

HARVARD

The Memorial Church



ORDER OF WORSHIP

The First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, November 29, 2015

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 659

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

HYMN

No. 91, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Sung by all, the congregation standing

Veni Emmanuel

CALL TO WORSHIP

- Minister:* These days are surely coming, says the Lord,
when I will fulfill my promise to my people.
- All:* Justice and righteousness will fill the land
and all will live in peace and safety.

Jeremiah 33:14–16

THE BAPTISM

- Minister:* The Lord be with you.
- People:* And also with you.
- Minister:* Let us pray:
Gracious God, by our Baptism, you welcome us into the household of faith and open the way to new life in this world and the next. Receive this child who is baptized today and strengthen us all to be your people in the world and a blessing to the Earth. Amen.
- The candidate for Holy Baptism will now be presented.
- Parents & Godparents:* We present *James Faris Ackil* to receive the sacrament of baptism.
- Minister:* Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life?
- Parents & Godparents:* We will with God's help.
- Minister:* Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the life of God's grace and love?
- Parents & Godparents:* We will with God's help.
- Minister:* Will you continue to honor your own spiritual journey, as a role model for the child you present?
- Parents & Godparents:* We will with God's help.
- Minister:* Will you strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being?
- Parents & Godparents:* We will with God's help.

To the congregation:

- Minister:* Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support this child in his life in Christ?
- People:* We will.
- Minister:* Let us pray for this child who is to receive the Sacrament of new birth:
- Leader:* Open this child's heart, O God, to your grace and truth.
- People:* Lord, hear our prayer.
- Leader:* Fill this child with your holy and life-giving Spirit.
- People:* Lord, hear our prayer.
- Leader:* Teach this child to love others in the power of the Spirit.
- People:* Lord, hear our prayer.
- Leader:* Send this child into the world in witness to your love.
- People:* Lord, hear our prayer.

BLESSING OF THE WATER

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, O God, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue forever in the power of God's love, compassion, and mercy.

THE BAPTISM

PRAYER FOR THE BAPTIZED

- Minister:* Let us pray:
- All:* Eternal and loving God, give this child who is receiving the sacrament of Baptism an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. Amen.
- Minister:* Let us welcome the newly baptized:
- All:* We receive you, with joy, into the household of God, and into the priesthood of all believers.

THE PEACE

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

GREETINGS

OFFERTORY

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 660

Johann Sebastian Bach

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.

O God be-yond all prais-ing, we wor-ship you to - day and
sing the love a - ma-zing that songs can-not re - pay; for we can on-ly
won-der at ev - 'ry gift you send, at bless-ings with-out num-ber and
mer-cies with-out end: we lift our hearts be - fore you and wait u-pon your
word, we hon - or and a - dore you, our great and might-y Lord.

Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1921, alt.

Text: Michael Perry; © by Jubilate Hymns, Ltd. (admin. by Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188).

PSALTER

Psalm 25:1–10

To be read responsively; the congregation standing

Pew Bible, page 465 (OT)

GLORIA PATRI

See Hymn No. 371

FIRST LESSON

I Thessalonians 3:6–13

Pew Bible, page 180 (NT)

ANTHEM

Lovely Vine

Jeremiah Ingalls (1764–1838)

Behold a lovely vine
Here in this desert ground;
The blossoms shoot and promise fruit
And tender grapes are found.

Its circling branches rise
And shade the neighboring lands;
With lovely charms she spreads her arms
With clusters in her hands.

This city can't be hid,
It's built upon a hill;
The dazzling light it shines so bright
It doth the valleys fill.

Ye trees which lofty stand,
And stars with sparkling light;
Ye Christians hear both far and near,
'Tis joy to see the sight.

Shall feeble nature sing,
And man not join the lays?
With lofty voice proclaim the joys
And join in songs of praise!

Glory to God on high,
For his redeeming grace;
The blessed dove came from above
To save our ruined race.

Joshua Smith (1760–1795)

SECOND LESSON

Luke 21:25–36

Pew Bible, page 74 (NT)

ANTHEM

Northfield

Jeremiah Ingalls

How long, dear Savior, O how long
Shall this bright hour delay,
Fly swifter round the wheel of time,
And bring the welcome day.

Lo, what a glorious sight appears
To our believing eyes;
The earth and seas are passed away,
And the old rolling skies!

His own soft hand shall wipe the tears
From every weeping eye;
And pains and groans, and griefs and fears,
And death itself shall die.

From the third heaven, where God resides,
That holy, happy place,
The new Jerusalem comes down,
Adorned with shining grace.

Isaac Watts (1674–1748)

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. 94, “Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”

Genevan 42

The congregation standing

SERMON

Vigilance

“So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near.”

