

HARVARD

The Memorial Church



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Christmas Eve
Holy Communion

Thursday, December 24, 2015

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

- Noël “Étranger” sur les jeux d’anches *Louis-Claude Daquin (1694–1772)*
- Gelobet seist du, Jesu Christ, BuxWV 188 *Dieterich Buxtehude (c. 1637/39–1707)*
- Symphonie gothique, op. 70
II. Andante sostenuto *Charles-Marie Widor (1844–1937)*
- Variations sur un Noël angevin *Gaston Litaize (1909–1991)*

HYMN

- No. 120, verses 1–3, “O Come All Ye Faithful” *Adeste Fideles*
Sung by all, the congregation standing

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

HYMN

- No. 120, verses 4–5, “O Come All Ye Faithful” *Adeste Fideles*
Sung by all, the congregation standing

COLLECT FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Minister: Let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true light. Grant that we, who receive the Christ child this night, may bring light to a world that awaits his dawning grace. Startle us in these moments and give us deep and abiding peace. Amen.

The congregation seated

LESSON FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 9:2–7

Pew Bible, page 598 (OT)

ANTHEM

Nativity Carol

John Rutter (b. 1945)

Born in a stable so bare,
Born so long ago;
Born 'neath light of star
He who loved us so.

*Far away, silent he lay,
Born today, your homage pay,
Christ is born for aye,
Born on Christmas Day.*

Cradled by mother so fair,
Tender her lullaby;
Over her son so dear
Angel hosts fill the sky.

Wise men from distant far land,
Shepherds from starry hills
Worship this babe so rare,
Hearts with his warmth he fills.

Love in that stable was born
Into our hearts to flow;
Innocent dreaming babe,
Make me thy love to know.

GREETINGS

THE PEACE

All are welcome to join in the singing of Hymn 27, Verse 1

OFFERTORY

Still, Still, Still

*Traditional Austrian Carol
Arranged by Norman Luboff (1917–1987)*

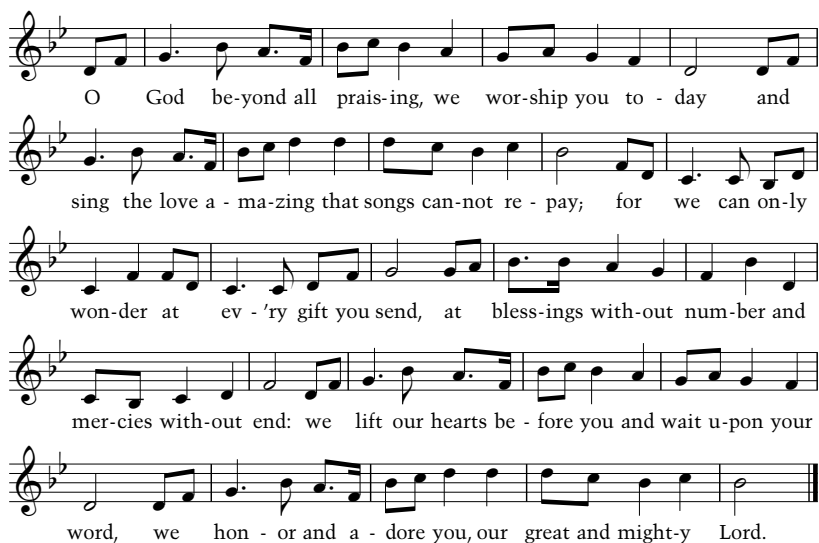
Still, still, still, one can hear the falling snow.
For all is hushed, the world is sleeping,
Holy star its vigil keeping.
Still, still, still, one can hear the falling snow.

Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'tis the eve of our Savior's birth.
The night is peaceful all around you,
Close your eyes, let sleep surround you.
Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'tis the eve of our Savior's birth.

Dream, dream, dream, of the joyous day to come.
While guardian angels without number
Watch you sweetly as you slumber.
Dream, dream, dream, of the joyous day to come.

