



# ARLINGTON STREET CHURCH

## UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST



Boston, Massachusetts

[tinyurl.com/ASCZoom](https://tinyurl.com/ASCZoom) (video)

or (929) 436-2866 (phone)

[Meeting ID: 895 886 6876]

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2025

 BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS 

### PRELUDE

Recitatif (1949) ..... *Marcel Dupré* (1886–1971)  
O, For the Wings of a Dove ..... *Felix Mendelssohn* (1809–1847)  
Canaries ..... *André Cardinal Destouches* (1672–1749)  
Scherzo - Cats (1961) ..... *Jean Langlais* (1907–1991)  
Rodger Clinton Vine (he/him), Artist in Residence, organ

**WELCOME & GREETINGS** ..... Rev. Parisa Parsa (she/her), Transitional Minister  
Harry Kelso (he/him), Worship Coordinator

### INTROIT

The Seventh Principle ..... *Mark David Buckles* (b. 1980)

We believe in the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. Amen.

### OPENING WORDS & CHALICE LIGHTING

Rev. Parisa Parsa

*The flaming chalice is the symbol of our free faith.*

### \*HYMN

We Celebrate the Web of Life ..... text: *Alicia S. Carpenter* (1930–1990)  
music: *Mark David Buckles* (b. 1980)

We celebrate the web of life,  
Its magnitude we sing;  
For we can see divinity  
In every living thing.

Of ancient dreams we are the sum;  
Our bones link stone to star,  
And bind our future worlds to come  
With worlds that were and are.

A fragment of the perfect whole  
In cactus and in quail,  
As much in tiny barnacle  
As in the great blue whale.

Respect the water, land, and air  
Which gave all creatures birth;  
Protect the lives of all that share  
The glory of the earth

*\*You are invited to stand as you are willing and able.*

## COMMUNITY CANDLES OF SORROW & JOY

Sanctuary ..... *John W. Thompson* (b. 1950) & *Randy Scruggs* (1953–2018)  
adaptation: *Crawford Harvie/Buckles*  
arrangement: *Mark David Buckles* (b. 1980)

Bek Zehr (they/them), mezzo soprano

Open my heart to be a sanctuary  
All made holy, loved, and true  
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living  
Sanctuary for you

*To have your candle of sorrow or joy read during the service,  
please submit it in advance at [tinyurl.com/ASCCandle](https://tinyurl.com/ASCCandle).  
During the service, candles are welcome in the Zoom chat.*

*To reach a member of the Pastoral Care team, please email [Care@ASCBoston.org](mailto:Care@ASCBoston.org).*

## AFFIRMATION & COVENANT

Love is the spirit of this congregation, and service is our gift.  
This is our great covenant: to dwell together in peace,  
To speak our truths in love, and to help one another.

## READING

St. Kevin and the Blackbird ..... *Seamus Heaney* (1939-2013)

## SONG

Blackbird ..... *Paul McCartney* (b. 1942)

Julie Gregorio (she/her), vocals  
Mark David Buckles (he/him), guitar

Blackbird singing in the dead of night  
Take these broken wings and learn to fly  
All your life  
You were only waiting for this moment to arise

Blackbird singing in the dead of night  
Take these sunken eyes and learn to see  
All your life  
You were only waiting for this moment to be free

Blackbird fly, blackbird fly  
Into the light of a dark black night (repeat)

Blackbird singing in the dead of night  
Take these broken wings and learn to fly  
All your life  
You were only waiting for this moment to arise (repeat)

## SERMON

Love's Deep River ..... Rev. Parisa Parsa

## SILENT REFLECTION, MEDITATION & PRAYER

## ANTHEM

The Prayer of the Cat ..... music: *Ivor R. Davies* (1901–1970)  
text: *Sister Carmen Bernos de Gasztold* (1919–1995)  
translation: *Rumer Godden* (1907–1998)

Lord,  
I am the cat.  
It is not exactly that I have something to ask of You!  
No –  
I ask nothing of anyone –  
but,  
if You have by some chance, in some celestial barn,  
a little white mouse,  
or a saucer of milk,  
I know someone who would relish them.  
Wouldn't you like someday  
to put a curse on the whole race of dogs?  
If so, I should say,  
“Amen.”

## OUR SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

It's up to us to finance the beloved spiritual community we want to create! Today, we invite you to be part of Arlington Street's story of devotion, innovation, and transformative generosity.



### WAYS TO GIVE

1. Scan the QR code
2. Visit [tinyurl.com/GiveASC](https://tinyurl.com/GiveASC)
3. Search @ArlingtonStreet on Venmo (Charities)
4. Text the word “GIVE” to (617) 300-0509
5. Mail a check to Arlington Street Church

If you would like to give regularly, you can set up automatic payments at [tinyurl.com/GiveASC](https://tinyurl.com/GiveASC) or by contacting Liz Teixeira [Treasurer@ASCBoston.org](mailto:Treasurer@ASCBoston.org). We encourage you to provide now for a future gift to Arlington Street by remembering the church in your will. Thank you for helping to ensure a robust future for our beloved spiritual community!

## SHARE THE PLATE

Generosity is a spiritual practice at Arlington Street Church. Because sharing our resources transforms both ourselves and our world, we share our Sunday offering with a partner in our mission of love, service, justice, and peace.

**Ride for Hope** is a student-led cycling initiative dedicated to raising funds and awareness for families affected by childhood cancer. Founded by Aarav Jadhav and Jakub Paul while they were juniors at Brookline High School, the organization began with an ambitious goal: to make a real difference for children and families supported by The Boston House: Hope and Healing for Children with Cancer. Their current goal is to raise \$5,000 with a ride from Boston to New York City this month. Ride for Hope is about more than cycling—it's about inspiring action, spreading awareness, and building a community of compassion, sportsmanship, and fitness. Every mile we ride is dedicated to supporting families and encouraging others to make a difference in their communities.

