

Arlington Street Church, *Unitarian Universalist*

Boston, Massachusetts

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17TH, 2017

You are invited to share your sorrows and joys with the congregation by filling out a Candle Card in the back pew on the right-hand side of the sanctuary. Candle Cards are collected until the end of greetings.

PRELUDE

A Little Child on Earth Has Been Born

The Holy Boy (A Carol of the Nativity)

arranged: *Noel Rawsthorne* (b. 1929)

Xuan He, organ

INTROIT

Angels from the Realms of Glory

text: *James Montgomery* (1771 - 1864)

music: *Henry Smart* (1813 - 1879)

arranged: *Mark David Buckles* (b. 1980)

WELCOME, CHALICE LIGHTING, AND GREETINGS

The flaming chalice is the symbol of our free faith.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH ~ ADVENT 3: JOY

Joy The Templeton Family

***CAROL 231**

Angels We Have Heard on High

KINDLING OF THE CHANUKIAH *Traditional Hebrew text*
translation: *Rev. Joanna Lubkin*

Rev. Joanna Lubkin

Baruch atah Adoshem, Elokeinu melech ha'olam,

asher kidshanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu

l'hadlik ner shel Chanukah.

Baruch atah Adoshem, Elokeinu melech ha'olam,

sheh-asah nisim lavoteinu bayamim hahem baz'man hazeh.

Baruch atah Adoshem, Elokeinu melech ha'olam,

shehechyanu v'kiymanu v'higiyanu la'zman ha-zeh.

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.

Blessed are You, Source of All,

who has given us life, sustained us,

and has brought us to this very moment.

LESSON

Why and How Rev. Joanna Lubkin

SONG

Not in Our Town *Rev. Fred Small* (b. 1952)

Fred Small, guitar and vocals

DEDICATION OF THE PLAQUE

FOR REV. GEORGE G. WHITEHOUSE

***CAROL**

Carol of the Bells *Mykola D. Leonatovych* (1877 – 1921)
arranged: *Peter J. Wilhousky* (1902 – 1978)

Hark how the bells, Sweet silver bells, All seem to say, Throw cares away Christmas is here, Bringing good cheer, To young and old, Meek and the bold. Ding dong ding dong That is their song With joyful ring All caroling One seems to hear Words of good cheer From everywhere Filling the air.	Oh how they pound, Raising the sound, O'er hill and dale, Telling their tale. Gaily they ring While people sing Songs of good cheer, Christmas is here. Merry, Merry, Merry, Merry Christmas, Merry, Merry, Merry, Merry Christmas. On on they send, On without end, Their joyful tone To every home.
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LESSON

Your Candle *Erica Rose Long*

***CAROL**

In the Bleak Midwinter ... text: *Christina Georgina Rossetti* (1830 - 1894)
and *John Andrew Storey* (1935 - 1997)
music: *Gustav Holst* (1874 - 1934)

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter long ago.

Christ, a homeless stranger, so the gospels say,
Cradled in a manger and a bed of hay,
In the bleak midwinter stable-place sufficed
Mary and her baby, Jesus Christ.

Oh, what can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him: Give my heart.

Once more child and mother weave their magic spell,
Touching hearts with wonder words can never tell;
In the bleak midwinter, in this world of pain,
Where our hearts are open, love is born again.
Where our hearts are open, love is born again.

COMMUNITY CANDLES OF SORROW & JOY

Sanctuary *John W. Thompson* and *Randy Scruggs* (b. 1953)
text adapted: *Crawford Harvie/Buckles*
music arranged: *Mark David Buckles* (b. 1980)

Open my heart to be a sanctuary
All made holy, loved and true
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living
Sanctuary for you

**You are invited to stand as you are willing and able.*

AFFIRMATION AND COVENANT

Love is the spirit
of this congregation,
And service is our gift.
This is our great covenant:
To dwell together in peace,
To speak our truths in love,
And to help one another.

El amor es el espíritu
de nuestra congregación
Y el servicio es nuestro regalo.
Esto es a lo que nos comprometemos:
Convivir en paz,
Hablar nuestras verdades con amor,
Y ayudarnos los unos a los otros.

