

HARVARD

The Memorial Church



ORDER OF WORSHIP



The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 22, 2019

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Peace, Salaam, Shalom
Christmas is Coming
Feliz Navidad

Pat Humphries (b. 1960)
Traditional English Round
Pat Humphries (b. 1945)

HYMN

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

Veni Emmanuel

The congregation standing.

During the singing of this hymn, the fourth Advent candle, representing Love, 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. 95, "Watchman, Tell Us of the Night"

Aberystwyth

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.

Stille Nacht/Silent Night

Franz Gruber (1781–1863)

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

Psalms 139:1–18

Pew Bible, page 540–541 (OT)

ANTHEM

We Will Rise Up Together

Jim Papoulis (b. 1964)

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 1:18–25

Pew Bible, page 1 (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

Al Shlosa D'varim

Allan Naplan (b. 1972)

SERMON

A Shameless Christmas

Text: "Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly."

Matthew 1:19

HYMN

No. 109, "People, Look East, the Time Is Near"

Besançon

The congregation standing

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Introduction et Variations sur un Ancien Noël Polonais *Alexandre Guilmant (1837–1911)*

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 22, 2019

WELCOME

Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent. The preacher is the Rev. Laura Everett MDiv '04, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Council of Churches. 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. Alanna C. Sullivan, Associate Minister in the Memorial Church, and the Rev. Aric Flemming MDiv '19, Worship Leader in the Memorial Church. The first lesson is read by Dori Hale. The second lesson is read by Franz Lepionka. Today's choral music is provided by VOICES Boston, under the direction of Steven Lipsitt. The Lim and Tom family will light the fourth candle of Advent, representing Love.

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.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

The Memorial Church's Christmas Eve service will be held December 24, at 5 pm. If you would like to sing in the volunteer choir, please arrive at 3:30 pm in Appleton Chapel.

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 has concluded for the Fall Term. 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 has concluded for the Fall Term. 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.

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 SERVICE: JANUARY 5

There will be no service on Sunday, December 29, in observance of the university's winter recess. The next service will be the Second Sunday after Christmas Day, on Sunday, January 5. The preacher will be Minister Kevin P. Bryant, Affiliated Minister in the Memorial Church of Harvard University; Harvard University Baptist Chaplain; Security Services Coordinator, Diversity/Community Liaison & Police Chaplain, Harvard University Police Department.

For more information on upcoming services and events:

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To subscribe to the Memorial Church e-mail list, visit our website: memorialchurch.harvard.edu

