

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8TH, 2023



photo credit: Mali Chislak

Dearly Beloved,

Elf Jefe (aka Kevin Tyrrell) and his elves have done it again! Many thanks to Kevin and to Alan Kemp, Beth, Betsy, Chris, Darrell, Lois, Mali, Misty, Phillip, Queen Cheryl, Richard Marshall, Roddy, Sarah & Patrick, and Wendy for transforming our beautiful sanctuary for the winter holidays! Sunday's opening carol is dedicated to you.

There's a tiny bit more to do! If you are coming in person this Sunday and can stay for a few extra minutes, it will be done ... and Elf Jefe can check one thing off his list and go on to the next. The next being ... recruiting greeters and ushers to welcome our guests on Christmas Eve! Our services are at 7:00 and 9:00. Please write to Kevin Tyrrell at ushers@ASCBoston.org or speak with him or me on Sunday! *Thank you!*

This Sunday is dedicated to the celebration of Chanukah — the Festival of Lights. Hannah Shanefield (soprano) opens the service by kindling the Chanukah and chanting our own Rev. Joanna Lubkin's translation of the ancient blessing:

Blessed are You, Source of All,
who brings moments of holiness to our lives
through the ritual of lighting the Chanukah lights.

Blessed are You, Source of All,
who brings our attention to miracles
from ages past to this very moment.

... and we'll all sing the Chanukah hymn, Rock of Ages:

Yours the message cheering that the time is nearing

Which shall see nations free, tyrants disappearing

My sermon is called *Doing Our Part for the Miracle*. The Arlington Street Church Choir will sing Nick Page's *Peace Variations: Shalom, Salaam, Pacem, Shanti, Peace*. Director of Music Mark David Buckles (guitar and vocals) will be joined by Hannah and Sam LeGrego (tenor) in singing Peter Yarrow's (Peter, Paul, and Mary) *Light One Candle*. We'll close with Rev. Mary Katherine Morn and Rev. Jason Shelton's *Fire of Commitment*:

When the fire of commitment sets our mind and soul ablaze
When our hunger and our passion meet to call us on our way
When we live with deep assurance of the flame that burns within
Then our promise finds fulfillment and our future can begin

Happy Chanukah!

*Faithfully yours, with love,
Kim*

p.s. I'm looking for a few more volunteers for the Arlington Street Snow Team! xo!

