

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23RD, 2021



Matt Malikowski (AV wizard), Art Nava (visionary, creative, producer), and Rich Abreu (cinematographer) at the end of a long day of making Christmas Eve magic!

Dear Ones,

Here comes Christmas Eve! The most important things to know:

- It's all on Zoom!
- It's NOT in the Arlington Street Zoom room! Go to [ASCBoston.org](https://www.ascboston.org) and click through to the GIANT [Boston Gay Men's Chorus Zoom room](#) ... because it just wouldn't do to have to say "there's no room in the inn." Thank you, BGMC!
- Have a candle on hand.
- It's at 7:00 and 9:00.
- You'll love it!

The Christmas Eve thank-yous take up an entire final page of the [order of service](#). Tonight, Tech Team lead Art Nava — visionary, creative, and producer — is putting the finishing touches on his masterpiece. It's going to be stunning! *Candles up!*

And then, on December 26th ... What a joy to welcome home Rev. Vera O'Brien and Rev. Joanna Lubkin! In 2007, Rev. Vera was ordained here at Arlington Street while serving as our Lifespan Religious Educator and serving as a chaplain at Brigham and Women's Hospital. She is currently a chaplain at South Shore Hospital in Weymouth. Rev. Joanna Lubkin has been a choir member and song leader at Arlington Street since 2011 and was ordained here in 2016. Rev. Jo is now serving as the interim minister at Theodore Parker Church in West Roxbury. Both Rev. Vera and Rev. Jo are affiliated community ministers here at Arlington Street; we love that these two come home to us! They will be joined by pianist Cheng Cheng for this very special "turning of the year" service.

This Sunday morning opens and closes with Cheng Cheng on piano, playing Handel, Niles, Hopkins, DeShazo, and Hayford (with some echos of Christmas thrown in for merry measure!). Rev. Jo sings India Arie's *I Am Light* and *Hear My Song* from "Songs for a New World." We'll all sing *There is More Love Somewhere* and *This Little Light of Mine!* Darrell Waters is our worship coordinator (with a new poem by Amanda Gorman!). Rev. Vera's sermon is called *Gold*.

At 11:00 on Friday, December 31st, please meet Elf Jefe (Kevin Tyrrell!) at Arlington Street to Take Out the Greens! With half a dozen elves, it will take about an hour to un-decorate our beautiful sanctuary. If you can help, please contact Kevin at kestrelboston@gmail.com. *Thank you!*

Who among us knew the Greek alphabet before the pandemic? I could have lived my whole life without needing to know that omicron follows alpha, beta, gamma, delta, epsilon, zeta, eta, theta, iota, kappa, lambda, mu, nu, and xi.... COVID willing, this coming week, I'm speaking at Canyon Ranch in Lenox, Massachusetts. The following week, Kem and I are visiting her mother in Florida for a few days — the first time in two years. So many thanks to our extraordinary lay leadership who stepped up to lead our weekday offerings while I'm away: Philip Roberts (Monday Mett), Alan Kemp and Darrell Waters (Poems to Go On), and Queen Cheryl and Sharon Gentges (Buddha's Belly and Arlington Street Meditation Center). Rev. Beth will host the Wednesday tea party! *Thank you, friends!*

And now, said British-American poet W.H. Auden,
Let us allow Christmas to overtake us
in all our haste and unpreparedness
And renew the miracle of love
once again in our lives.

Merry Christmas!

*Faithfully yours, with love
Kim*



Some of the crowd who joined in the 15th Annual Carol Sing last Sunday — our first-ever outside, and our first-ever hybrid!
Thanks to Mark David Buckles and Julie Metcalf, and welcome to our newest member, seven-week-old Tibo, son of Dede and Alak!



Tom Anderson & Bruce Dallaire prepare 120+ packages of candles to mail to far-flung Arlington Street members. Elves are everywhere!