

A Service Celebrating the Life and Ministry of

THE REVEREND PETER JOHN GOMES

Plummer Professor of Christian Morals
and Pusey Minister (1974–2011)

May 22, 1942 – February 28, 2011



THE MEMORIAL CHURCH
H A R V A R D U N I V E R S I T Y

*Wednesday, April sixth, two thousand eleven
eleven o'clock in the morning*

Please silence personal telephones and pagers upon entering
the sanctuary of The Memorial Church.

*You show me the path of life.
In your presence there is fullness of joy;
In your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*

Psalm 16:11 (NRSV)



THE REVEREND PROFESSOR PETER JOHN GOMES

a brief biographical description

Born in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1942, The Reverend Professor Peter J. Gomes was an American Baptist minister ordained to the Christian ministry by The First Baptist Church of Plymouth, Massachusetts. Since 1970 he served in The Memorial Church, Harvard University, and since 1974 as Plummer Professor of Christian Morals and Pusey Minister in The Memorial Church.

A member of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and of the Faculty of Divinity of Harvard University, Professor Gomes held degrees from Bates College (A.B., 1965), and from the Harvard Divinity School (S.T.B., 1968); and thirty-nine honorary degrees: New England College, Waynesburg College, Gordon College, Knox College, The University of the South, Duke University, The University of Nebraska, Wooster College, Bates College, Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion, Trinity College, Bowdoin College, Berkeley Divinity School at Yale, Colby College, Olivet College, Mount Holyoke College, Furman University, Baker University, Mount Ida College, Willamette University, The State University of New York at Geneseo, Westminster Choir College of Rider University, Ursinus College, Wagner College, Lesley University, Williams College, Virginia Theological Seminary, Morris College, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Hamilton College, Union College, Tuskegee University, Lasell College, The General Seminary of the Episcopal Church in New York, Lafayette College, Augustana College, Westfield College, Washington and Jefferson College, and St. Lawrence University. In 2010, he gave The Princeton Lectures on Youth, Church, and Culture; Harvard University in 2010 elected him Honorary President of the Alpha-Iota Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa; and in 2009, he gave The Lowell Lectures of Massachusetts. He was an Honorary Fellow of Emmanuel College, The University of Cambridge, England, where The Gomes Lectureship is established in his name.

Widely regarded as one of America's most distinguished preachers, Professor Gomes fulfilled preaching and lecturing engagements throughout America and the British Isles. In 2009 he represented Harvard University as lecturer to The University of Cambridge, England, on the occasion of its 800th anniversary; in 2007 he was appointed by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II to membership in The Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem; in 2000 he delivered The University Sermon before The University of Cambridge, England, and The Millennial Sermon in Canterbury Cathedral, England; and he presented The Beecher Lectures on Preaching, in Yale Divinity School. Named Clergy of the Year in 1998 by Religion in American Life, Professor Gomes participated in the presidential inaugurations of Ronald Wilson Reagan and of George Herbert Walker Bush. His *New York Times* and national best-selling books, *The Good Book: Reading the Bible with Mind and Heart*, (1996); and *Sermons: Biblical Wisdom for Daily Living* (1998), were published by William Morrow and Company, Inc. *The Good Life: Truths That Last in Times of Need* was published in 2002 by HarperOne, which published *Strength for the Journey: Biblical Wisdom for Daily Living* in 2003, and in 2007, *The Scandalous Gospel of Jesus: What's So Good About the Good News?* His most recent book, in 2008, is *A Word to the Wise, and Other Sermons Preached at Harvard*; and he published ten other volumes of sermons as well as numerous articles and papers.

Professor Gomes served as trustee of The National Cathedral School, Washington, DC, as Harvard University trustee of The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and trustee of The Roxbury Latin School and of Bates College; and he was a member of The Massachusetts Historical Society, The Colonial Society of Massachusetts, and a sometime Fellow of The Royal Society of Arts, London, England. Former acting director of The W.E.B. DuBois Institute for Afro-American Research, Harvard University, he was past president of The Signet Society, Harvard's oldest literary society; and former trustee of Wellesley College and of The Public Broadcasting Service; and he was past president and trustee of The Pilgrim Society, Plymouth, Massachusetts.

Profiled by Robert Boynton in *The New Yorker*, and interviewed by Morley Safer on *60 Minutes*, The Reverend Professor Peter J. Gomes was included in the premiere issue of *Talk* magazine as part of its feature article, 'The Best Talkers in America: Fifty Big Mouths We Hope Will Never Shut Up.'

The Reverend Professor Peter John Gomes died on February 28, 2011, in Boston, Massachusetts.

