



ARLINGTON STREET CHURCH

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Boston, Massachusetts

tinyurl.com/ASCZoom (video)

or (929) 436-2866 (phone)

[Meeting ID: 895 886 6876]

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2025
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT: PEACE

PRELUDE

Angel *Sarah McLachlan* (b. 1968)
With the Wind *Yiruma* (b. 1978)
Hyunju Jung (she/her), piano

WELCOME & GREETINGS Rev. Parisa Parsa (she/her), Transitional Minister
Patrick Cooleybeck (he/him), Worship Coordinator

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.

INTROIT

Be Like the Bird text: *Victor Hugo* (1802–1885)
music: *Abbie Betinis* (b. 1980)
Sé (Shea) Brown (they/them), soprano

Be like the bird that,
Pausing in her flight awhile on boughs too slight,
Feels them give way beneath her – and sings –
Knowing she hath wings.

Note from the composer:

I wrote this canon just after completing cancer treatment for the second time. My family and I sent it out as our annual Christmas card in 2009.

I discovered the text quite by accident. In October 2009, our grandfather, the Rt. Rev. John H. Burt (a.k.a Christmas reveler and merry-maker, lover of music and literature, and inspiring leader and activist) had died. After his funeral, and after an impromptu family round-sing (common in the Burt family), we were sitting on Grandpa's old couch, reading through some of the sermons he had written and delivered throughout his long life. I realized that Grandpa had quoted this lovely Victor Hugo text in sermons over the years, always to inspire courage in the face of adversity. It struck me as a surprisingly hopeful text befitting a difficult year.

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

**OPENING WORDS, CHALICE LIGHTING &
KINDLING THE ADVENT WREATH: PEACE**

Amazing Peace: A Christmas Poem *Maya Angelou* (1928–2014)
Patrick Cooleybeck

***HYMN 236**

Deck the Hall text: *Thomas Oliphant* (1799–1873)
music: *16th Century Welsh Carol*

~ in honor of Elf Jefe (aka Kevin Tyrrell) and his elves who have decked these halls for the season ~

Deck the halls with boughs of holly
Fa la la la la, la la la la
'Tis the season to be jolly
Fa la la la la, la la la la
Don we now our gay apparel
Fa la la la la, la la la la
Troll the ancient Yuletide carol
Fa la la la la, la la la la

See the blazing yule before us
Fa la la la la, la la la la
Strike the harp and join the chorus
Fa la la la la, la la la la
Follow me in merry measure
Fa la la la la, la la la la
While I tell of Yuletide treasure
Fa la la la la, la la la la

Fast away the old year passes
Fa la la la la, la la la la
Hail the new, and raise your glasses
Fa la la la la, la la la la
Sing we joyous all together
Fa la la la la, la la la la
Heedless of the wind and weather
Fa la la la la, la la la la

READING

Everything Around Here is Ephemeral *Barbara Crooker*

ANTHEM

Little Birds text: *Octavio Paz* (1914–1998)
music: *Eric Whitacre* (b. 1970)

(Mediodia)
La luz no parpadea,
El tiempo se vacía de minutos,
se ha detenido un pájaro en el aire.

(Noon)
Light unblinking,
time empty of minutes,
a bird stopped short in air.

(Mas tarde)
Se despeña la luz,
despiertan las columnas
y, sin moverse, bailan.

(Later)
Light flung down,
the pillars awake
and, without moving, dance.

(Pleno sol)
La hora es transparente:
vemos, si es invisible el pájaro,
el color de su canto

(Full sun)
The time is transparent:
even if the bird is invisible,
let us see the color of his song.

SERMON

Already, and Not Yet Rev. Parisa Parsa

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

Please come forward to light a candle at any time at the table to the right of the podium.

During the service, candles are welcome in the Zoom chat.

*To have your candle of sorrow or joy read during the service,
please submit it in advance at tinyurl.com/ASCCandle.*

To reach a member of the Pastoral Care team, please email Care@ASCBoston.org.

