those who sit in dark ness, mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load.  
call - ing us to new re - pent - ance since the king - dom now is here.  
let your hearts be true and hum ble, as be - fits his ho - ly reign.



Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;  
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;  
For the glo - ry of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;



tell her that her sins I cov - er, and her war - fare now is o - ver.  
let the val - leys rise to meet him and the hills bow down to greet him.  
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that his word is ne - ver bro - ken.

## On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

Jordanis oras prævia  
 Charles Coffin, 1736  
 trans. John Chandler, 1837, alt.

WINCHESTER NEW LM  
 Musicalisch Hand-Buch, 1690  
 harm. William Henry Monk, 1847, alt.

1 On Jor - dan's bank the bap - tist's cry an -  
 2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin, make  
 3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our  
 4 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose

nounc - es that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,  
 straight the way for God with - in! Yea, let us each our  
 ref - uge and our great re - ward; once more up - on thy  
 ad - vent sets thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther

for he brings glad tid - ings from the King of kings.  
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.  
 peo - ple shine and fill the world with love di - vine.  
 we a - dore and Ho - ly Ghost for ev - er - more.