

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3RD, 2021



Elf Jefe hangs the giant wreath with backup from his elves!



Kit zhuzhes the swag



Rev. Beth (photo credit) and Darrel rejoice at Bringing In the Greens!

Dear Ones,

We had seven glorious weeks of hybrid worship, but our spiritual teacher, the virus, has more hard lessons for us.

The positivity rate in Boston is spiking. Between November 4th and November 30th, there was a 91% increase in COVID-19 hospitalizations in Boston. The good doctors on our COVID Response Team concur that, to be safe, it's time for us all to head back to the Zoom room.

Once again, I invite you to join me in tremendous gratitude for our Tech Team, which remains undaunted. I am deeply comforted by the fact that, no matter what, we'll be together while we're apart, and #CloserThanEver!

And let's continue to gather for some outside, hybrid events. On December 15th, we'll enjoy another gorgeous walking meditation through the Public Garden; and on December 19th, our annual Carol Sing will be led by Director of Music Mark David Buckles from the Great Doors on Arlington Street! Starting a week from Sunday, Queen Santa and Elf Barbara will be handing out Christmas Eve candles outside. More information will be forthcoming as we pivot, yet again!

This Sunday, we honor Chanukah, the Festival of Lights. Hannah Shanefield kindles the Chanukiah and chants the Hebrew blessings. We'll all sing *Rock of Ages* as well as Peter, Paul, and Mary's *Light One Candle*. Worship Coordinator Lucy Humphrey lights the Advent wreath (the theme of this second Sunday in Advent is peace), and we'll all sing

Deck the Hall. We'll also honor the memory of American musical theater giant, composer and lyricist Stephen Sondheim, who died on November 26th. Pianist Cheng Cheng plays selections from "All That Glitters," "Follies," "Merrily We Roll Along," and "Anyone Can Whistle." Our section leaders sing Sunday from "Sunday in the Park with George," and Daniel Rosensweig solos on *Anyone Can Whistle* from "Anyone Can Whistle." My sermon is called *The Miracle of Light*.

Melanie DeMore wrote this gorgeous piece, [Sending You Light](#). This evening, it's from me to you.

*Faithfully yours, with love,
Kim*



*Group Two Heads Off to the Tree Lighting on the Boston Common
(photo credit Art Nava)*