SILENT REFLECTION, MEDITATION & PRAYER

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
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 or by contacting Liz Teixeira 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.

This week's Share the Plate partner is **Bethel Tabernacle Pentecostal Church's annual holiday party**. Arlington Street Church supports Bethel's neighborhood holiday party by supplying gloves and gift cards for the parents who bring their kids to the party. Bethel and other churches that participate supply each child who attends the party with an age-appropriate gift and a meal is provided for each family to take home. Through our support of Bethel's holiday party, ASC is able to support children and parents in Dorchester. Thanks for contributing to this effort.

To make your gift, please scan the QR code above; visit 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

Cardinal Kacey Musgraves (b. 1988), Danial Tashian (b. 1974), and Ian Fitchuk (b. 1982)
Sé (Shea) Brown (they/them) and Bek Zehr (they/them), vocals
Mark David Buckles (he/him), guitar
Sam LaGrego (he/him), percussion
Hyunju Jung (she/her), piano

I saw the sign or an omen
On the branches in the mornin'
It was right after I
Lost a friend without warnin'
Words unsaid
Scarlet-red

Chorus:

Cardinal
Are you bringin' me a message from the other side?

Cardinal
Are you tellin' me I'm on somebody's mind?
Don't leave me behind

I took a walk in the city
To clear my head for a moment
Turned my collar to the wind
On the street, it was blowin'
And there he was above my head

Chorus

Cardinal
Are you just watchin' and waitin' for spring?
Do you have some kind of magic to bring?
Are you just watchin' and waitin' for spring?

Chorus

*HYMN 226

People, Look East music: *Traditional French Carol*
arrangement: *Mark David Buckles* (b. 1980)
text: *Eleanor Fargeon* (1881–1965)

People, look east, the time is near
Of the crowning of the year
Make your house fair as you are able
Trim the hearth and set the table
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Guest, is on the way!

Furrows, be glad, though earth is bare
One more seed is planted there
Give up your strength the seed to nourish
That in course and flower may flourish
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Rose, is on the way!

Stars, keep the watch when night is dim
One more light the bowl shall brim
Shining beyond the frosty weather
Bright as sun and moon together
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Star, is on the way!

BENEDICTION & EXTINGUISHING THE CHALICE

RECESSIONAL

Where You Go (I Will Go) *Shoshana Jedwab* (b. 1964)
arrangement: *Mark David Buckles* (b. 1980)

Where you go I will go, beloved
Where you go I will go
Where you go I will go, beloved
Where you go I will go

For your people are my people
Your people are mine
Your people are my people
Your divine, my divine

POSTLUDE

The Place Where the Wind Blows *Kwangseok Kim* (1964–1996)
Hyunju Jung, piano



*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.*



Arlington Street Staff Directory

Rev. Parisa Parsa (she/her) • Transitional Minister (SeniorMinister@ASCBoston.org)
Mark David Buckles (he/him) • Director of Music (MBuckles@ASCBoston.org)
Jeff Fogleman (he/him) • Congregational Administrator (Office@ASCBoston.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



This Week at Arlington Street ~ You Are Invited!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

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

12:00 pm ~ Coffee Hour (Chapel)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8

12:00 pm ~ Monday Mettā (Zoom)

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9

6:00 pm ~ Buddha's Belly (Zoom)

7:00 pm ~ Arlington Street Meditation Room (Zoom)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10

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

6:00 pm ~ Kundalini Yoga (Zoom)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

5:00 pm ~ Arlington Street Writes (Zoom)

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

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

12:00 pm ~ Holiday Party Hosted by Rev. John O'Connor (Parish Hall)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

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

12:00 pm ~ Coffee Hour (Chapel)

1:00 pm ~ Community Carol Sing (Chapel)

**For details and Zoom links for these events and more,
please visit Arlingtonstreet.org.**

Arlington Street Church, Unitarian Universalist

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