

HARVARD

The Memorial Church



ORDER OF WORSHIP

The Commemoration of the Fourth Sunday of Advent
Christmas Eve
Holy Communion

Sunday, December 24, 2017

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Veni Redemptor gentium, SSWV 149

Samuel Scheidt (1587–1654)

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.

INVOCATION

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

PRAYER FOR ADVENT

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Minister: Let us pray.

Prepare in us, Almighty God, a place in our hearts where your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a spirit of love and the desire to welcome peace; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

HYMN

No. 109, “People, Look East, the Time Is Near”

Besançon

The congregation remains standing.

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:2–7

Perw Bible, page 598 (OT)

ANTHEM

Gabriel's Message (arr. 1892)

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
"All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

"For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honor thee,
Thy son shall be Emmanuel,
by seers foretold,
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!"

Basque carol, arr. Edgar Pettman (1866–1943)

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,
"My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name."
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world
will ever say,

"Most highly favored lady, Gloria!"

Sabine Baring-Gould (1834–1924), after Basque carol

GREETING

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.

"Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring"

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

from *Herz und Mund und That und Leben*, BWV 147 (1723) *Edited by Hugh Allen (1869–1946)*
Sung by the choir

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.

Martin Janus (ca. 1620–ca. 1682), translated by Robert Bridges (1844–1930)

DOXOLOGY

Sung by the congregation, standing

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

COLLECT FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Minister: Let us pray.

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

ANTHEM

Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light *Melody by Johann Schop (ca. 1590–1667)*
Harmony by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light,
And usher in the morning;
O shepherds, shrink not with affright,
But hear the angel's warning.
This child, now weak in infancy,
Our confidence and joy shall be;
The power of Satan breaking,
Our peace eternal making.

Johann von Rist (1607–1667), English translation by John Troutbeck (1832–1899)

During the singing of the Anthem, the Christ candle is lit.

SECOND LESSON

Luke 2:1–20

Pew Bible, pages 50–51 (NT)

HYMN

The congregation standing

No. 120, st. 1-3, "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Adeste, fideles

SERMON

From Stable to Table

Text: "This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

Luke 2:12

HYMN

The congregation standing

No. 120, st. 4 & 5, "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

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.

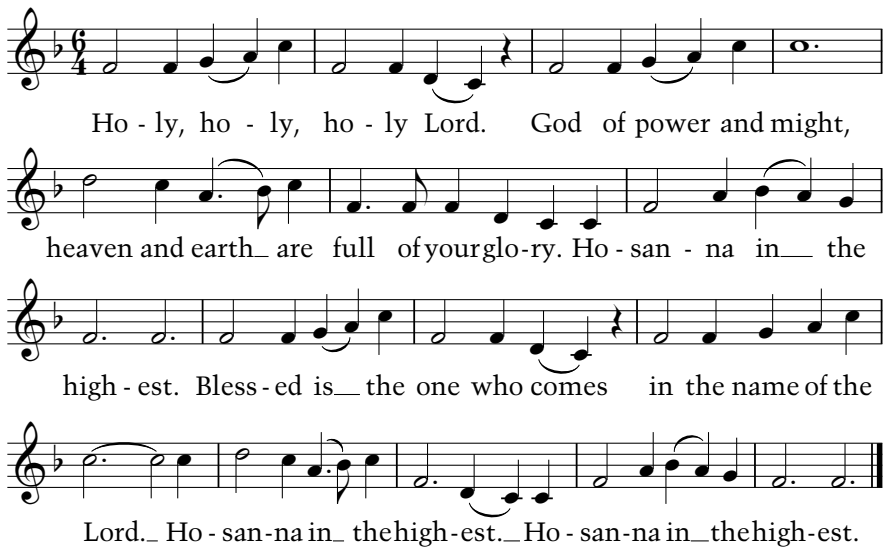
Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The minister continues:

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, all holy God, creator of heaven and earth. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us this day in a lowly crib; who, by the power of the Holy Spirit and through the joy of the Virgin Mary his mother, took on human form to live in poverty among us; so that we might be freed from the bonds of sin and receive new life to become your children. Therefore we rejoice with all of creation, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the choirs of heaven, who forever sing this hymn of praise and glory to your name:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord. God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san-na in the high-est. Ho - san-na in the high-est.

The congregation may be seated.

The minister continues with the Eucharistic Prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Said in unison:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The minister says:

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Holy food for the journey of life. Come now, for all things are ready.

Joy to the World (1836)

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
Let earth receive her king;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns:
Let us our songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy.

after George Frideric Handel (1685–1759)

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love.

Isaac Watts (1674–1748), alt.

HYMN

No. 65, “Let Us Break Bread Together”

The congregation standing

Let Us Break Bread

PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION

Minister: Let us pray.

Eternal God, you have indeed opened the heavens and come down among us, making each person an invited guest at your table, filling us with the bread of heaven and the cup of salvation, and assuring the world of your goodness and that we are your beloved. Send us now from this place to be like the shining star so that we too, with your Spirit, may be a light showing the way to love and life; through Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

HYMN

No. 121, “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

Mendelssohn

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella (1979)

Keith Chapman (1945–1989)

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 24, 2017

WELCOME

Today is Christmas Eve. The preacher is the Reverend Alanna C. Sullivan, Associate Minister in the Memorial Church. The service is led by the Reverend Westley P. Conn, Ministry Fellow in the Memorial Church; Minister Kevin Bryant, the Reverend Gregory W. McGonigle, the Reverend Dr. Stephanie Paulsell, and the Reverend Dudley Rose, Affiliated Ministers in the Memorial Church; and the Reverend Martin B. Copenhagen, President, Andover-Newton Theological School. The first lesson is read by Jorden Sharick MDiv '15, G3. The second lesson is read by Amanda Sharick. The music is provided by the Memorial Church Community Choir, under the direction of Edward E. Jones, Gund University Organist and Choirmaster; and Thomas M. Sheehan, Associate University Organist and Choirmaster. The Lim family will light the fourth Advent candle, representing love.

A crying room 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, complete with an audio broadcast of the service.

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

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.

For more information on upcoming services and events:

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