Cynthia Wight Rossano

ORDER OF SERVICE

PRELUDE

Sonata VI in D Minor, Op. 65, No. 6

Felix Mendelssohn
(1809–1847)

I. Choral and Variations

II. Fuga

III. Finale: Andante

Rhosymedre

Ralph Vaughan Williams
(1872–1958)

Prelude and Fugue in C Major, BWV 545

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685–1750)

O Welt, ich muss dich lassen, Op. 122, No. 3

Johannes Brahms
(1833–1897)

Elegy

George Thalben-Ball
(1896–1987)

Rockingham

C. Hubert H. Parry
(1848–1918)

“Adagio” from *Sonata I in F Minor*, Op. 65, No. 1

Felix Mendelssohn

“Nimrod” from *Enigma Variations*, Op. 36

Edward Elgar
(1857–1934)

Elegy

Herbert Brewer
(1865–1928)

Adagio in E Major

Frank Bridge
(1870–1941)

“Andante tranquillo” from *Sonata III in A Major*, Op. 65, No. 3

Felix Mendelssohn

Christian Lane, organ

INTROIT

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

*American Folk Hymn
arr. Virgil Thomson '23 (1896–1990)*

My shepherd will supply my need,
Jehovah is his name.
In pastures fresh he makes me feed
Beside the living stream.
He brings my wandering spirit back
When I forsake his ways.
He leads me for his mercy's sake
In paths of truth and grace.

When I walk through the shades of death
Thy presence is my stay.
One word of thy supporting breath
Drives all my fears away.
Thy hand, in sight of all my foes,
Doth still my table spread.
My cup with blessings overflows,
Thine oil anoints my head.

The sure provisions of my God
Attend me all my days.
O may thy house be my abode
And all my work be praise.
There would I find a settled rest,
While others go and come,
No more a stranger or a guest,
But like a child at home.

Isaac Watts (1674–1748)

The choral music is provided by members of the Harvard University Choir, past and present.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Deus Omnium Creator

James Bradstreet Greenough, 1894

HARVARD HYMN 888 7 D

John Knowles Paine, 1883

1 De - us om - ni - um Cre - a - tor, re - rum mun - di
 2 Pa - tres nos - tri huc per - la - ti, tu - o mo - ni -
 3 Qua de spe fac te pre - ca - mur in e - ven - tu -
 4 Sic dum ci - vi - tas ma - ne - bit, cla - rum lu - men

mo - de - ra - tor, cres - cat cu - ius es fun - da - tor,
 tu, per - gra - ti, de - di - ca - runt ve - ri - ta - ti
 ne fal - la - mur, sed ma - ior - a dum co - na - mur
 hic lu - ce - bit, lu - ce an - gu - los re - ple - bit,

nos - tra U - ni - ver - si - tas, in - te - gri sint
 par - vum tum Con - le - gi - um, id - que tu - o
 fa - ve - as la - bor - i - bus, si - mul gra - ti -
 fu - ge - rit ob - scu - ri - tas, er - ror ter - ri -

cu - ra - to - res, e - ru - di - ti pro - fes - so - res,
 post fa - vo - re auc - tum sem - per et a - mo - re
 as ha - be - mus quod tam di - u iam flo - re - mus
 tus la - te - bit, vir - tus vi - vi - da va - le - bit,

lar - gi - an - tur do - na - to - res
 bo - nam spem os - ten - tat fo - re
 nec au - di - re re - mit - te - mus
 et in - sig - ni - or flo - re - bit

be - ne par - tas co - pi - as.
 tem - plum qua - si re - gi - um.
 ve - ri - ta - tis mo - ni - tus.
 nos - tra U - ni - ver - si - tas.

HYMN

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Thomas O. Chisolm, 1923

FAITHFULNESS 11 10 11 10 with Refrain
William M. Runyan, 1923

1 Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther,
2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring-time and har - vest,
3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - du - reth,

there is no sha - dow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang - est
sun, moon and stars in their cours - es a - bove, join with all
thy own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to -

not, thy com - pas - sions they fail not; as thou hast
na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness to thy great
day and bright hope for to - mor - row, bless - ings all

been thou for - ev - er wilt be:
faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love: Great is thy
mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by morn-ing new

mer - cies I see; all I have need - ed thy hand has pro -

vi - ded, great is thy faith - ful-ness, Lord, un - to me.