To make your gift, please scan the QR code above; visit [tinyurl.com/GiveASC](https://tinyurl.com/GiveASC); or text the amount you want to give and the word SHARE (ex. \$50 SHARE) to (617) 300-0509.

*Whatever you give is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your generosity!*

## OFFERTORY

Duetto Buffo di Due Gatti ..... *Christoph Ernst Friedrich Weyse* (1774–1842)  
(Humorous Duet for Two Cats) attributed to: *Gioachino Rossini* (1792–1868)

Sé (Shea) Brown (they/them), sopralto  
Bek Zehr (they/them), mezzo soprano

## ANIMAL BLESSING AND PROCESSION

### \*HYMN

All Creatures of the Earth and Sky..... text: *St. Francis of Assisi* (1182–1226), attributed  
tune: *Ausserlesene Catholische Kirschengesang* (1623)

All creatures of the earth and sky  
Come, kindred, lift your voices high  
Alleluia, Alleluia!  
Bright burning sun with golden beam  
Soft shining moon with silver gleam  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Swift rushing wind so wild and strong  
White clouds that sail in heav'n along  
Alleluia, Alleluia!  
Fair rising morn in praise rejoice  
High stars of evening find a voice  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Cool flowing water, pure and clear  
Make music for all life to hear  
Alleluia, Alleluia!  
Dance, flame of fire, so strong and bright  
And bless us with your warmth and light  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Embracing earth, you, day by day  
Bring forth your blessings on our way  
Alleluia, Alleluia!  
All herbs and fruits that richly grow  
Let them the glory also show  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

All you of understanding heart  
Forgiving others, take your part  
Alleluia, Alleluia!  
Let all things now the Holy bless  
And worship G-d in humbleness  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

## BENEDICTION & EXTINGUISHING THE CHALICE

### RECESSIONAL

Where You Go (I Will Go) ..... *Shoshana Jedwab* (b. 1964)  
arrangement: *Mark David Buckles* (b. 1980)  
Julie Gregorio (she/her) & Sé (Shea) Brown (they/them), sopranos

Where you go I will go, beloved	For your people are my people
Where you go I will go	Your people are mine
Where you go I will go, beloved	Your people are my people
Where you go I will go	Your divine, my divine

### POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune (from Suite in D) ..... *Charles Callahan* (1951–2023)  
Rodger Clinton Vine (he/him), Artist in Residence, organ



*Out of respect for Arlington Street Church members and friends who are Jewish,  
we follow the tradition of not spelling out G-d's name.*



## This Week at Arlington Street ~ You Are Invited!

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5

11:00 am ~ Sunday Service (Sanctuary & Zoom)

12:00 pm ~ Coffee Hour (Chapel & Zoom)

### MONDAY, OCTOBER 6

12:00 pm ~ Monday Mettā (Zoom)

4:00 pm ~ Poems to Go On (Zoom)

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8

5:00 pm ~ Tea with the Minister (Zoom)

6:00 pm ~ Kundalini Yoga (Zoom)

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

5:00 pm ~ Arlington Street Writes (Zoom)

7:00 pm ~ Arlington Street Church Choir Rehearsal (Clarke Room)

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

11:00 am ~ Sunday Service (Sanctuary & Zoom)

12:00 pm ~ Coffee Hour (Chapel & Zoom)

For details and Zoom links for these events and more,  
please visit [Arlingtonstreet.org](http://Arlingtonstreet.org).



## Arlington Street Prudential Committee

The Prudential Committee is Arlington Street's elected, governing board.  
"The Pru" is joined by Stephen Anable (Clerk) and Liz Teixeira (Treasurer)  
in conducting the business of the church.

Kelly Anne Weaver, Chair  
Sandy Dixon, Co-Chair  
Dawn Bellamo

Bill Briggs  
Cathy DeMatto  
Hala Hazar

Art Nava  
Laura Pattison  
Darrell Waters

We welcome your questions  
and suggestions at [Pru\\_Chair@ASCBoston.org](mailto:Pru_Chair@ASCBoston.org)



## Arlington Street Staff Directory

Rev. Parisa Parsa (she/her) • Transitional Minister ([SeniorMinister@ASCBoston.org](mailto:SeniorMinister@ASCBoston.org))  
Mark David Buckles (he/him) • Director of Music ([MBuckles@ASCBoston.org](mailto:MBuckles@ASCBoston.org))  
Jeff Fogleman (he/him) • Congregational Administrator ([Office@ASCBoston.org](mailto:Office@ASCBoston.org))  
kel alford (she/her) • Student Minister ([StudentMin@ASCBoston.org](mailto:StudentMin@ASCBoston.org))



## A SPECIAL INVITATION: SAVE THE DATE!

**Reimagining Who We Are and Where We're Going: A Congregational Retreat**  
hosted by ASC's Prudential Committee and Transition Team

Join us for a morning of renewal, reflection, and reconnection as we explore our vision for the future of Arlington Street Church. Guided by our shared values, we'll deepen our community bonds and imagine the path ahead for our spiritual community—together.

Whether you're a longtime member or new to our congregation, this is a space for all voices and hearts.

**In-Person Retreat:**

Saturday, October 4th  
9:00am-1:00pm  
Emmanuel Church  
15 Newbury St., Boston

**Virtual Retreat:**

Saturday, November 1st  
Arlington Street Zoom Room  
Time: 10am-12pm

For details and Zoom links for these events and more,  
please visit [Arlingtonstreet.org](http://Arlingtonstreet.org).

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