



FRIDAY, JANUARY 6TH, 2023



Dearly Beloved,

For our opening hymn this Sunday, Director of Music Mark David Buckles reprises his arrangement of Grammy-winning singer-songwriter Ben Harper's *With My Own Two Hands*. I'm a huge fan of Ben, and fascinated by his story. His father was of African-American and Cherokee ancestry; his mother is descended from Russian-Lituanian Jews. Ben was raised in California by his mother's family; in 1958, his maternal grandparents, Charles & Dorothy Chase, opened the Folk Music Center and Museum in Claremont. Dorothy taught guitar, banjo, dulcimer, and autoharp to hundreds of local children and adults and began the Claremont Folk Song Society; Charles taught local young people the art of instrument repair. Together, they collected rare and antique musical instruments and artifacts from around the world. All of this laid Ben's musical foundation, as did his grandparents' regular patrons Leonard Cohen and Taj Mahal. Over six decades in, the Center, which Ben purchased from his grandparents, is going strong. I feel a field trip coming on...!

I can change the world with my own two hands
Make it a better place with my own two hands
Make a kinder place with my own two hands
With my own, with my own two hands

We'll also sing one of my favorite old hymns, Ralph Vaughan Williams' setting of Bianco de Siena's *Come Down, O Love Divine*. The final verse says

And so the glory strong
For which the soul will long
Shall far outpass the power of human telling

For none can guess its grace
Till we become the place
Wherein the holy Spirit makes a dwelling

The Arlington Street Church Choir sings *Gitanjali Chants*, American composer Craig Hella Johnson's setting of verses by Nobel Prize-winning Bengali poet Rabindranath Tagore:

... It was my songs that taught me all the lessons I ever learnt;
They showed me secret paths,
They brought before my sight many a star on the horizons of my heart.
They guided me all the day long
To the mysteries of the country of pleasure and pain....

And Soprano Hannah Shanefield sings Unitarian Universalist Elizabeth Alexander's *Grace*, which begins

It's how I hold my head up after I have missed the mark,
It's how I know I'm loved when things are dark,
It's how I stand when I am feeling small,
How I stand again after a fall –
It's how I'm even standing here at all:
Some people call it Grace.
Such a feast! My sermon is called *Grace Rushes In*.

Following the service, it's time for Taking Out the Greens, Elf Jefe's last official duty before packing away his well-worn elf's hat until next December. If you'll be there in person, please plan to stay after the service to help for just a little while; it takes less than an hour to "un-decorate." Thanks to Kevin Tyrrell for another extraordinary season of leadership and service ... and to all his elves!

Faithfully yours, with love,
Kim

p.s. News flash! Arlington Street's Community Minister for Good Trouble, Rev. John Gibbons, is a founding member of the new coalition to rename Boston's historic Faneuil Hall. In a MassINC poll conducted last year, a majority of Bostonians favor a name change in light of Faneuil's shameful connection to the slave trade; momentum is building! Supporters are invited to gather at Mayor Michelle Wu's office at City Hall this Thursday, January 12th, at 2:00 p.m



FOODS THAT WILL HELP OUR WILD FRIENDS DURING COLD WEATHER

guardiansofrescue.org

- Uncooked oats
- Cereal
- Cooked rice (ideally brown)
- Soaked dog kibble
- Wet dog or cat food
- Fresh coconut in the shell
- Baked potatoes
- Suet blocks / bird cake
- Raw peanuts / walnuts / others
- Raw sunflower seeds
- Wild birdseed
- Bread is better than nothing at all, but is very low in nutritional value.

Thank You for caring!



Has anyone tried unplugging the House and plugging it back in again?

 **Dave Troy**
twitter.com