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FIRST LESSONIsaiah 25:6-9 (*King James Version*)

Janetta C. Randolph M.Ed. '85

And in this mountain shall the LORD of hosts make unto all people a feast of fat things, a feast of wines on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of wines on the lees well refined. And he will destroy in this mountain the face of the covering cast over all people, and the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the LORD hath spoken it. And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the LORD; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

FIRST ADDRESS

President Derek C. Bok J.D. '54

ANTHEM

Light's Glittering Morn Bedecks the Sky

*Horatio W. Parker
(1863-1919)**Mark P. Risinger Ph.D. '96, bass-baritone*

Light's glittering morn bedecks the sky;
Heaven thunders forth its victor cry;
The glad earth shouts her triumph high,
And groaning hell makes wild reply,
While he, the king, the mighty king
Despoiling death of all its sting,
And trampling down the powers of might,
Brings forth his ransomed saints to light.
That Eastertide with joy was bright,
The sun shone out with fairer light,
When to their longing eyes restored
The apostles saw their risen Lord:
He bade them see his hands, his side,
Where yet the glorious wounds abide;
These tokens true which made it plain
Their Lord indeed was risen again.
O Jesu, king of gentleness,
Do thou thyself our hearts possess,
That we may give thee all our days,
The tribute of our grateful praise.
O Lord of all with us abide,
In this our joyful Eastertide,
From every weapon death can wield,
Thine own redeemed forever shield.

The strife is o'er, the battle done,
The victory of life is won,
The song of triumph has begun: Alleluia.
All praise be thine, O risen Lord,
From death to endless life restored;
All praise to God, the Father be,
And Holy Ghost eternally.
Alleluia. Amen.

*Seventh Century Latin
Translated by John Mason Neale (1818-1866)*

SECOND LESSON

II Timothy 2:11-15 (*King James Version*)

Daniel A. Sanks M.P.A. '02

It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us: If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself. Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers. Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

SECOND ADDRESS

President Drew Gilpin Faust

SONG

This Is My Father's World

*Peter J. Gomes S.T.B. '68
(1942-2011)*

*Kent Montgomery French M.Div. '07, tenor
Harry Lyn Huff, piano*

This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world: I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, and skies and seas;
His hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world, the birds their carols raise,
The morning light, the lily white, declare their Maker's praise.
This is my Father's world: He shines in all that's fair;
In the rustling grass I hear Him pass;
He speaks to me everywhere.

Maltbie D. Babcock (1858-1901)

THIRD LESSON

Romans 12:1-6 (*King James Version*)

Preston N. Williams Ph.D. '67

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith.

THIRD ADDRESS

Governor Deval L. Patrick '78, J.D. '82

ANTHEM:

When the Perfect Comes

Carson P. Cooman '04
(b. 1982)

*Commissioned by Peter J. Gomes in celebration of the fortieth anniversary
of his ordination to the ministry, 1968-2008*

Brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, I call upon you: present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and well-pleasing to God, which is your reasonable worship. Prophecies will come to an end. Knowledge will come to an end. Tongues will cease. But love never ends, and when the perfect comes, the imperfect will pass away. Do not be conformed to the present age, but transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern the will of God: what is good, what is well-pleasing, what is good and perfect. Amen.

Text adapted by Matthew F. Burt M.Div. '01 (b. 1977) from Romans 12:1-2 and I Corinthians 13:8, 10