LESSON

The Gifts of Darkness Beth Robbins

*CAROL

Come Darkness, Come Light *Mary Chapin Carpenter* (b. 1958)

Come darkness, come light
Come new star, shining bright
Come love to this world tonight
Alleluia

Come broken, come whole
Come wounded in your soul
Come anyway that you know
Alleluia

Come doubting, come sure
Come fearful to this door
Come see what love is for
Alleluia

Come running, come walking slow
Come weary on your broken road
Come shed your heavy load
Alleluia

There's a humble stable and a
light within
There's an angel hovering and
three wise men

Today a baby's born in
Bethlehem
Alleluia

Come darkness come light
Come new star burning bright
Come love to this world tonight
Alleluia

LESSON

Let Every Heart Prepare! Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie

CANTICLE

Canticle of the Turning ... *Gary Daigle, Rory Cooney, and Theresa Donohoo*

Mark David Buckles, guitar and vocals

Julie Metcalf, violin and vocals

Daniel Rosensweig, vocals

My soul cries out with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the one who waits.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,
So from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?

Chorus

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.

Let the fires of your justice burn.

Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,

And the world is about to turn.

Though I am small, my God, my all,
you work great things in me.
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past
to the end of the age to be.

Your very name puts the proud to shame,
and to those who would for you yearn,
You will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the
world is about to turn.

Chorus

From the halls of power to the fortress tower,
not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears
every tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more,
for the food they can never earn;
There are tables spread, every mouth be fed,
for the world is about to turn.

Chorus

Though the nations rage from age to age,
we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard
is the promise that holds us bound,
'Til the spear and rod can be crushed by God,
who is turning the world around.

Chorus

SILENT REFLECTION, MEDITATION, AND PRAYER

ANTHEM

There is No Rose of Such Virtue

text: *Anon. 15th century Middle English*

from *A Ceremony of Carols*

music: *Benjamin Britten (1913 - 1976)*

There is no rose of such vertu
As is the rose that bare Jesu.
Alleluia,

For in this rose containèd was
Heaven and earth in litel space,
Res miranda. [Thing of wonder]

By that rose we may well see
There be on God in persons three,
Pares forma. [Equal in form]

The aungels sungen
the shepherds to:

Gloria in excelsis Deo,

[Glory to God in the highest]

Gaudeamus. [Let us rejoice]

Leave we all this werldly mirth,

And follow we this joyful birth:

Transeamus. [Let us cross over]

OUR SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

During the offertory, you are invited to open your heart and engage in the spiritual practice of generosity. For 288 years, the abundant support of our community has allowed Arlington Street Church to remain a beacon for liberal religious values in downtown Boston. Your gifts in the Sunday plate sustain both the church and the larger community – half of the offering is



shared with a partner in our mission of love, service, justice, and peace. As a convenient option, you may text the word GIVE to 617-300-0509 or scan the QR code. *Thank you for your stewardship and support!*

OFFERTORY

Christmas Lullaby *Jason Robert Brown* (b. 1970)

Katie Elledge, soprano

I'll never have the power
to control the land
Or conquer half the world
Or claim the sun
I'll never be the kind
who simply waves her hand
And has a million people do
The things I wish I'd done
But in the eyes of Heaven
My place is assured
I carry with me heaven's
grand design
Gloria, glory, I will sing
the name of the Lord
And He will make me shine

And I will be like Mother Mary
With a blessing in my soul
And I will give the world
my eyes
So they can see
And I will be like Mother Mary
With a blessing in my soul
And the future of the world
inside of me
And I will be like Mother Mary
With the power in my veins
To believe in all the things
I've yet to be
And I will be like Mother Mary
And I'll suffer any pains
For the future of the world
Inside of me...

PARISH HIGHLIGHTS

*CAROL 239

Go Tell It on the Mountain

*BENEDICTION AND EXTINGUISHING THE CHALICE

*RECESSIONAL *(sung twice; please join in!)*

We Wish You a Merry Christmas *Trad. 16th century English Carol*

We wish you a Merry Christmas (x3)

and a Happy New Year.

Good tidings we bring to you and your kin.

Good tidings for Christmas and a Happy New Year!

POSTLUDE

Ding, Dong! Merrily on High arranged: *Noel Rawsthorne* (b. 1929)

Xuan He, organ

Today in Children's Religious Education (CRE)

Children and youth are invited to remain in the sanctuary for this morning's intergenerational Lessons & Carols service. There is an interactive order of service by the Great Doors that includes coloring pages and jumbo bingo cards with words from all of today's lessons. Allie and Lena are available to care for restless babies and small children in the children's pew (front right of the sanctuary) or in the nursery.

Share the Plate: Friday Night Supper Program

The Friday Night Supper Program was established here at Arlington Street in 1984. Since then, every Friday night, they have provided nutritious, home-cooked meals to Boston's homeless and hungry.

Through the end of the year, our Share the Plate offering will be given to the Friday Night Supper Program. They will be serving a festive holiday meal and distributing warm clothing and goodies to their guests, and will continue to provide hot meals and outerwear throughout the winter.

Thank you for your generosity!