

# HARVARD

The Memorial Church



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

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The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ: Christmas Eve  
Holy Communion

Tuesday, December 24, 2019

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

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

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## PRELUDE

Greensleeves

*Richard Purvis (1913–1994)*

## HYMN

No. 120, “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

*Adeste Fideles*

*The congregation standing.*

*During the singing of this hymn, the Christ Candle and Advent wreath are lit.*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

*Minister:* Alleluia. To us a child is born;  
O come, let us adore him.

*People:* Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God’s people on earth.

*Minister:* God is our everlasting light;  
God has shown forth glory.

*People:* The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness did not overcome it.

*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. 111, “It Came upon the Midnight Clear”

*Carol*

## 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.*

## ANTHEM

*Sung by the choir*

What Child Is This? (1871)

*Traditional English, arr. John Stainer (1840–1901)*

What child is this, who, laid to rest,

Why lies he in such mean estate

On Mary's lap is sleeping?

Where ox and ass are feeding?

Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,

Good Christian, fear: for sinners here

While shepherds watch are keeping?

The silent word is pleading.

*This, this is Christ the king,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring him laud,  
The babe, the son of Mary.*

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,  
Come, peasant, king, to own him;  
The king of kings salvation brings,  
Let loving hearts enthrone him.

*William Chatterton Dix (1837–1898)*

## 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 52:7–10

*Pew Bible, page 642 (OT)*

## ANTHEM

A Stable Lamp Is Lighted (1983)

*David Hurd (b. 1950)*

A stable lamp is lighted

This child through David's city

Whose glow shall wake the sky;

Shall ride in triumph by;

The stars shall bend their voices,

The palm shall strew its branches,

And every stone shall cry.

And every stone shall cry.

And every stone shall cry,

And every stone shall cry;

And straw like gold shall shine;

Though heavy, dull, and dumb,

A barn shall harbor heaven,

And lie within the roadway

A stall become a shrine.

To pave his kingdom come.

Yet he shall be forsaken,  
And yielded up to die;  
The sky shall groan and darken,  
And every stone shall cry.  
And every stone shall cry,  
For stony hearts of men:  
God's blood upon the spear-head,  
God's love refused again.

But now, as at the ending,  
The low is lifted high;  
The stars shall bend their voices,  
And every stone shall cry.  
And every stone shall cry,  
In praises of the child  
By whose descent among us  
The worlds are reconciled.

*Richard Wilbur AM '47 (1921–2017)*

## SECOND LESSON

Luke 2:1–20

*Peru Bible, page 50–51 (NT)*

## HYMN

No. 113, st. 1–3, “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

*St. Louis*

*The congregation standing*

## SERMON

Written on the Heart

## HYMN

No. 113, st. 4–5, “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

*The congregation standing*

## 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. You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. In the fullness of time you gave your only Son Jesus Christ to be our Savior, and at his birth the angels sang glory to you in the highest and peace to your people on earth. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## 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

*In unison, at the invitation of the presider:*

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.

## 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.

## AT THE COMMUNION

*Communicants will proceed at the direction of the ushers. Cross arms to indicate preference of receiving a blessing instead of being served Communion. Grape juice is in the outer cup and wine is in the inner cup. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. At the giving of the bread and the cup, the people respond with "Amen."*

## ANTHEM

Still, Still, Still (1958)

*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 as you sweetly slumber.  
Dream, dream, dream, of the joyous day to come.

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

## HYMN

No. 65, "Let Us Break Bread Together"

*Let Us Break Bread*

*The congregation standing*

## PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION

*At the conclusion of the distribution, the presider says:*

Let us 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 his 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”

*Stille Nacht*

*The congregation standing*

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

Toccata on “Antioch”

*Craig Phillips (b. 1961)*

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### 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, 2019

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## WELCOME

Today is Christmas Eve. The preacher is Professor Stephanie Paulsell, Interim Pusey Minister in the Memorial Church, Susan Shallcross Swartz Professor of the Practice of Christian Studies, Harvard Divinity School. The service is led by Professor Emmanuel K. Akyeampong, Minister of Formation and Worship in the Memorial Church, Ellen Gurney Professor of History and Professor of African and African American Studies, Oppenheimer Faculty Director of the Harvard University Center for African Studies, the Rev. Alanna C. Sullivan, Associate Minister in the Memorial Church, and the Rev. Westley P. Conn, Ministry Fellow in the Memorial Church. The first lesson is read by Minister Kevin Bryant. The second lesson is read by Sonia David MDiv '16. The music is provided by the Memorial Church Community Choir, under the direction of Edward E. Jones, Gund University Organist and Choirmaster. The Khanamiryan and Eldfors family will light the Advent wreath and the candle representing Christ. Communion is served by friends of the Memorial Church.

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 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](mailto: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](http://whrb.org). Recordings of Sunday Worship Services and Sunday Sermons are available on our website, [memorialchurch.harvard.edu](http://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](http://memorialchurch.harvard.edu)

**Like us on Facebook:** [facebook.com/harvardmemorialchurch](https://facebook.com/harvardmemorialchurch)

**Follow us on Twitter:** [twitter.com/memchurch](https://twitter.com/memchurch)

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

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

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*For more information on upcoming services and events:*

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