



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21ST, 2022



*This week our restored iron handrails returned! Also note the restored brownstone behind them!
All thanks to Restoration Committee Chair, Jon Andersen-Miller*



Peter Faneuil was a colonial merchant who became one of Boston's richest men through the transatlantic slave trade. On Wednesday afternoon, John Gibbons (left), Arlington Street's Community Minister for Good Trouble; Rev. Valerie Copeland; and Rev. Kevin Peterson chained themselves to Faneuil Hall to urge city leaders to rename the storied building.

Dearly Beloved,

So many things I loved in the (pre-pandemic) Before Times are especially dear to me now. Yesterday afternoon, the staff gathered to begin planning for the holiday season at Arlington Street! Two dates to hold (with many more to come!): December 1st, when Santa arrives to light up the trees on the Boston Garden and Common and, especially, the giant Christmas tree that comes each year as a gift from the good people of Halifax, Nova Scotia; and December 21st, when we'll enjoy a Winter Solstice candle lit walking meditation, followed by our traditional Carol Sing, led by Director of Music Mark David Buckles. Last night, my dinner guests were Reuben Reynolds and Johnny Nichols, conductor and assistant conduction of the Boston Gay Men's Chorus. As of This

Very Moment, the intention is to welcome everyone back to the sanctuary and gather both in person and on Zoom for Christmas Eve — our first ever hybrid candle light service! My heart.

Another Before Times high point was welcoming and dedicating babies to Arlington Street. During this Sunday's service, we'll be celebrating Pippa Koffel, one of our littlest beloved spiritual companions. My heart, my heart!

Also on Sunday, we'll welcome our new collaborative pianist, Hyunju Jung. My sermon is called *Sitting through the Storm*. Soprano Natalia St. Jean and Mezzo Soprano Bek Zehr will sing Steven Universe's *Here Comes a Thought*; The Arlington Street Church Choir will sing Director of Music Mark David Buckles' choral arrangement of MaMuse's *Hallelujah*; and we'll all sing my late friend Shelly Jackson Denham's *Blessed Spirit of My Life*:

Blessed Spirit of my life, give me strength through stress and strife
Help me live with dignity; let me know serenity
Fill me with a vision, clear my mind of fear and confusion
When my thoughts flow restlessly, let peace find a home in me

Spirit of great mystery, hear the still, small voice in me
Help me live my wordless creed as I comfort those in need
Fill me with compassion, be the source of my intuition
Then, when life is done for me, let love be my legacy

Next Sunday, we'll be honoring *El Dia de los Muertos* — Day of the Dead. This poignant and uplifting service includes the creation of an altar featuring photos and mementos of our loved ones who have died. If you're planning to Zoom in and you'd like to contribute photos for the altar in the sanctuary, please email them to office@ASCBoston.org by Friday, October 28th, at noon. *¡Presente!*

*Faithfully yours, with love,
Kim*

p.s. A reminder that this Sunday afternoon, our own Judah Leblang will present his one-man show, *It's Now or Never: My Life in the Late Middle Ages*. If you can't attend in person at Boston's Beacon Hill Friends House, you can stream the show online [here](#). *Congratulations, Judah!*

p.p.s. Beginning next Sunday, October 30th, a Mindful Queer Dating Group will be gathering on Zoom, intended to provide support, resources, and care for queer people weathering the challenges of dating. For more information, please go [here](#).



2,600 *Portraits of Leadership* are hanging in the MFA right now!
Congratulations to our own Margaret Femia!