

# Arlington Street Church, *Unitarian Universalist*

Boston, Massachusetts

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup>, 2019

*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**

The Christmas Song

*Robert Wells (1922 - 1998) & Mel Tormé (1925 – 1999)*

arrangement: *Jacob Koller*

A Child is Born ..... *Thad Jones (1923 – 1986)*

arrangement: *Oscar Peterson (1925 – 2007)*

Carol of the Bells ..... *Mykola Leontovych (1877 – 1921)*

arrangement: *George Winston (b. 1949)*

Yulia Yun, piano

## **INTROIT**

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

text: *Anonymous*, translation: *Theodore Baker (1851 – 1934)*

music: *Michael Praetorius (1571 – 1621)*

## **WELCOME & CHALICE LIGHTING**

How the Light Comes ..... *Jan Richardson*

Rev. Fred Small

*The flaming chalice is the symbol of our free faith.*

## **GREETINGS**

### **LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH**

Advent IV ~ Love ..... Darrell Waters

### **\*CAROL 231**

Angels We Have Heard on High

1 Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.

(Chorus) Gloria, in excelsis Deo. Gloria, in excelsis Deo.

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why these songs of happy cheer?

What great brightness did you see? What glad tidings did you hear?

(Chorus)

3 See him in a manger laid whom the angels praise above; Mary,

Joseph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love. (Chorus)

### **COMMUNITY CANDLES OF SORROW & JOY**

Sanctuary ..... *John W. Thompson and Randy Scruggs (b. 1953)*

adaptation: *Crawford Harvie/Buckles*

arrangement: *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

## 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

Candles in the Window ..... Rev. Joanna Lubkin

## SONG

Not in My Town ..... Rev. Fred Small

## LESSON

Jólabókaflóð ..... Rev. Beth Robbins

## \*CAROL 241

In the Bleak Midwinter

1 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.

2 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.

3 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.

## LESSON

The Truth About Santa Claus ..... Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie

## \*CAROL

Good King Wenceslas ..... text: *John Mason Neale* (1818 – 1868)  
and *Thomas Helmore* (1811 – 1890)  
music: *Piae Cantiones* (1582)

Good King Wenceslas looked out  
On the feast of Stephen  
When the snow lay round about  
Deep and crisp and even  
Brightly shone the moon that night  
Though the frost was cruel  
When a poor man came in sight  
Gathering winter fuel

"Hither, page, and stand by me  
If thou know'st it, telling  
Yonder peasant, who is he?  
Where and what his dwelling?"  
"Sire, he lives a good league hence  
Underneath the mountain  
Right against the forest fence  
By Saint Agnes' fountain."

"Bring me flesh and bring me wine  
Bring me pine logs hither  
Thou and I will see him dine  
When we bear him thither."  
Page and monarch forth they went  
Forth they went together  
Through the rude wind's wild lament  
And the bitter weather

"Sire, the night is darker now  
And the wind blows stronger  
Fails my heart, I know not how,  
I can go no longer."  
"Mark my footsteps, my good page  
Tread thou in them boldly  
Thou shalt find the winter's rage  
Freeze thy blood less coldly."

In his master's steps he trod  
Where the snow lay dinted  
Heat was in the very sod  
Which the saint had printed  
Therefore, Christian men, be sure  
Wealth or rank possessing  
Ye who now will bless the poor  
Shall yourselves find blessing

## **SILENT REFLECTION, MEDITATION, AND PRAYER**

### **ANTHEM**

The First Noel/Pachelbel's Canon ..... *Traditional English Carol and  
Johann Pachelbel (1652 – 1706)  
arrangement: Michael Clawson*

Emma Uppal, violin

### **OUR SHARED RESPONSIBILITY**

During the offertory, you are invited to open your heart and engage in the spiritual practice of generosity. For 290 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 unpledged 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 (all texted gifts support church operations) or scan the QR code. *Thank you for your stewardship and support!*



### **OFFERTORY**

When the Song of Angels is Stilled

text: *Howard Thurman (1899 – 1981)*  
music: *Mark David Buckles (b. 1980)*

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and the princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,  
The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among people,  
To make music in the heart.

## PARISH HIGHLIGHTS

### \*CAROL 239

Go Tell It on the Mountain

(Chorus) Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere; go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

1 While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. (Chorus)

2 The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth rang  
out the angel chorus that hailed the baby's birth. (Chorus)

3 Down in a lowly manger the humble babe was born, and God sent  
us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. (Chorus)

### \*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

We wish you a Merry Christmas

We wish you a Merry Christmas

And a Happy New Year.

Good tidings we bring to you and your kin.

Good tidings for Christmas and a Happy New Year!

### POSTLUDE

Joy to the World ..... *Lowell Mason (1792 – 1872)*

arrangement: *Julia Scott Carey (b. 1986)*

Yulia Yun, piano

*Please help to prepare the sanctuary for our Christmas Eve services  
by removing the hymnals from your pew*

*and bringing them to the library carts at the Great Doors.*

*Thank you!*

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## Welcome, Families!

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There are activity pages in the children's pew (on the right-hand aisle in the front of the sanctuary). If you have arrived with a baby or small child who becomes restless, there's a nursery/playroom with the service piped in for your listening pleasure. Go through the leather door to the right of the pulpit and cross through the chapel. The nursery is on your left before the stairs.