

HARVARD

The Memorial Church



ORDER OF WORSHIP

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 21, 2014

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Two Noels

Louis-Claude Daquin (1694–1772)

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

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

HYMN

No. 96, “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist Cry”
The congregation standing

Winchester New

GREETINGS

THE PEACE

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

AT THE OFFERTORY

“How Beautiful Are The Feet” from *Messiah*
Amanda Forsythe, soprano

George Frideric Handel (1685–1759)

Here an offering is received for the work of the Church within and beyond the University. Users 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

Psalms 34:1–10
To be read responsively; the congregation standing

Pew Bible, page 471 (OT)

GLORIA PATRI

See Hymn No. 371

FIRST LESSON

Luke 1:26:35

Pew Bible, page 49 (NT)

ANTHEM

“Rejoice Greatly” from *Messiah*
Amanda Forsythe, soprano

George Frideric Handel

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 20:1–16

Pew Bible, page 19 (NT)

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. 211, "Tell Out, My Soul, the Greatness of the Lord"
The congregation standing

Woodlands

SERMON

Take By Surprise

Text: "Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be?'"

Luke 1:34

HYMN

No. 130, "Angels, from the Realms of Glory"
The congregation standing

Regent Square

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Noel Suisse

Louis-Claude Daquin

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 21, 2014

WELCOME

Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent. The preacher is Dr. William O. Paulsell, President, *Emeritus*, Lexington Theological Seminary. The service is led by the Reverend Dr. Lucy A. Forster-Smith, Sedgwick Chaplain to the University and Senior Minister in the Memorial Church, Harvard University and Seminarian Jordan Sharick. The first lesson is read by Kevin Madigan. The second lesson is read by Amanda Madigan. The Fourth Candle of the Advent Wreath is lit by the Gundy family. Listening devices are available to help the hearing impaired participate in the service; please ask an usher for assistance.

WINTER RECESS

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; the next Sunday service will be on January 4. 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 ended and will resume on February 1. The Church School for Children is on recess and will resume on February 1.

DID YOU MISS THE 105TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE?

The Sunday, December 14 carol service will be re-broadcast on Sunday, December 21 at 3:30 p.m. on WHRB Radio (95.3 FM, www.whrb.org).

AUDIO OF LAST YEAR'S CAROL SERVICE AVAILABLE

Audio of last year's Christmas Carol Service from Sunday, December 15, 2013, is now available. Performed by the Harvard University Choir under the direction of Edward E. Jones, this music is a great way to get into the holiday spirit. You can access the recording on the home page of the Memorial Church website: www.memorialchurch.harvard.edu.

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.

NEXT SUNDAY'S SERVICE

The next Sunday Service will be held on January 5. The preacher will be the Reverend Dr. Lucy A. Forster-Smith, Sedgwick Chaplain to the University and Senior Minister in the Memorial Church, Harvard University.

For more information on upcoming services and events:

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