

HARVARD

The Memorial Church



ORDER OF WORSHIP

The Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 14, 2014

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

4 Versets de l'hymne "Ave Maris Stella"

Marcel Dupré (1886–1971)

HYMN

No. 91, verses 1 & 2, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
Sung by all, the congregation standing

Veni Emmanuel

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

HYMN

No. 91, verses 3 & 4, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
Sung by all, the congregation standing

Veni Emmanuel

CALL TO WORSHIP

Minister: We gather to celebrate the God who is present among us.

People: The Lord our God is our strength and song, and is even now our salvation.

Minister: We gather to celebrate with all the world that the Lord is God.

People: With joy we gather around God's fountain of grace
to be refreshed and renewed.

Minister: We gather to celebrate with songs of praise
for the Lord our God's eternal presence
is forever with us and all peoples.

People: We sing with joy:
We come to worship our Mighty God!
Praise God's holy name!

The congregation seated

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. 109, "People, Look East, the Time Is Near"
The congregation standing

Besançon

GREETINGS

Children now join their teachers in the Church School.

THE PEACE

All are invited to join in the singing of Hymn No. 27, verse 1.

AT THE OFFERTORY

Lovely Vine

Jeremiah Ingalls (1764–1838)

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.

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

PSALTER

Psalm 139:1–18

Pew Bible, page 540 (OT)

To be read responsively; the congregation standing

GLORIA PATRI

See Hymn No. 371

LESSON FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11

Pew Bible, page 651 (OT)

ANTHEM

Alma Redemptoris Mater

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (c. 1525–1594)

Alma Redemptoris mater, quae pervia caeli
Porta manes, et stella maris, succure cadenti
Surgere qui curat populo; tu quae genuisti, natura
Mirante, tuum sanctum Genitorem; virgo prius ac
Posterius, Gabrielis ab ore sumens illud Ave,
Peccatorum miserere.

*Loving Mother of the Redeemer, who remains the gateway
To heaven and star of the sea, help your fallen people
Who strive to rise: you who gave birth,
While nature marvelled, to your holy creator:
A virgin before and after receiving that "Ave"
From the mouth of Gabriel, have mercy on our sins.*

Hermann Contractus

LESSON FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

John 1:6–9, 19–28

Pew Bible, page 79 (NT)

ANTHEM

A Tender Shoot

Otto Goldschmidt (1829–1907)

A tender shoot hath started up from a root of grace,
As ancient seers imparted from Jesse's holy race.
It blooms without a blight, blooms in the cold bleak winter
Turning our darkness into light.

This shoot, Isaiah taught us, from Jesse's root should spring.
The Virgin Mary brought us the branch of which we sing.
Our God of endless of might, gave her this child to save us,
Thus turning darkness into light.

William Bartholomew

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Minister: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Minister: Let us pray.
Lord, show us your love and mercy;
People: For we put our trust in you.
Minister: In you, Lord, is our hope;
People: And we shall never hope in vain.

Each time the minister says "Lord, in your mercy," the congregation will respond with "Hear our 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 GRACE

The Grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen.

HYMN

No. 97, "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"
The congregation standing

Gabriel's Message

SERMON

Sacred Humanity

HYMN

No. 127, “In Dulci Jubilo”
The congregation standing

In Dulci Jubilo

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Fugue on the Magnificat, BWV 733

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, December 14, 2014

WELCOME

Today is the Third Sunday of Advent. The preacher is the Reverend Dr. Stephanie Paulsell, Houghton Professor of the Practice of Ministry Studies, Harvard Divinity School; Affiliated Minister in the Memorial Church. The service is led by Professor Jonathan L. Walton, Plummer Professor of Christian Morals and Pusey Minister in the Memorial Church; Ministry Fellow Alanna Copenhaver, and Seminarians Laura Martin, Omar Rouchon, and Lauren Seganos. The first lesson is read by Laura Martin. The second lesson is read by Meredith Arra '15. The Third Candle of the Advent Wreath is lit by the Eikermann family.

Listening devices are available to help the hearing impaired participate in the service; please ask an usher for assistance. Following the service, the congregation is invited to a reception in the Memorial Room.

