



ARLINGTON STREET CHURCH, UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Boston, Massachusetts

<https://zoom.us/j/8958866876> (video)

or (929) 436-2866 (phone)

[Meeting ID: 895 886 6876]

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2023

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

PRELUDE

December, from *The Seasons* *Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky* (1840–1893)

Adagio cantabile, from *Sonata No. 8 in C minor, Op. 13* (Sonata Pathétique)

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827)

Young Woong Cho, piano

WELCOME, CHALICE LIGHTING, AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Rev. Vera O'Brien

The flaming chalice is the symbol of our free faith.

INTROIT

Eve-Song: Even *Jake Heggie* (b. 1961)

Bek Zehr, mezzo soprano; Young Woong Cho, piano

in the evening I am at peace
in the evening I hear ev'rything
 more clearly
ev'rything
to the hearer all the world does sing
with a ringing and a quickening
overhead the birds wheel and turn
overhead the setting sun
reddening no longer burns
at the water's edge a wind brushes
 by me

with a susurraton:
grass and leaves
flowers glow against the dark'ning
 trees
eyesight and the light both go
ev'ry evening the forest darkens
in the evening my senses sharpen
I have no peace at night
I have no peace at night

GREETINGS Darrell Waters, Worship Coordinator

*You are invited to stand as you are willing and able.

***HYMN 58**

Ring Out, Wild Bells text: *Alfred Lord Tennyson* (1809–1892)
music: *Percy Carter Buck* (1871–1947)

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild,
wild sky
The flying cloud, the frosty light
The year is dying in the night
Ring out, wild bells, and let it die

Ring out the grief that saps the mind
For those that here we see no more
Ring out the feud of rich and poor
Ring in redress to humankind

Ring out the old, ring in the new
Ring, happy bells, across the snow
The year is going, let it go
Ring out the false, ring in the true

Ring out false pride in place and blood
The civic slander and the spite
Ring in the love of truth and right
Ring in the common love of good

COMMUNITY CANDLES OF SORROW & JOY

Sanctuary *John W. Thompson* (b. 1950) & *Randy Scruggs* (1953–2018)
adaptation: *Crawford Harvie/Buckles*
arrangement: *Mark David Buckles* (b. 1980)

Open my heart to be a sanctuary
All made holy, loved, and true

With thanksgiving, I'll be a living
Sanctuary for you

*To have your candle of sorrow or joy read during the service,
please submit it in advance at ASCBoston.org.
During the service, candles are welcome in the Zoom chat.*

AFFIRMATION AND COVENANT

Love is the spirit
of this congregation,
And service is our gift.
This is our great covenant:
To dwell together in peace,
To speak out truths in love,
And to help one another.

El amor es el espíritu
de nuestra congregación,
Y el servicio es nuestro regalo.
Esto es a lo que nos comprometemos:
Convivir en paz,
Hablar nuestras verdades con amor,
Y ayudarnos los unos a los otros.

***HYMN 240**

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

text: *Henry Wadsworth Longfellow* (1807–1882)
music: *John Baptiste Calkin* (1827–1905)

I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old familiar carols play
And wild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace on earth, goodwill to all

I thought how, as the day had come
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along th'unbroken song
Of peace on earth, goodwill to all

And in despair I bowed my head
"There is no peace on earth," I said

For hate is strong and mocks the song
Of peace on earth, goodwill to all."

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
"G*d is not dead, nor doth G*d sleep;
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail
With peace on earth, goodwill to all."

Till, ringing, singing on its way
The world revolved from day to day
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime
Of peace on earth, goodwill to all.

