

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH, 2023



What's this joyful reunion? Hint:
That's Abigael! You'll be hearing all
about it this Sunday!



Dearly Beloved,

It was wonderful to greet some of you last Sunday and to experience a summer service! So many thanks to all of you who held the space for our weekly gatherings while the program staff — our Executive Minister, Rev. Beth Robbins; Director of Music Mark David Buckles; and I — were away for our summer sabbatical.

This Sunday, I'm going to be sharing another of the lessons from our time in Africa. This gift is from Rwanda — an exploration of a beautiful spiritual practice called *Umuganda*. Mark David has chosen the perfect music: The Arlington Street Church Choir will sing Jason Robert Brown's *Coming Together* and Mark David and Julie Metcalf will sing Zo Tobi's anointed *Blessed Unrest*. It begins

Oh I am waking up to find my world
Between the dying and being reborn
I see what is and I see what could be
Can't close my eyes again and go back to sleep.

The chorus is a prayer:

Fill my days with blessed unrest
And my nights with dreams of justice
Make me a vessel for the turning of the tide.

At the heart of the service, we'll be celebrating our pandemic-inspired ritual, Gifts of the Spirit. Each of us is invited to share (in a word or two) the gifts of the

spirit we're bringing to this new church year. The incarnate congregation will be writing theirs on little cards; Zoomers will be invited to drop theirs into the chat. Rev. Beth and I will read them from the pulpit (yes, you'll be anonymous!): a blessing on our beloved spiritual community.

Happy September! I'm really excited to see you!

*Faithfully yours, with love,
Kim*



to illustrate last Sunday's sermon: This is the Elephant Experience!
Photo Credit: Kem Morehead