

HARVARD

The Memorial Church



ORDER OF WORSHIP

The Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 15, 2019

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 599
Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

HYMN

No. 91, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Veni Emmanuel

The congregation standing.

During the singing of this hymn, the third Advent candle, representing joy, is lit.

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. 106, “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Stuttgart

GREETING AND THE PEACE

All are invited to join in 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. Checks can be written to the Memorial Church with the memo line "Grants Committee." Ushers will begin collection from the back of the church.

Öffne dich mein ganzes Herze, BWV 61

Johann Sebastian Bach

Öffne dich, mein ganzes Herze,

Open yourself, my whole heart,

Jesus kömmt und ziehet ein.

Jesus comes and enters in.

Bin ich gleich nur Staub und Erde,

Even though I am only dust and earth,

Will er mich doch nicht verschmähn,

yet He does not scorn

Seine Lust an mir zu sehn,

to reveal His joy to me,

Daß ich seine Wohnung werde.

so that I may be His dwelling.

O wie selig werd ich sein!

O how happy will I be!

DOXOLOGY

Sung by the congregation, standing

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly host,

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 35:1–10

Pew Bible, page 622–623 (OT)

ANTHEM

Mein Freund ist mein, BWV 140

Johann Sebastian Bach

Mein Freund ist mein,

My Friend is mine,

–und ich bin dein,–

–and I am yours,–

die Liebe soll nichts scheiden.

love will never part us.

Ich will mit dir

I will with You

–du sollst mit mir–

–you will with Me–

im Himmels Rosen weiden,

graze among heaven's roses,

da Freude die Fülle, da Wonne wird sein.

where complete pleasure and delight will be.

SECOND LESSON

Luke 1:39–56

Pew Bible, page 49 (NT)

PRAYER HYMN

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

Streite, siege, starker Held! BWV 62

Johann Sebastian Bach

Streite, siege, starker Held!

O Struggle, conquer, powerful hero!

Sei vor uns im Fleische kräftig!

Be mighty for us in the flesh!

Sei geschäftig,

Be effective,

Das Vermögen in uns Schwachen Stark zu machen!

to strengthen the potential in us, the weak!

SERMON

Believing Into Being

HYMN

No. 211, "Tell Out, My Soul, the Greatness of the Lord"

Woodlands

The congregation standing

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Fugue on the Magnificat, BWV 733

Johann Sebastian Bach

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 15, 2019

WELCOME

Today is the Third Sunday of Advent. The preacher is the Rev. Alanna C. Sullivan, Associate Minister in the Memorial Church. The worship leaders are Professor Stephanie Paulsell, Interim Pusey Minister in the Memorial Church, Susan Shallcross Swartz Professor of the Practice of Christian Studies, Harvard Divinity School, the Rev. Westley P. Conn, Ministry Fellow in the Memorial Church, and KMarie Tejada MDiv III, Seminarian in the Memorial Church. The first lesson is read by Lauren Church '21. The second lesson is read by Jeromel Lara '23. The music is provided by the Harvard University Choir, under the direction of Edward E. Jones, Gund University Organist and Choirmaster, and David von Behren, Assistant University Organist and Choirmaster. The Larson and Hoffman family will light the third candle of Advent, representing joy.

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. Audio from the service streams in the Baby Oasis.

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

MORNING PRAYERS

Morning Prayers have ended for the Fall Term and will resume in the Spring Term.

FAITH FORMATION

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. Church School concludes for the Fall Term today, December 15. 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 concludes for the Fall Term today, December 15 with Stephanie Paulsell, Interim Pusey Minister in the Memorial Church; Susan Shallcross Swartz Professor of the Practice of Christian Studies, Harvard Divinity School. To learn about upcoming speakers, please visit the Faith & Life Forum page on our website.

Contact Ministry Fellow, Westley (Wes) Conn (westley_conn@harvard.edu) for more information about faith formation at MemChurch.

MUSIC NOTES

Advent music of Johann Sebastian Bach comprises today's musical offering. Soprano Isabella Kopits '20 and baritone Henrique Neves '22 (both Choral Fellows) present movements from Bach's two cantatas based on the chorale *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland* (Savior of the nations, come) alongside the famous duet from *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme* (Sleepers wake, calls the voice to us).

The prelude begins with a setting of *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland* that opens Bach's Orgelbüchlein (Little organ book) collection; and continues with an organ arrangement that Bach himself made of a movement from Cantata 140. The postlude is Bach's *Fugue on the Magnificat* ("Meine seele erhebet den Herren") which is deliberately written in the old-fashioned style of a sixteenth-century fantasia; the complete iteration of the melody is saved until the very end, when it appears as a *cantus firmus* in the pedals.

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 wrb.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](https://www.facebook.com/harvardmemorialchurch)

Follow us on Twitter: twitter.com/memchurch

and **Instagram:** [instagram.com/memchurch](https://www.instagram.com/memchurch)

Watch us on YouTube: [youtube.com/memchurchharvard](https://www.youtube.com/memchurchharvard)

NEXT SUNDAY'S SERVICE

Next Sunday is the Fourth Sunday of Advent. The preacher will be the Rev. Laura Everett, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Council of Churches.

For more information on upcoming services and events:
memorialchurch.harvard.edu • [facebook.com/harvardmemorialchurch](https://www.facebook.com/harvardmemorialchurch) • twitter.com/memchurch
To subscribe to the Memorial Church e-mail list, visit our website: memorialchurch.harvard.edu

