

HARVARD

The Memorial Church



ORDER OF WORSHIP

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 19, 2021

11 am

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Advent Medley (2020)

Pastorale on “Forest Green” (1949)

Eurydice V. Osterman (b. 1950)

Richard Purvis (1913–1994)

HYMN IN PROCESSION

No. 91, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

The congregation stands and remains masked while singing.

Veni Emmanuel

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.

During this litany, the fourth Advent candle is lit.

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

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>

“Der ewig reiche Gott”

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

from *Nun danket alle Gott*, BWV 192 (ca. 1730)

Der ewig reiche Gott
Woll uns bei unserm Leben
Ein immer fröhlich Herz
Und edlen Frieden geben
Und uns in seiner Gnad
Erhalten fort und fort
Und uns aus aller Not
Erlösen hier und dort.

*The ever bounteous God
wishes to give us in our lifetime
an ever joyful heart
and noble peace,
and to sustain us in his grace
from now on,
and to save us from all suffering
here and elsewhere.*

*Martin Rinckart (1586–1649)
English translation by Pamela Dellal*

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

Micah 5:2–5a

Pew Bible, page 818 (OT)

ANTHEM

“Rejoice Greatly” from *Messiah* (1742)

George Frideric Handel (1685–1759)

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem!

Behold, thy King cometh unto thee; he is the righteous Savior,

and he shall speak peace unto the heathen.

Zechariah 9:9–10

SECOND LESSON

Luke 1:39–45, 46–55

Pew Bible, page 49 (NT)


ANTHEM

Gesù bambino (1917)

Pietro Yon (1886–1943)

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. 211, "Tell Out, My Soul, the Greatness of the Lord"
The congregation stands and remains masked while singing.

Woodlands

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Variations on a Basque Noël, Op. 1212 (2017)

Carson Cooman '04 (b. 1982)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, December 19th, 2021

WELCOME

Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent. The preacher is the Reverend Alanna C. Sullivan, Associate Minister and Director of Administration in the Memorial Church. The worship leaders are Laurie Sedgwick MDiv III and Cheyenne Boon MDiv II. The music is provided by Edward Elwyn Jones, Gund University Organist and Choirmaster; David von Behren, Assistant University Organist and Choirmaster; and Benjamin Perry Wenzelberg '21.

MUSIC NOTES

This morning's music features the amazing Benjy Wenzelberg, who has been a mainstay of the musical life in this church for the past five years, and who is graduating this month. One of the most prodigiously talented students I have encountered, Benjy is also a lovely human being, and it has been a privilege to work with him during his time at Harvard. Fortunately, Benjy will be around for much of next semester as he leads the Lowell House Opera in the premiere of his *Nighttown*, based on an episode from James Joyce's *Ulysses*. Benjy's libretto served as his senior thesis in the English department, and his brilliant musical score is certain to make a tremendous impact in the musical world.

MORNING PRAYERS

Our daily service of Morning Prayers takes place at 8:30 am. Morning Prayers has ended for the Fall Term and will resume for the Spring Term on January 24.

CHRISTMAS EVE AND JANUARY SERVICES

A Christmas Eve service will be held on Friday, December 24 at 5 pm. The preacher will be the Reverend Matthew Ichihashi Potts, Pusey Minister in the Memorial Church and Plummer Professor of Christian Morals, Faculty of Divinity. Due to current COVID-19 safety protocols, we are not able to invite members of the community to join the impromptu community choir this year. There will be no Sunday service on December 26 or January 2. Sunday services will resume on January 9.

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 of 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, Calvon 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!

PBHA STUDENT VOLUNTEERS

The Phillips Brooks House Association is seeking student volunteers who will be in the Cambridge area anytime between December 19–January 23 for assistance at the Harvard Square Homeless Shelter and Y2Y. For more information, contact: hsbs.volunteer@gmail.com and volunteer@y2yharvardsquare.org

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 wbrb.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.

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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*

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