

DECEMBER 24, 2025
MERRY CHRISTMAS!

PRELUDE

Reflections on the Nativity *John Carter* (b. 1930)
Little Rhapsody *Charles Tournemire* (1870–1939)
Mary Had a Baby *Traditional Spiritual*
arrangement: *Noel Rawsthorne* (1929–2019)

Rodger Clinton Vine (he/him), Artist in Residence, organ

What Child is This? (1865) *Traditional English Carol*
It Happened in Sun Valley (1941) *Harry Warren* (1893–1981)
Troika (1934) *Sergei Prokofiev* (1891–1953)
Sleigh Ride (1950) *Leroy Anderson* (1908–1975)
Silver and Gold (1964) *Johnny Marks* (1909–1985)

Joe Della Penna (he/him), Jazz Artist in Residence, piano

***PROCESSIONAL CAROL**

O Come, All Ye Faithful music & text attributed: *John Francis Wade* (1711–1786)
arrangement: *Mark David Buckles* (b. 1980)

Hyunju Jung (she/her), organ
Callie Jennings (she/her), trumpet
Bek Zehr (they/them), french horn
Jeff Fogleman (he/him), trombone

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and adore him, born the king of angels;
O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Lo, humble shepherds, hast'ning to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks in the fields, draw near.
We, too, with gladness thither bend our footsteps;
O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to G-d! Glory in the Highest!
O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

WELCOME & CHALICE LIGHTING

Rev. Parisa Parsa (she/her), Transitional Senior Minister

The flaming chalice is the symbol of our free faith.

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 God 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!

READING

Luke 2: 1-20 Rev. John O'Connor
Community Minister for Good Works

CANTICLE

O Holy Night text: *Placide Cappeau* (1808–1877)
translation and additional lyrics: *Rev. John S. Dwight* (1813–1893)
music: *Adolphe C. Adam* (1803–1856)
arrangement: *Mark David Buckles* (b. 1980)

Hannah Shanefield (she/her), soprano
Sé (Shea) Brown (they/them), sopralto
Bek Zehr (they/them), mezzo soprano

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining
It is the night of our dear savior's birth
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
'Til he appeared and the soul felt its worth
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn

Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born;
O night divine, O night, O night divine.

Truly he taught us to love one another;
His law is love and his gospel is peace.
Chains shall he break for the slave is our brother;
And in his name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise his holy name.

Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born;
O night divine, O night, O night divine.

READING

Where the Light Begins: A Blessing for Christmas *Jan Richardson*

CANTICLE

Song of the Magi *Anaïs Mitchell* (b. 1981)
Bek Zehr (they/them), vocals
Julie Metcalf (she/her), violin
Callie Jennings (she/her), trumpet
Mark David Buckles (he/him), piano and vocals

SERMON

The Light of the World Rev. Parisa Parsa

ANTHEM

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!

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Rev. John O’Connor

Your generosity will support our presence as a spiritual community devoted to celebrating and fighting for the rights of those whose lives and freedoms are threatened.

Your contribution of any amount will be deeply appreciated.

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

Thank you for your generosity!

OFFERTORY

Christmas Time Is Here *Vince Guaraldi* (1928–1976)
Joe Della Penna (he/him), Jazz Artist in Residence, piano and vocals
Julie Metcalf (she/her), violin

CANDLE LIGHTING CEREMONY

Silent Night, Holy Night text: *Josef Mohr* (1792–1848)
translation: *John Freeman Young* (1820–1885)
music: *Franz Gruber* (1787–1863)

Silent night, holy night
All is calm, all is bright,
'Round yon virgin,
 mother and child,
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,

Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,
Christ the savior is born,
Christ the savior is born.

Silent night, holy night,
Son of G-d, love's pure light,
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

*CAROL

Joy to the World! text: *Isaac Watts* (1674–1748)
tune: *G.F. Handel* (1685–1759)
music: *Lowell Mason* (1792–1872)

Joy to the world! The Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
Let every heart prepare him room
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The savior reigns!
Let hearts their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
And wonders, and wonders of his love.

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Go Tell It on the Mountain *African American Spiritual*
arrangement: *Mark David Buckles* (b. 1980)

Chorus

Go tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and ev'rywhere
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born!

The shepherds feared and
trembled
When lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed the baby's birth

While shepherds kept
their watching
O'er silent flocks by night
Behold throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light

Chorus

Down in a lowly manger
The humble babe was born
And G-d sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn

Chorus

Chorus

POSTLUDE

Prelude on "Joy to the World" *George F. Handel* (1685–1759), attrib.
arrangement: *Raymond Haan* (b. 1938)

Choral Improvisation No. 59 *Sigfrid Karg-Elert* (1877–1933)
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.*

WELCOME TO ARLINGTON STREET CHURCH

We're thrilled to welcome you to our Christmas Eve candle lighting service!
Arlington Street opens its doors to all spiritual seekers of good heart.
Every Sunday morning, we gather at 11:00 for beautiful music and an inspiring
message from Rev. Parisa. We hope you'll stay connected by signing up at
tinyurl.com/eNewsASC and come back again soon!

SPECIAL THANKS

Mark David Buckles, Director of Music
Hyunju Jung, Collaborative Pianist and Organist
Joe Della Penna, Jazz Artist in Residence
Rodger Clinton Vine, Organist in Residence
Julie Metcalf, violin
Callie Jennings, trumpet
Bek Zehr, french horn
Jeff Fogleman, trombone

Arlington Street Church Choir

plus members of the Boston Gay Men's Chorus and Coro Allegro

Soprano

Hannah Shanefield
Elaine Klatt
Eve Lauria
Gaby Whitehouse

Tenor

Daniel Rosensweig
Will Richards

Alto

Bek Zehr
Betsy Shearer
Claire Humphrey
Sé (Shea) Brown

Bass

Al Ingram
Dan Ivey
Don Picard
Jon Dendy
Richard Marshall

Art Nava, Kevin Tyrrell, Sandy Dixon, Rich Abreu, Marie O'Brien
and Frank Lee, our fabulous Tech Team

Philip Roberts, Kelly Anne Weaver, Kevin Tyrrell, Michael Fisher,
Bill Briggs, Keith Perron,
and their team of ushers and greeters

Sharon Gentges and Sarah Ross, our bell ringers

Kevin Tyrrell, Elf Jefe, and a host of elves for bringing in the greens

Robert Holley, for creating the exquisite sanctuary decorations
Queen Cheryl, Bill Briggs, and Darrell Waters for beautification

Arlington Street Church staff, members, and friends