PRAYERS & THE LORD'S PRAYER

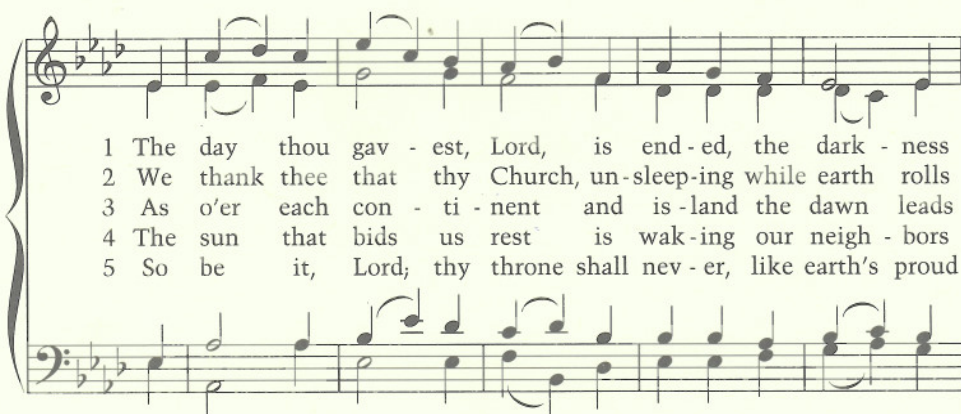
The Reverend Dr. Dorothy A. Austin

HYMN

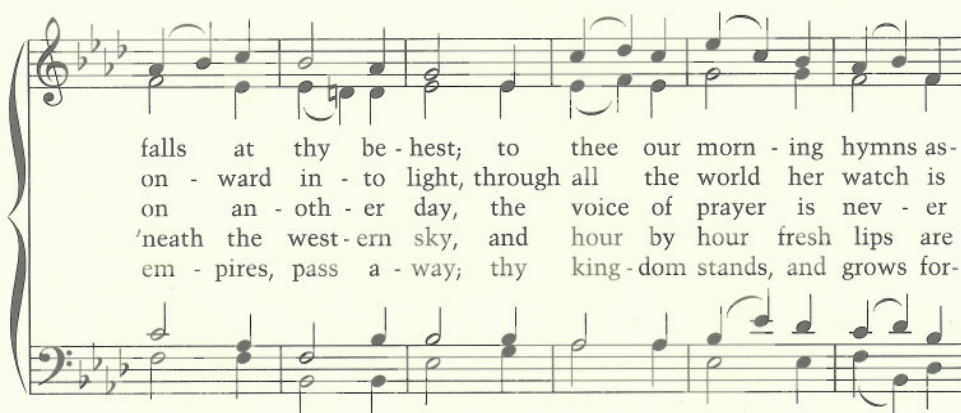
The Day Thou Gavest Lord Is Ended

John Ellerton, 1870, alt.

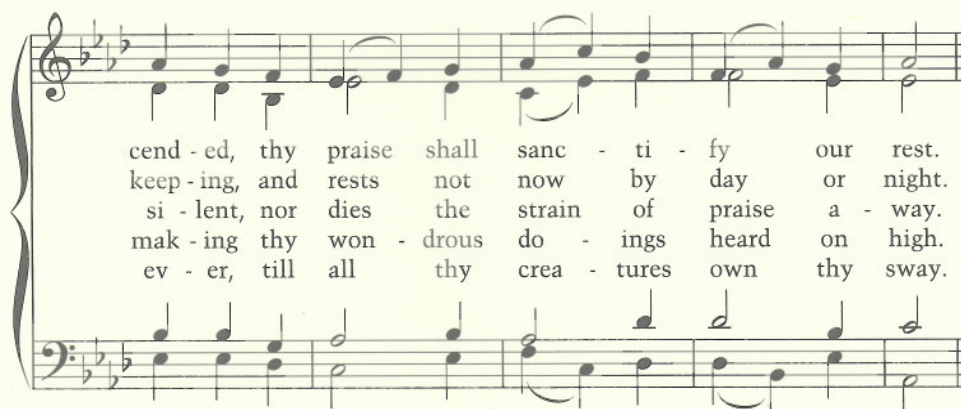
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Clement Cotterill Scholefield, 1874


1 The day thou gav - est, Lord, is end - ed, the dark - ness
 2 We thank thee that thy Church, un - sleep - ing while earth rolls
 3 As o'er each con - ti - nent and is - land the dawn leads
 4 The sun that bids us rest is wak - ing our neigh - bors
 5 So be it, Lord, thy throne shall nev - er, like earth's proud



falls at thy be - hest; to thee our morn - ing hymns as -
 on - ward in - to light, through all the world her watch is
 on an - oth - er day, the voice of prayer is nev - er
 'neath the west - ern sky, and hour by hour fresh lips are
 em - pires, pass a - way; thy king - dom stands, and grows for -



ced - ed, thy praise shall sanc - ti - fy our rest.
 keep - ing, and rests not now by day or night.
 si - lent, nor dies the strain of praise a - way.
 mak - ing thy won - drous do - ings heard on high.
 ev - er, till all thy crea - tures own thy sway.

HYMN

For All the Saints

William Walsham How, 1864

SINE NOMINE 10 10 10 with Alleluias

Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

1 For all the saints, who from their labors rest, who
 2 Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might:
 3 O may thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,
 6 From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast, through

thee by faith before the world confessed, thy
 thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
 fight as the saints who nobly fought of old, and
 gates of pearl streams in the countless host,

name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Al -
 thou, in the darkness dwell, the one true light. Al -
 win, with them, the victor's crown of gold. Al -
 sing - ing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Al -

Music © 1906 Oxford University Press.

- le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

harmony

4 O blest com-mun-ion, fel-low-ship di-vine! We fee-bly strug-gle,
5 And when the strife is fierce, the war-fare long, steals on the ear the

they in glo-ry shine; yet all are one in thee, for all are
dis-tant tri-umph song, and hearts are brave a-gain, and arms are

D. C.
for stanza 6

thine. Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!
strong. Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

COMMENDATION

The Reverend Preston B. Hannibal

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Schaffe in mir, Gott, ein rein Herz

*Johannes Brahms
(1833–1897)*

Schaffe in mir, Gott, ein rein Herz, und gib mir einen neuen gewissen Geist.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Psalm 51:10

POSTLUDE

“Allegro maestoso” from *Sonata in G Major*, Op. 28

Edward Elgar

Edward E. Jones, organ