SERMON

Peace and Goodwill Rev. Vera O'Brien

SILENT REFLECTION, MEDITATION, AND PRAYER

ANTHEM

Peace of Mind *Jim Messina* (b. 1947)

Bek Zehr, mezzo soprano; Young Woong Cho, piano

Ain't no use to keep taking abuse
From a friend who isn't kind
A friend in need or a friend that you need
Who can help you through the troubled times
So reach on out and take a hold of my hand
And let me know that you're ready to go
There ain't no dues and you can leave your blues behind

And have a little peace, just a little peace of mind
Give me some peace, peace of mind

There comes a time when your friends go blind
And their words become diseased
They threaten your life with the blade of a knife
And set you down upon your knees
Make no mistake for your very own sake
Here's a little word for now
Take off your shoes and let your thoughts be kind

And have a little peace, just a little peace of mind
Peace, peace of mind, make us feel better

Some folks you find speak a mighty good line
They charm you all the way
They take you along on a sweet, sweet song
Then they steal your heart away
But blessed be the one who can understand why
People have to act that way
'Cause if I knew I wouldn't even want to say

But have a little peace, just a little peace of mind
Give me some peace, peace of mind

Everybody wants peace, peace of mind
Peace, peace of mind
All we need is some peace

OUR SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

Friends, these are extraordinary times that call for extraordinary generosity. Since 1729, the support of our community has allowed Arlington Street to thrive as a beacon of love, service, justice, and peace. This congregation is entirely self-supporting. In addition, we share each Sunday's collection with a partner in our vital mission. It's up to us to finance the beloved spiritual community we want to create! Today, we invite you to be part of Arlington Street's story of devotion, innovation, and transformational generosity. Please consider making a special gift to this morning's offering.



WAYS TO GIVE

1. Scan the QR code
2. Visit tinyurl.com/GiveASC
3. Search @ArlingtonStreet on Venmo (Charities)
4. Text the word "GIVE" to (617) 300-0509
5. Mail a check to Arlington Street Church

If you're ready to give regularly, you can set up automatic payments at tinyurl.com/GiveASC or by contacting Liz Teixeira at Treasurer@ASCBoston.org. Rev. Kim, Rev. Beth, and many of our most devoted members and friends pledge 5-10% of their income each year.

In addition, we encourage you to provide now for a future gift to Arlington Street by remembering the church in your will. Thank you for helping to ensure a robust future for our beloved spiritual community!

Whatever you give is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your generosity!

DECEMBER SHARE THE PLATE: FRIDAY NIGHT SUPPER PROGRAM

Friday Night Supper Program was established here at Arlington Street in 1984. Every Friday night, approximately 100 people experiencing homelessness or living in poverty are served a hot, nutritious, home-cooked dinner in our parish hall. The meal is served sit-down, restaurant-style, in a warm, welcoming atmosphere, providing a sense of dignity, choice, and abundance. *Let's help feed our neighbors!*

To make your gift, please visit www.tinyurl.com/GiveASC; scan the QR code above; or text the amount you want to give and the word **SHARE** (ex. \$50 SHARE) to (617) 300-0509. *Thank you for your generosity!*

OFFERTORY

Träumerei (Dreaming) *Robert Schumann* (1810–1856)
from *Kinderszenen* (*Scenes from Childhood*)

PARISH HIGHLIGHTS

***HYMN 126**

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing text: *Rev. Robert Robinson* (1735–1790)
& *Rev. Eugene B. Navias* (1928–2014)
music: *John Wyeth, Repository of Sacred Music* (1813)

Come, thou fount of every blessing
Tune our ears to sing thy grace
Streams of mercy never ceasing
Call for songs of loudest praise
While the hope of life's perfection
Fills our hearts with joy and love
Teach us ever to be faithful
May we still thy goodness prove

Come, thou fount of every vision
Lift our eyes to what may come
See the lion and the lambkin

Dwell together in thy home
Hear the cries of war fall silent
Feel our love glow like the sun
When we all serve one another
Then our heaven is begun

Come, thou fount of inspiration
Turn our lives to higher ways
Lift our gloom and desperation
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

BENEDICTION AND EXTINGUISHING THE CHALICE

RECESSIONAL

Where You Go (I Will Go) *Shoshana Jedwab* (b. 1964)
arrangement: *Mark David Buckles* (b. 1980)

Where you go I will go, beloved
Where you go I will go
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

POSTLUDE

How Great Thou Art tune: *Swedish Folk Song*
arrangement: *Mark Hayes* (b. 1953)

Young Woong Cho, piano



** Out of respect for Arlington Street Church members and friends who are Jewish,
we follow the tradition of not spelling out G*d's name*