



ARLINGTON STREET CHURCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Boston, Massachusetts
tinyurl.com/ASCZoom (video)
or (929) 436-2866 (phone)
[Meeting ID: 895 886 6876]

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2025
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT: LOVE
WINTER SOLSTICE & CAROLS

PRELUDE

Wexford Carol *Traditional Irish Carol*, arrangement: *Elaine Hagenberg* (b. 1979)
Blessing on Christmas Time *Hyunchul Kim* (b. 1969)
It Came Upon the Midnight Clear *Richard Storrs Willis* (1810–1900)
Hyunju Jung (she/her), piano

WELCOME & GREETINGS Rev. Parisa Parsa (she/her), Transitional Minister
Harry Kelso (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

Go Where I Send Thee *African American Spiritual*
arrangement: *Paul Caldwell* (b. 1977) & *Sean Ivory* (b. 1967)

Children, go where I send thee
Children, how shall I send thee?
I'm gonna send thee one by one
One for the little bitty baby
The baby boy who was born in Bethlehem

...Twelve for the twelve disciples
Eleven of them singing in heaven
Ten for the ten commandments
Nine for the angel choirs divine
Eight for the eight the flood couldn't take
Seven for the day G-d laid down his head
Six for the day when the world was fixed
Five for the bread they did divide
Four for the gospel writers
Three for the Hebrew children
Two for Paul and Silas
One for the little bitty baby
The baby boy who was born in Bethlehem!

Children, go where I send thee!

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

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

Rev. Parisa Parsa

***CAROL**

Jingle Bells *James Lord Pierpont (1822–1893)*

Dashing through the snow
In a one-horse open sleigh
O'er the fields we go
Laughing all the way
Bells on bobtail ring
Making spirits bright
What fun it is to ride and sing
A sleighing song tonight!

Jingle bells, jingle bells,
Jingle all the way.
Oh! what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh.

A day or two ago
I thought I'd take a ride
And soon, Miss Fanny Bright
Was seated by my side
The horse was lean and lank
Misfortune seemed his lot
He got into a drifted bank
And then we got upstot

Jingle bells, jingle bells,
Jingle all the way;
Oh! what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh.

LESSON

The Oak King and the Holly King (adapted) *Rev. Erica Baron*
Eve Lauria

***CAROL**

The Holly and the Ivy *Traditional English Carol*

The holly and the ivy
When they are both full grown
Of all the trees that are in the wood
The holly bears the crown

Chorus

The rising of the sun
And the running of the deer
The playing of the merry organ
Sweet singing in the choir

The holly bears a blossom

As white as lily flower,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
To be our dear savior

Chorus

The holly bears a prickly
As sharp as any thorn
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
On Christmas in the morn

Chorus

LESSON

Judah Leblang

KINDLING OF THE CHANUKIAH *Traditional Hebrew Text*

translation: *Rev. Joanna Lubkin*

Hannah Shanefield (she/her), soprano

Baruch atah Adoshem, Elokeinu melech ha'olam,
asher kidshanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu
l'hadlik ner shel Chanukah.

Baruch atah Adoshem, Elokeinu melech ha'olam,
sheh-asah nisim lavoteinu bayamim hahem baz'man hazeh.

Blessed are You, Source of All,
who brings moments of holiness to our lives
through the ritual of lighting the Chanukah lights.

Blessed are You, Source of All,
who brings our attention to miracles
from ages past to this very moment.

LESSON

Harry Kelso

*CAROL 244

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear text: *Rev. Edmund Sears* (1810–1876)

music: *Richard Storrs Willis* (1819–1900)

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth,
To touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, to all goodwill,
From heaven’s all-gracious king.”
The world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing.

Yet with the woes of war and strife
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not
The love song which they bring;
O hush the noise, all ye of strife,
And hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains,
They bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

For lo! the days are hastening on,
By prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever-circling years
Comes round the age of gold
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world give back the song
Which now the angels sing.

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

CAROL

In the Bleak Midwinter

text: *Christina Rossetti* (1830–1894) & *John Andrew Storey* (1935–1997)
music: *Gustav Holst* (1874–1934); arrangement: *Mark David Buckles* (b. 1980)

In the bleak midwinter,
frosty wind made moan
Earth stood hard as iron,
water like a stone
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
snow on snow
In the bleak midwinter long ago

Christ a homeless stranger,
so the gospels say
Cradled in a manger and a bed of hay
In the bleak midwinter
stable-place sufficed
Mary and her baby, Jesus Christ

Oh, what can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part
Yet what I can I give him: give my heart

Once more child and mother
weave their magic spell
Touching hearts with wonder
words can never tell
In the bleak midwinter,
in this world of pain
Where our hearts are open,
love is born again
Where our hearts are open,
love is born again

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

O Magnum Mysterium music: *Tomás Luis de Victoria* (c. 1548–1611)
text: *Responsory from Christmas Day Matins*

O magnum mysterium
et admirabile sacramentum,
ut animalia viderent Dominum natum
jacentem in praesepio.
O beata Virgo, cujus viscera meruerunt
portare Dominum Jesum Christum.
Alleluia!

O great mystery
and wonderful sacrament,
that animals should see the new-born Lord
lying in a manger!
O blessed is the Virgin, whose womb
was worthy to bear Christ the Lord.
Alleluia!

PRAYER

Blessing for the Longest Night *Jan Richardson*
Rev. Parisa Parsa

***CAROL**

Angels We Have Heard on High text: *James Chadwick* (1813–1882)
tune: *French Carol* (1855)
arrangement: *Edward Shippen Barnes* (1887–1958)
and *Mark David Buckles* (b. 1980)

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains

Gloria, in excelsis Deo
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, in excelsis Deo
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

See him in a manger laid
Whom the angels praise above
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid
While we raise our hearts in love

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see?
What glad tidings did you hear?

Gloria, in excelsis Deo
Gloria, in excelsis Deo

BENEDICTION & EXTINGUISHING THE CHALICE

***RECESSIONAL CAROL**

We Wish You a Merry Christmas *Traditional 16th Century English Carol*

Chorus

We wish you a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas
And a Happy New Year!

Good tidings to you, wherever you are
Good tidings for Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Chorus

POSTLUDE

It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas *Meredith Willson* (1902–1984)
arrangement: *Mark Hayes* (b.1953)

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 21

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

12:00 pm ~ Holiday Potluck (Chapel)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22

12:00 pm ~ Monday Mettā (Zoom)

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23

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

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

5:00 pm & 7:00 pm ~ Christmas Eve Service (Sanctuary & Zoom)

Church Office will be Closed from 12/25-1/5

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

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