



FRIDAY, MARCH 3RD, 2023



Dearly Beloved,

Here comes Covenant Renewal Sunday, our annual celebration of generosity at Arlington Street, when we renew our great covenant of love and service — to dwell together in peace, to speak our truths in love, and to help one another — and make pledges for the coming fiscal year (which begins on July 1st)!

How much should you give? Interestingly, America’s poor are its most generous givers. My colleague, Pastor Coletta Jones, minister of The Rock Christian Church, a low-income congregation in Washington, D.C., explains why her people tithe (that is, they donate ten percent of their income). “When you have just a little, you’re thankful for what you have. But with every step you take up the ladder of success, the money clouds your mind and gets you into a state of never being satisfied.”

Many years ago, Kem & I decided to try it — just try it! — and adopted the spiritual practice of tithing. We’ve never looked back. Giving ten percent of our income to organizations in whose work we deeply believe, with Arlington Street at the very top of the list, is a source of great joy to us. As you’ll hear in Sunday’s sermon, *Give and Take*, there’s solid science explaining that joy. So here’s a guideline for how much should you give: *Give until it feels good!*

Highlights of Sunday’s service include hearing our own Anne & Ben Koffel speak about #ASCNation, accompanied by Pippa, one of our beautiful pandemic babies, whom her parents call “our littlest beloved spiritual companion.”

Director of Music Mark David Buckles and Bek Zehr sing *Give a Little Bit*. The
Arlington Street Church Choir sings *Draw the Circle Wide*:

Draw the circle wide
No one stands alone
We'll stand side by side
Draw the circle wide

We'll close the service with *Simple Faith*:

Ours is a simple faith
Life is a short embrace
Heaven is in this place
Every day
Hope is the ground we till
Make each day what you will
Thankful for dreams fulfilled
Every day

No room in this heart for fear
No judgment day drawing near
Trust that inner voice you hear
Every day
Life's not a goal or race
It's about heart and faith
And living a life of grace
Every day

Ours is a simple faith
Life is a short embrace
Heaven is in this place
Every day
Hope is the ground we till
Make each day what you will
Thankful for dreams fulfilled
Every day

Trust is an open hand
Making an honest stand
Rooted here in the land
Every day
Living the mystery
Seeking the harmony
Here between you and me
Every day

Love is the spirit of this congregation and service is our gift.
Heaven is in this place!

*Faithfully yours, with love,
Kim*

p.s. Our own Bek Zehr is very busy on the music scene! If you'd like to hear more (and who doesn't?!), Bek is singing ...

March 4th (tomorrow!): [New Music Marathon](#), 5:00 p.m. at Longy School of Music in Cambridge, Massachusetts ~ Free!
and March 6th (Monday): [Ensemble Uncaged](#), 8:00 p.m. at Longy ~ Free / donations appreciated.

p.p.s. Many thanks to Gaby & George Whitehouse, who hosted 25 people for brunch at Precinct Kitchen + Bar after the service last Sunday! Keep an eye out here for an encore!

p.p.p.s. A lovely thank-you from the leadership team of GAYLA (a retreat for men who love men):

Dear Friends,

Last weekend, men from GAYLA convened at Arlington Street for our Winter Gathering. On behalf of our entire group, we wish to thank the ASC community for making us feel so welcome and comfortable.

So many in the ASC community helped make the weekend special. Philip Roberts ushered our connections. Congregational administrator Jess Acosta gracefully accommodated our frequently-evolving plans. Art Nava went several extra miles to help us with our tech needs. Rev. Erica Rost Long's special welcome let us know we were home, and her sermon, Blasphemy, helped us on our journey toward racial justice. The highlight of the Sunday service for us was a special gift from mezzo soprano Bek Zehr and collaborative pianist Hyunju Jung, thanks to Director of Music Mark David Buckles. Flying Free is GAYLA's treasured "anthem," sung at each gathering, but never before like Bek sang it. Darrell Waters' tour of the Tiffany Windows and Rodger Vine's tour of the bell tower were spectacular, and nice ways to connect GAYLA to the ASC community. Please share our gratitude with all these folks, and anyone else we may have missed or who's work was invisible to us.

Since 1979, men who love men have gathered at Gayla annually at Ferry Beach. One of the nation's oldest ongoing gatherings of gay men, our mission is, "Celebrating men loving men, inspiring individuals to be healthy, caring, spiritual, and loving, and to share and nurture our gifts to the human experience." Arlington Street's Rev. Gene Navias (1928-2014) attended the first GAYLA gathering, and many ASC members continue to attend. We hope to welcome more ASC brothers this summer and into the future.

GAYLA, you are always welcome home to Arlington Street! For more information and to join the next GAYLA gathering, please [click here](#).



Many thanks to Tech Team lead and visionary Art Nava, who made this happen last Sunday morning!