

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH, 2021



November in the Boston Public Garden. Photo credit: Rev. Beth Robbins

Dear Ones,

It's Thanksgiving Sunday and it's going to be a beauty: Director of Music Mark David Buckles will be conducting a string quartet! The service opens and closes with Mozart on two violins, viola, and 'cello! Our vocal quartet sings "Laudate Jehovam," Telemann's setting of Psalm 117; and Mark David's setting of the third principle of Unitarian Universalism: We believe in acceptance of one another and encouragement of spiritual growth. Mark David (guitar) and Julie Metcalf (violin) sing Zo Tobi's "*Only Thankfulness*."

When the years are all behind me,
And my time has passed me by
Only thankfulness will find me,
I'll be grateful by and by
I'll be grateful by and by

We'll all sing and hum the traditional Thanksgiving hymns — "*Come, Ye Thankful People*" and "*We Sing Now Together*." Rev. Beth joins me in the pulpit. My sermon is called "Gratitude is a Superpower."

There's a saying among my colleagues: "Once it's Thanksgiving, it's Christmas!" First things first:

1. This Sunday at 2:00, it's our annual Bringing in the Greens! Kevin Tyrrell, our very own Elf Jefe, is calling all elves! Everyone who can make their way to the church is invited to meet in the sanctuary to transform it for the season, hanging exquisite wreaths and swag made by our own Robert Holley. Please [pre-register](#) or bring your vax card, and plan to

wear a mask. Many hands make the work light and fun! All are welcome! If you have questions, please email Elf Jefe at kestrelboston@gmail.com

2. And speaking of decorating.... After the death of her wife, Michelle Buteau, from Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis (IPF), Arlington Street's Fran Peterson started the Call Michelle charity in Michelle's honor. When Michelle was at Boston's Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH) awaiting a lung transplant, they found themselves buried under unanticipated expenses — gas, parking, a hotel room — with no income as they both took a leave from work. Friends started a GoFundMe for them, but Fran is aware that not everyone in their circumstances enjoys that support. Call Michelle helps to fund the Transplant Critical Care Fund at BWH, which provides financial support to families and helps relieve the many burdens associated with extended hospital stays. Call Michelle's holiday fundraiser is wreaths! You can buy your beautiful wreath [here](#); select what you'd like and, when prompted, enter the password wreaths. Let's get into the spirit of the season and buy some wreaths ... for a good cause!

The staff, Art Nava, and the Tech Team are dreaming up some wonderful hybrid holiday gatherings. Please save the evening of [December 2nd](#) and the afternoon of [December 19th](#)! On Christmas Eve, thanks to Tech Team lead Art Nava and his merry band, we're going to be all virtual, with music from the Boston Gay Men's Chorus and Arlington Street's musicians in the Zoom room. Stay tuned for candle pick-up dates and instructions for getting Christmas Eve candles mailed to you! Once again, we'll be all together while apart.

*Faithfully yours, with love,
Kim*

