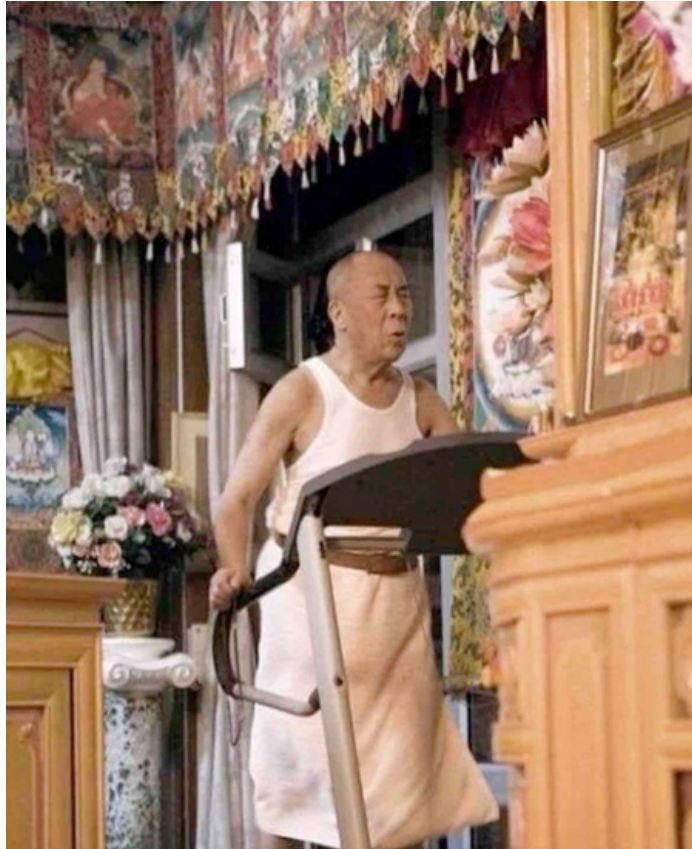


FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29<sup>TH</sup>, 2023



*His Holiness the Dalai Lama works at his  
New Year's resolutions*

Dearly Beloved,

What a beautiful Christmas Eve we shared together! Thank you again and again to everyone who brought the magic.

This is a quiet week at Arlington Street, as the staff enjoys a “long winter’s nap” after the big push of the past month. This Sunday, in keeping with a long tradition, Rev. Vera O’Brien will be in the high pulpit and Darell Waters, chair of our Worship Team, will be at the Gleason podium. Some of you knew Rev. Vera when she was on staff our Lifespan Religious Educator; in 2007, we ordained her, and she now serves as a hospital chaplain and as one of Arlington Street’s community ministers. Vera and Darrell will be joined by Young Woong Cho on piano and mezzo-soprano Bek Zehr. Young Woong will play Tchaikovsky, Beethoven, and Schumann; Bek will sing Jake Heggie’s Eve-Song: Even and Jim Messina’s Peace of Mind. Rev. Vera’s sermon is called Peace and Goodwill. She writes, “Peace and goodwill have both been in short supply in 2023. How might we create more peace on earth in 2024?” The service closes with our own Rev. Eugene Navias’ version of Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing; we’ll all sing

Come, thou fount of inspiration  
Turn our lives to higher ways  
Show the promise of this day  
Help us bind ourselves in union  
Help our hands tell of our love  
With thine aid, O fount of justice  
Earth be fair as heaven above

Following the service, wrapping up his 2023 duties, Elf Jefe (Kevin Tyrrell) invites everyone who's there in person to join him in "taking out the greens," removing all our beautiful holiday decorations and tucking them away for next year. Thank you, Elf Jefe!

When hundreds of churches were shuttered by the pandemic, my beloved colleague and friend, Chris Jablonski, who serves our congregation in Belmont, Massachusetts (yes, he's another Arlington Street person!), invited a group of senior ministers from thriving congregations to join him in an initiative to present free programming for spiritual deepening for those who had lost their spiritual homes. I said yes in our good name, as did the ministers serving in Dedham and Marblehead, Massachusetts (our own Jenna Crawford!) and Portland, Maine. It's called Community Collaborative (note the UU in CommUUnity), and all are welcome! Please visit [Community Collaborative](#) the first offerings begin next week — a Readers and Writers Workshop. On Mondays, January 15th and February 19th from 6:00-7:15 p.m., Chris and I will be hosting (virtual) Dinners with Pema Chödrön, discussing the American Tibetan Buddhist nun's beloved classic, *When Things Fall Apart: Heart Advice for Difficult Times*. I'd love to see you there!

Rainer Maria Rilke wrote,  
And now let us believe in the new year:  
New, untouched, full of things that have never been.

Happy New Year, dear ones!

*Faithfully yours, with love*  
*Kim*