WINTER RECESS

Morning Prayers services have ended for the Fall Term and will resume at the start of the Spring Term on Monday, January 26, 8:45 a.m.; you can listen to recordings of previous Morning Prayers services on our website, www.memorialchurch.harvard.edu, or listen on SoundCloud or iTunes. The Faith & Life Forum has also ended for Fall Term and will resume at the beginning of Spring Term on February 1, 2015. The Church offices will be closed from December 25 through January 3 for winter recess. There will be no worship service held on Sunday, December 28.

CHURCH SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN

Today is the last Church School before the Winter break. Church School will resume at the beginning of Spring Term on Sunday, February 1, 2015.

THE 105TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICES

The 105th Annual Carol Services will be held in the church tonight at 5:00 p.m., and on Monday, December 15 at 8:00 p.m. Doors open one hour before each service. Admission is free; an offering for charity is collected. The Sunday, December 14 carol service will be broadcast live on WHRB Radio (95.3 FM, www.whrb.org). The broadcast begins with the organ prelude at 4:30 p.m. It will also be re-broadcast on Sunday, December 21 at 3:30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

On Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24 at 5:00 p.m., a service will be held to celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord with hymns and Holy Communion. Professor Jonathan L. Walton will preach. Singers are welcome to join in the community choir for the Christmas Eve service; rehearsal is before the service at 3:30 p.m.

SUNDAY SERMONS AND MORNING PRAYERS SERVICES ON HARVARD'S ITUNES U

Sunday sermons and weekly Morning Prayers services are available on Harvard's iTunes U in the "Religion & Spirituality" channel. From your iTunes software, search "Harvard Memorial Church" to listen on your iPod, iPhone, iPad, Mac, or PC.

STAY CONNECTED TO THE MEMORIAL CHURCH

E-mail List: 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 www.memorialchurch.harvard.edu.

Facebook: Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/memorialchurch.

Twitter: Follow us on Twitter: twitter.com/MemChurch.

MUSIC NOTES

Jeremiah Ingalls is remembered primarily for his collection of early New England folk-hymns, *The Christian Harmony* (1805), which opens with the beautiful tune “Lovely Vine.” A setting of words by Joshua Smith based on the Gospel of John, the text contemplates the divinity of God reflected in the natural world, and contains much familiar Advent imagery — the blossoming vine, the redeeming grace of the blessed dove, and the approaching dazzling light.

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina’s prolific and consistently superior output have made him one of the towering figures in Renaissance music. Although born in the nearby town of Palestrina, he spent his whole life in Rome; after training as a chorister in S. Maria Maggiore, he was appointed *Magister Cappellae* of the Cappella Giulia, the choir of St. Peter’s Basilica. His beautiful antiphon “Alma Redemptoris Mater” is a simple and mainly homophonic work, balanced and restrained, which skillfully disguises the plainsong upon which it is based.

Otto Goldschmidt is best remembered as the husband of the “Swedish Nightingale,” the soprano Jenny Lind, but he was also the founding conductor of the London Bach Choir, and a composer of note. *A Tender Shoot* is his gentle setting of a paraphrase of the famous prophecy found in the Book of Isaiah.

Marcel Dupré studied with Charles-Marie Widor at the Paris Conservatory, and in 1934 succeeded Widor as titular organist of St. Sulpice, a post he held until his death in 1971. The four versets on the Marian hymn *Ave Maris Stella* were improvised during a service of Vespers in Notre-Dame in 1919 (where Dupré was the interim organist) and later reconstructed into print at the request of Claude Johnson, co-founder of Rolls-Royce, who was present at the service.

The postlude is Johann Sebastian Bach’s fugue on the *Magnificat* chant (“Meine seele erhebet den Herren”): written in the old-fashioned style of a sixteenth-century fantasia, the complete iteration of the melody is saved until the very end, when it appears as a *cantus firmus* in the pedals.

NEXT SUNDAY’S SERVICE

Next Sunday is the Fourth Sunday of Advent. The preacher will be Dr. William O. Paulsell, President, Emeritus, Lexington Theological Seminary. The title of his sermon is “Take By Surprise.”

For more information on upcoming services and events:

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