



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1ST, 2023



Dearly Beloved,

Last night's tree lighting in Boston was beautiful! Did you tune in on Channel 5? Those of us who walked over were treated to a clear 40-degree night, and the crowd was in great cheer. Emma & Jason Uppal's 3-year-old, Vivi, came down off Daddy's shoulders to join the other littles up front, making instant friends as only children can. Magic moments included a surprise guest appearance by Jennifer Hudson; Santa's arrival; Mayor Michelle Wu illuminating the giant tree and all the lights across the Boston Common and the Public Garden; and the fireworks display that followed.

The holiday festivities continue this weekend as Elf Jefe (aka Kevin Tyrrell) leads us in Bringing In the Greens. This old New England tradition is a favorite at Arlington Street: the transformation of our beautiful sanctuary for the holidays. If you're coming to the Sunday service in person, please plan to stay afterwards; many hands make light (and fast) work, and it's fun!

Elf Jefe is also recruiting elves to usher on Christmas Eve. Our services are at 7:00 and 9:00. If welcoming our many guests is a way you'd like to serve, please write to Kevin Tyrrell at ushers@ASCBoston.org or speak with him or me on Sunday. Again, many hands ... and fun! Thank you!

And another one for Boston-based people (Zoomers, rejoice!): If your back is strong and you have a passion for snow shoveling, Queen Cheryl, Bruce Dal-laire, Tom Anderson, and I invite you to join us on the Arlington Street Snow Team! While we have some professional snow-removal help queued-up, the work

of the Snow Team will be to arrive ahead of the Sunday service to dig us out — we'll want to clear the accessibility ramps, stairways, walkways, and sidewalks. Did I say many hands?! Please let me know you're in, or you can just show up (90% of life!). Thank you!

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This Sunday, I'll be sharing the news about our Miracle Sunday (Thanksgiving Sunday) as well as about yet another miracle ... and Advent hasn't even begun, yet!

Actually, this Sunday is Advent I, and our worship coordinator, Roddy Emley (back from Spain for his senior year at Harvard!), will be lighting the first candle: Hope. Director of Music Mark David Buckles directs the Arlington Street Church Choir in Joanne Hammil's setting of a favorite Emily Dickinson poem, which opens

"Hope" is the thing with feathers -
That perches in the soul -
And sings the tune without the words -
And never stops - at all -

They'll also sing Elizabeth Alexander's *How to Sing Like a Planet*. My sermon is called *Be Weird!* By way of illustration, Mark David (piano) and Julie Metcalf (violin) will sing us Patty Griffin's *There Isn't One Way*:

There isn't one way
There isn't one way
There's just your way for you
And that's the right way

You wanna have a little style?
Keep the kindness in your heart
Let it be the place you start
Let it be your best friend

We'll all sing Cat Stevens' *If You Want to Sing Out*, immortalized in the cult classic, *Harold and Maude*:

Well, if you want to sing out, sing out
And if you want to be free, be free
'Cause there's a million things to be
You know that there are

and *This Little Light of Mine*:

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

*Faithfully yours, with love,
Kim*

