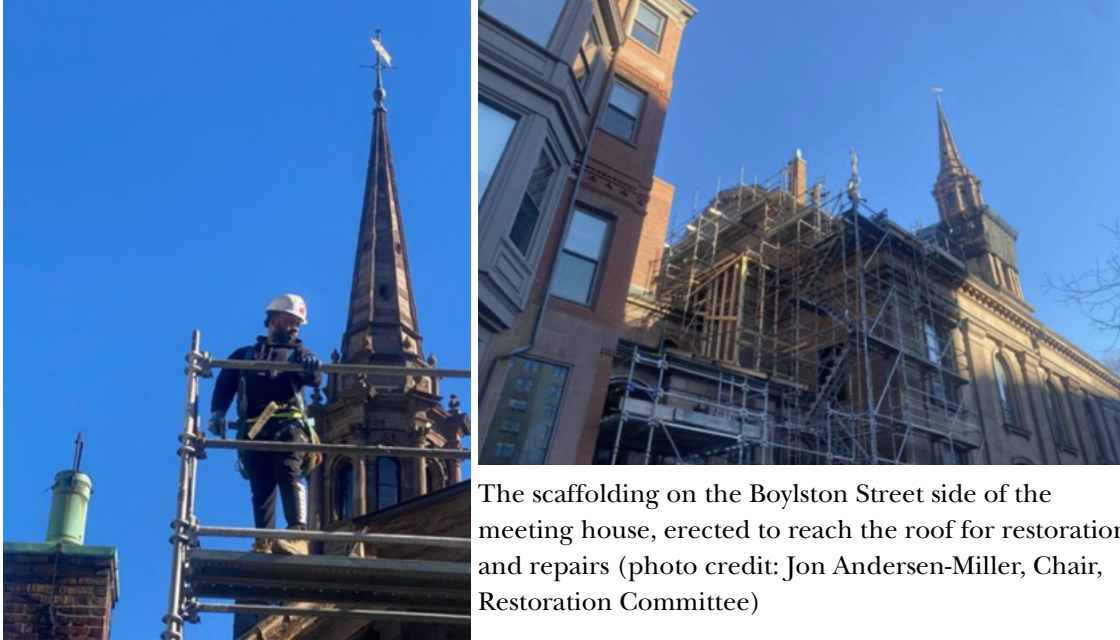


FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD, 2023



The scaffolding on the Boylston Street side of the meeting house, erected to reach the roof for restoration and repairs (photo credit: Jon Andersen-Miller, Chair, Restoration Committee)

Dearly Beloved,

An email arrived this week from composer Shoshana Jedwab celebrating the fifth birthday of her viral composition, *Where You Go (I Will Go, Beloved)*. Our Executive Minister, Rev. Beth Robbins, chose this piece to close her ordination on May 6th, 2018, and thanks to Director of Music Mark David Buckles, we've sung it ever since! Shoshana writes, "During tumultuous 2017, I understood that my song *Where You Go* was called to this moment in history." The single was released on both the anniversary of the Muslim ban (2017) and the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz (1945).

The words of the first verse, which we sing at the close of the service each Sunday morning, say

Where you go, I will go, Beloved
Where you go, I will go
For your people are my people,
Your people are mine
Your people are my people,
Your divine my divine

Shoshana Jedwab recorded additional verses, which begin, "Where you go, I will go, refugee / Mother Earth / children / ancestors." Listen [here](#) (click on the black arrow); I'm pretty sure you'll love it!

This Sunday, we'll open the service with the exuberant hymn, *Morning Has Come*:

Open our eyes to see that life abounds
Open hearts to welcome it among us
The light of love here shines upon each face
May it bring faith to guide our journey home

followed by the astonishingly pantheistic *See Not Afar for Beauty* (penned by Unitarian minister Minot Judson Savage in the late 1800s!):

In wonder-workings or some bush aflame
We look for truth and fancy it concealed
But in earth's common things Love stands revealed
While grass and flowers and stars spell out G*d's name

The Arlington Street Church Choir sings the African American Spiritual *Over My Head*; Mark David Buckles (banjo) and Julie Metcalf (violin) sing *The Rainbow Connection*, originally performed by Kermit the Frog (the late, great Jim Henson) in *The Muppet Movie*; and my sermon is called *Awe (Goosebumps)*. Our final hymn is *Blue Boat Home*:

The wide universe is the ocean I travel,
And the earth is my blue boat home.

Until then, and always, I wish you ... goosebumps!

*Faithfully yours, with love,
Kim*

p.s. Beloved Conversations, a Unitarian Universalist program for people seeking to embody racial justice as a spiritual practice, has opened registration for their spring term. Celebrate Black History Month by registering this month! The course runs from March through May and has separate sections for people who identify as BIPoC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) and white. Not sure if Beloved Conversations is right for you or need financial help? For more information, contact the Arlington Street Transformation Team for Racial Justice (Transformation@ASCBoston.org). In addition, the Transformation Team is holding a hybrid meeting after the service a week from Sunday (February 12th) — more information on that next week. *All are welcome!*

p.p.s. Rev. John Gibbons, our Community Minister for Good Trouble, is ... making good trouble! As a founding member of the New Democracy Coalition, Rev. John is working to change the name of Faneuil Hall; Peter Faneuil was a slaveholder. [Here's an article that ran at boston.com](#) on January 13th and [here's Tiziana Dearing's interview on WBUR](#) with Rev. John and his band of good troublemakers from Monday (it begins at 32:56). Thank you, Rev. John! Here's to good trouble in our good name!



JON ADAMS

*"I stay warm with a fiery rage, the flames of
which are fanned by reading the news."*