

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2022



Last year's giant Christmas tree on the Common, with the State House in the background.



This year's Christmas Tree



Arriving in Boston!

Dearly Beloved,

Happy first Sunday in Advent, the season of anticipation! Worship Team lead Darrell Waters lights the first candle: Hope. Rev. Ali Jablonsky is preaching this weekend; a chaplain at Tufts Medical Center and one of our Community Ministers, Ali has served on the front line throughout the pandemic. Her sermon is called, *When You Can't Be Grateful*. Hyunju Jung is on the piano; Director of Music Mark David Buckles is on piano, guitar, and vocals. The congregation will join him in Alex Fam's *That's OK* and John Lennon's *Let It Be*; Mark David will be singing The Weepies' *Can't Go Back Now*, and Leonard Cohen's *Anthem*:

Ring the bells that still can ring  
Forget your perfect offering  
There is a crack in everything  
That's how the light gets in

Following the service, it's time for Bringing In the Greens! Elf Jefe (aka Kevin Tyrrell) invites those of you in the Boston area to please stay after the service to decorate the sanctuary for the holidays. Please let him know you'll be there; you can speak with him on Sunday or reach him at [Ushers@ASCBoston.org](mailto:Ushers@ASCBoston.org).

Also following the service, the Membership Team will be setting up chairs in front of the pulpit and welcomes those who are coming in person to stay for a friendly visit.

At 7:00 this coming Thursday evening, December 1st, please meet Rev. Beth and me in front of the church (20 Arlington Street) for our second annual visit to the Holiday Tree Lighting! We'll open the [Zoom room](#) as the in-person group heads for the Boston Common. This year marks the 105th anniversary of the Halifax Explosion. Rescuers from Boston were first on the scene and the last to leave. This is Nova Scotia's annual thank-you gift: This past Wednesday evening, a 45-foot white spruce was felled on the shores of the Bras d'Or Lake in the Cape Breton community on Christmas Island and is making its way to Boston. The Townsend family, on whose land the tree grew, says, "We are grateful to Boston and beyond excited to be a part of such a wonderful tradition. We feel this is going to bring a lot of happiness to the surrounding communities. The tree is such a special gesture of gratitude, hope, and continuing friendship."

At 7:55 p.m., Mayor Michelle Wu will "flip the switch" and the giant tree will be illuminated with 7,000 lights. At the same moment, more than 80 trees in the Public Garden will come on for the season. *Let's be together and make these days merry and bright!*

*Faithfully yours, with love,  
Kim*

