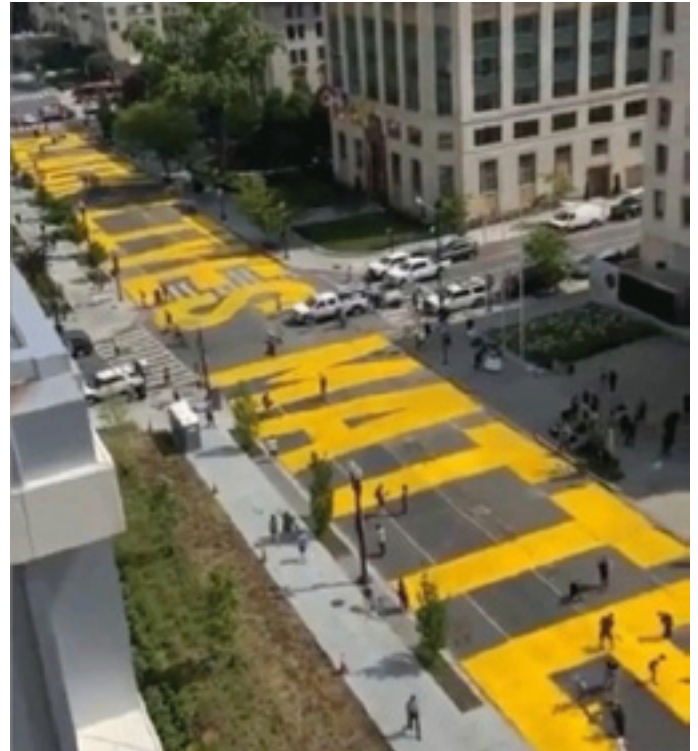




FRIDAY, JUNE 12TH, 2020



Dearly Beloved,

I'm deeply heartened by the tsunami of support for the Movement for Black Lives. In just the first ten days since George Floyd's murder, Derek Chauvin and his accomplices were arrested and charged, Minneapolis banned the use of choke holds, and the Minneapolis City Council announced they'll vote to defund and dismantle their entire police force in its current form. Dallas adopted a "duty to intervene" rule, requiring its officers to stop others who are using inappropriate force. Monuments celebrating confederates were removed from cities in Virginia, Alabama, and Rev. Beth's hometown of Jacksonville, Florida. Washington DC's Mayor Muriel Bowser had two blocks of 16th Street leading to the White House painted with Black Lives Matter in yellow letters so huge they're visible from space. Our MBTA agreed to stop using their buses to transport police to protests. And all over the world, protests, marches, rallies, memorials, and deep self-reflection are taking place. Let's continue to do our part to propel momentum for real, systemic change.

Last Sunday afternoon, I called my friend Hirschel McGinnis, who has more than usual going on in his life right now: Hirschel is black, gay, and a physician on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic. Hirschel's first fully-formed memory is of his neighborhood in Southeast Washington, DC, burning down in the April 1968 riots. Not long into our conversation, Hirschel told me a deeply moving story about his parents - and himself. I invited him to join me in the pulpit to give a sermon together this Sunday; we are so lucky he said yes!

It's been 50 years since the first Boston Pride. Despite the fact that we won't be raising the roof and taking to the streets on Saturday, we're all invited to [Boston's Virtual Pride Celebration](#). This Sunday, Rev. Beth is encouraging us to rainbow-up our Hollywood Square (note: she bought a dress just for the occasion)! We'll honor Pride with a chalice lighting from Audre Lorde and a *Presente!* (The deadline to get your names in is (Friday) at 5:00 pm; the instructions are below***)

Mark David Buckles leads us in Joshuah Campbell's "Sing Out, March On" and "Rise Up" (Black Lives Matter, Movimiento Cosecha, et al), adapted from Chance the Rapper's "Blessings:"

We're gonna rise up, rise up till it's won
When the people rise up, the powers come down
They tried to stop us, but we keep coming back

Ann-Marie Iacoviello leads us in Rachel Platten's "Fight Song" and Tevan Goldberg leads us in "Courage," adapted from South Africa's Anti-Apartheid movement:

Courage, my friend, you do not walk alone
We will walk with you, and sing your spirit home

The benediction response is a gift from Art Nava and a group of people we know and love - let it be a surprise! And pianist Yulia Yun, who plays Bach to open, will close with The Doors' "Light My Fire" - on organ!

Have I told you recently that you inspire me every single day? The prompt for this past Wednesday's Tea Time with the Ministers was "the lesson you were born to learn." Here are some of the answers - a spiritual to-do list!

Settle down.
Trust in yourself.
We'll just have to find out!
Love yourself.
Grace happens.
We are all connected.
Slow down. Go deeper.
Listen.
Walk through fear. Learn compassion.
Look people in the eye. Talk about what makes us the same and makes us different.
Pay attention.
Giving and receiving: interdependence.
Make time for self-care.
Ask for help.
Accept my imperfection.
We are not born racist; we learn racism. Unlearn it.
Keep traveling.
Love people.
Don't wait.
Forgive others. Forgive yourself.

Remember, beloveds, together, even while we're apart, we can change the world.

*Faithfully yours, with love always,
Kim*

Thanks to those of you who suggested places to support in addition to the Movement for Black Lives (M4BL.org). Please visit Scantwait.org and www.massbail-fund.org.

Summer worship services begin next Sunday! The sparkling speaker lineup includes (in order of appearance) John O'Connor, Melissa Dlugolecki, Jenna Crawford, Rev. Erica Rose Long, Rev. Joanna Lubkin, Harlow Robinson, Ali Jablonsky, Tina Rose, Rev. Fred Small, Art Nava, Rev. Erica (encore!), and Al Ingram! *Thank you, friends!* Happy summer!

An important note on Candles of Sorrow and Joy: Starting this coming week (for candles to be read on June 21st), please submit your candles here (ASCBoston.org/woship/candles.php) by Friday afternoons at 5:00. Candles submitted after that time will be shared the following Sunday. Candles are always welcome in the Zoom chat!

*** If you'd like, please send an email by tomorrow (Friday) at 5:00 p.m. to office@ASCBoston.org with Presente in the subject line and the names of loved ones who have died whom you would like to lift up this Sunday.

Important: In the body of the email, please write your list like this, names stacked on each other, with no punctuation in between:

Paul Richards
Patrick Grace
Don Sterton

Thank you!



Boston's First Pride ~ June, 1970

Rev. George Whitehouse was in the bell tower ringing our bells as he will be this weekend to celebrate 50 years of Pride in Boston!



The pandemic can't stop Arlington Street's Rev. Catie Scudera (now serving our congregation in Needham) and her infant daughter, Sophia, from celebrating Pride! Thanks to Dad - Cole Stephenson - for this photo of his beautiful family!