

HARVARD

The Memorial Church



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Christmas Eve
Holy Communion

Wednesday, December 24, 2014

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, BWV 188

Dieterich Buxtehude (c. 1637/39–1707)

Symphonie gothique, op. 70

Charles-Marie Widor (1844–1937)

II. Andante sostenuto

Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella

French Carol arr. Keith Chapman (1945–1989)

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

“Glory to God in the Highest” from *Messiah*

George Frideric Handel (1685–1759)

Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, good will towards men.

Luke 2:14

GREETINGS

THE PEACE

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

THE OFFERTORY

Nativity Carol

John Rutter (b. 1945)

I. 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
For Christ is born for aye
Born on Christmas Day

III. Wise men from distant far land
Shepherds from starry hills
Worship this babe so rare
Hearts with his warmth he fills
Far away, silent he lay
Born today, your homage pay
For Christ is born for aye
Born on Christmas Day

II. Cradled by mother so fair
Tender her lullaby
Over her son so dear
Angel hosts fill the sky
Far away, silent he lay
Born today, your homage pay
For Christ is born for aye
Born on Christmas Day

IV. Love in that stable was born
Into our hearts to flow
Innocent dreaming babe
Make me thy love to know
Far away, silent he lay
Born today, your homage pay
For Christ is born for aye
Born on Christmas Day

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.

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

The Burden of Being Blessed

Text: “Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.”

Luke 2:4

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

The musical score is written on three staves. The first staff is divided into two parts: 'Organ' and 'Congregation'. The music is in a 3/4 time signature with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, -'. The second staff begins at measure 7 and continues the lyrics: 'hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.' The third staff begins at measure 12 and concludes with: 'Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.' The organ part consists of a simple harmonic accompaniment, while the congregation part is a single melodic line.

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

At the direction of the ushers, communicants in the front rows will proceed to the servers located at the foot of the chancel steps and will return to their seats by the side aisles. Communicants in the back rows will proceed to the servers located at the right and left vestibule doors and will return to their seats by the center aisle. Servers also will be stationed in the balcony.

At the giving of the bread and the cup, the people respond with "Amen." Wine will be served in the inner chalices and grape juice in the outer chalices. There is also the option to have gluten free wafers. If you are not able to come forward, please raise your hand and we will serve you in your pew.

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"

Let Us Break Bread

The congregation standing

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

Finale on "Adeste, fideles" from *Christmas*

Gaston Dethier (1875–1958)

PREACHER

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

LESSONS

*First Lesson: Dr. David Hempton, Dean of Harvard Divinity School
Second Lesson: Dr. Florence Ladd, Author*

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; Ministry Fellow Alanna Copenhaver; and
Seminarrians Jordan Sharick and David Hysong*

Affiliated Ministers

The Reverend Dr. Robert Randolph; the Reverend Gregory McGonigle; and Professor Emily Click

Friends of the Memorial Church

The Reverend Martin Copenhaver; Mara Forster-Smith; Amanda Sharick, and 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
www.memorialchurch.harvard.edu. You can also find us on Facebook
(www.facebook.com/memorialchurch) and Twitter (twitter.com/MemChurch).*

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visit our website: www.memorialchurch.harvard.edu.*