Marilyn Bergman (b. 1929) and Alan Bergman (b. 1925)

Here an offering is received for the work of the Church within and beyond the University. Ushers will begin the collection from the back of the Church forward.



O God be-yond all prais-ing, we wor-ship you to - day and
sing the love a - ma-zing that songs can-not re - pay; for we can on-ly
won-der at ev - 'ry gift you send, at bless-ings with-out num-ber and
mer-cies with-out end: we lift our hearts be - fore you and wait u-pon your
word, we hon - or and a - dore you, our great and might-y Lord.

Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1921, alt.

Text: Michael Perry, © by Jubilate Hymns, Ltd. (admin. by Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188).

LESSON FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

Luke 2:1-20

Pew Bible, pages 50-51 (NT)

HYMN

No. 113, "O Little Town of Bethlehem"
The congregation standing

St. Louis

SERMON

HYMN

No. 131, "Jesus, the Light of the World"
The congregation standing

We'll Walk in the Light

ORDER FOR HOLY COMMUNION

All are welcome to share in the Lord's Supper without regard to denomination.

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Minister: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Minister: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them to the Lord.
Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.
The minister continues:

It is truly right, good, and joyful to give you thanks, all holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to the fullness of life. Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, we lift our voices as we sing:

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

Organ Congregation

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,

7
hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

12
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The congregation may be seated.
The minister continues with the Eucharistic prayer.

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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The minister says:
The Gifts of God for the People of God. Holy food for the journey of life.

AT THE COMMUNION

Communicants will proceed to the foot of the chancel steps at the direction of the ushers and will return to their seats by the side aisles. Grape juice is in the outer cup and wine is in the inner cup. At the giving of the bread and the cup, the people respond with "Amen."

ANTHEM

"Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" from *Cantata No. 147*

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

Jesu, joy of man's desiring,
Holy wisdom, love most bright;
Drawn by thee, our souls aspiring
Soar to uncreated light.

Word of God, our flesh that fashioned,
With the fire of life impassioned,
Striving still to truth unknown,
Soaring, dying round thy throne.

Through the way where hope is guiding,
Hark, what peaceful music rings;
Where the flock, in thee confiding,
Drink of joy from deathless springs.

Theirs is beauty's fairest pleasure;
Theirs is wisdom's holiest treasure.
Thou dost ever lead thine own
In the love of joys unknown.

HYMN

No. 65, "Let Us Break Bread Together"
The congregation standing

Let Us Break Bread

THE PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION

At the conclusion of the Communion, the minister says:

Let us all pray:

Eternal God, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with the spiritual food of Christ's Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN

No. 115, "Silent Night, Holy Night"
The congregation standing

Stille Nacht

THE CHRISTMAS BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella

French Carol, arr. Keith Chapman (1945–1989)

PREACHER

*Professor Jonathan L. Walton, Plummer Professor of Christian Morals
and Pusey Minister in the Memorial Church*

LESSONS

*First Lesson: Valerie Erroc
Second Lesson: Marc Johnson*

SERVICE LED BY

Memorial Church Staff:

*Professor Jonathan L. Walton; the Reverend Dr. Lucy A. Forster-Smith, Sedgwick Chaplain to Harvard
University and Senior Minister in the Memorial Church; and the Reverend Alanna Copenhagen,
Ministry Fellow in the Memorial Church.*

Affiliated Ministers:

*The Reverend Gregory W. McGonigle
The Reverend Dr. Robert M. Randolph
The Reverend Dr. Emily Click*

Friends of the Memorial Church:

*The Reverend Martin Copenhagen
John Click
Amy Click*

MUSIC

*The Memorial Church Community Choir is directed by Edward E. Jones, Gund University Organist
and Choirmaster; the organist is Thomas Sheehan, Assistant University Organist and Choirmaster.*

*For more information on upcoming services and events, please visit our website at
memorialchurch.harvard.edu. You can also find us on Facebook
(facebook.com/memorialchurch) and Twitter (twitter.com/MemChurch).*

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