Luke 21:31

HYMN

No. 104, “Hark, What a Sound, and Too Divine for Hearing”

Highwood

The congregation standing

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 661

Johann Sebastian Bach

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, November 29, 2015

WELCOME

Today is the First Sunday of Advent. The preacher is the Reverend Dr. Lucy A. Forster-Smith, Sedgwick Chaplain to Harvard University and Senior Minister in the Memorial Church. The service is led by Seminarians Danny Ballon MTS II and Patrick Jackson MDiv II, and Katherine Blaisdell MDiv III, Worship Leader. The first lesson is read by Dorinda Hale. The second lesson is read by Easley Hamner. Receiving the sacrament of Baptism today is James Faris Ackil; the parents are Anthony Ackil and Jennifer Logan and the Godparents are Abby Logan and Jeff Teeple. The family of Aravi Samuel lights the Advent Candle of Hope.

Liturgy adapted from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 1* edited by Kim Long, Westminster John Knox Press, 2012.

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.

USHERS AND LESSON READERS NEEDED

Ushers and lesson readers play a vital role in worship for the Memorial Church. If you are interested in being an usher or reader for Christmas Eve's 5:00 p.m. service, or Winter Recess Sunday Worship, please contact Kelly Robichaud (kelly_robichaud@harvard.edu). We would love to have you join us!

WELCOME TABLE

Want to learn about the Memorial Church? Stop by the Welcome Table to learn more about our array of events, programs, and ministries. Questions are encouraged!

PRAYER REQUEST CARDS

Prayer request cards are available in the pew card holders or in the church lobby. We would be honored to pray for your specific needs. Please place prayer request cards in the offering plates during worship services or in the prayer request box in the church lobby.

MUSIC NOTES

To celebrate the Sunday following Thanksgiving Day, the Harvard University Choir presents two songs of praise from the early American sacred repertoire. Jeremiah Ingalls was an important member of a group of self-taught composers active in New England during the period 1770–1820. This group created an indigenous sacred repertoire readily accessible to all, which became instantly popular amid the explosion of religious fervor at that time. Ingalls is remembered primarily for his collection of early New England folk-hymns, *The Christian Harmony* (1805), which contains both of this morning's anthems. “Lovely Vine” is 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. “Northfield” is a rugged fuguing tune that sets a text by Isaac Watts, the popular hymnwriter and theologian.

To welcome in the new liturgical year, today's organ music comprises three settings of the Advent hymn, “Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland” (“Savior of the nations, come”) from Bach’s collection of large-scale chorale preludes known as the *Great Eighteen*. The prelude is plaintive in mood with florid elaborations of the melody in the treble; the offertory is a perky trio; and the postlude is a lively toccata which presents the chorale melody in the pedals.

FAITH & LIFE FORUM

Please note that the Faith & Life Forum will not meet today. The next Faith & Life Forum will be held on Sunday, December 6 at 9:30 a.m.; Dr. Marla F. Frederick, Professor of African and African American Studies and of Religion at Harvard University, will give the presentation.

CHURCH SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN

Please note that the Church School will not meet today. Classes will resume next Sunday, December 6. For more information about the Church School, contact Wes at westley_conn@harvard.edu.

MORNING PRAYERS SPEAKERS: NOVEMBER 30 – DECEMBER 5, 8:45 A.M.

Monday: Joseph Kimmel MDiv III; Tuesday: Sahar Shahid MDiv II; Wednesday: Sam Greenberg '14; Thursday: Doug Heye ; Friday: Mike Ranen; Saturday: Paul-André Bempéchat

Following each service of Morning Prayers on Wednesdays, free coffee and snacks will be available at MemCafé from 9:00–10:15 a.m. on the steps of the church across from Widener Library. All are welcome!

COMPLINE

A service of Compline, which combines candlelight, plainsong, polyphony, prayer, scripture, and silence, will be held on Thursday evening, December 3, at 10:00 p.m. Music is provided by the Harvard University Choir. All are welcome.

THE 106TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICES

The 106th Annual Carol Services will be held in the church on Sunday, December 13 at 5:00 p.m., and on Monday, December 14 at 8:00 p.m. Doors open one hour before each service. Admission is free; an offering for charity is collected. The Sunday, December 13 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 Christmas Day at 1:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

On Christmas Eve, Thursday, 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 memorialchurch.harvard.edu. **Facebook:** Like us on Facebook: facebook.com/memorialchurch. **Twitter:** Follow us on Twitter: twitter.com/MemChurch.

NEXT SUNDAY'S SERVICE

Next Sunday is the Second Sunday of Advent. The preacher will be Professor Marla F. Frederick, Professor of African and African American Studies and of Religion, Harvard University.

For more information on upcoming services and events:

memorialchurch.harvard.edu • facebook.com/memorialchurch • twitter.com/memchurch

To subscribe to the Memorial Church e-mail list, visit our website: memorialchurch.harvard.edu.