

Arlington Street Church, *Unitarian Universalist*

Boston, Massachusetts

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31ST, 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

Variations on Greensleeves *James Woodman* (b. 1957)
Now the Old Year has Passed Away, BWV 614
J. S. Bach (1685 – 1750)

Xuan He, organ

WELCOME

CHALICE LIGHTING

On the Brink of a New Year *Rev. Lois Van Leer*
The flaming chalice is the symbol of our free faith.

INTROIT

The Times They Are A-Changin' *Bob Dylan* (b. 1941)
Daniel Rosensweig, tenor

GREETINGS

*HYMN 361

Enter, Rejoice, and Come In
arranged: *Mark David Buckles* (b. 1980)

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

AFFIRMATION AND COVENANT

Love is the spirit	El amor es el espíritu
of this congregation,	de nuestra congregación
And service is our gift.	Y el servicio es nuestro regalo.
This is our great covenant:	Esto es a lo que nos comprometemos:
To dwell together in peace,	Convivir en paz,
To speak our truths in love,	Hablar nuestras verdades con amor,
And to help one another.	Y ayudarnos los unos a los otros.

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

***HYMN 86**

Blessed Spirit of My Life

RESPONSIVE READING

In Betweenness *Rev. Richard Gilbert*

We live
In between festivals of gratitude and joy,
In between seasons of contrasting color,
Between floods of brightness
And seas of whiteness.

*We live
On a remote island outpost in fathomless space,
Between stars and moon and planets and void.*

We live
Not quite in the apex of joy,
Nor in the nether of sorrow,
But in the moving space between,
Uncertain of our location.

*We live
Walking from city of birth to death,
Hoping along the way
To see something of beauty,
To touch hands with those we love,
To give more than we get,
To make some sense of it all.
We live in betweenness.*

SERMON

In Between *Rev. Vera O'Brien, Affiliated Community Minister*


SILENT REFLECTION, MEDITATION, AND PRAYER

CANTICLE

The Circle Game *Joni Mitchell (b. 1943)*
Daniel Rosensweig, tenor

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!*

*Rev. Kim, Beth Robbins, Interim Director of Family Ministry; Mark David Buckles, Director of Music; and the Arlington Street Choir are off today.
They look forward to seeing you next week!*

OFFERTORY

Widmung (Dedication) *Robert Schumann* (1810 – 1856)
arranged: *Franz Liszt* (1811 – 1886)

Xuan He, piano

PARISH HIGHLIGHTS

*HYMN 311

Let it Be a Dance

*BENEDICTION

Let Us Begin Again in Love *Rev. Lois Van Leer*

EXTINGUISHING THE CHALICE

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

When You Walk From Here text: *Linnea Good*
music: *Tom Witt*, arranged: *Mark David Buckles*

*When you walk from here, When you walk from here,
Walk with justice, Walk with mercy, walk humbly in God's care.*

POSTLUDE

In Dulci Jubilo *J. S. Bach* (1685 – 1750)
Xuan He, organ

Today in Children's Religious Education (CRE)

Thank you for coming this morning! There is no formal CRE programming today, but Allie and Lena are available to care for babies and small children during the service. You can find them in the children's pew at the front right of the sanctuary or in the nursery. To locate the nursery, 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.

In the Pulpit Today

Rev. Vera O'Brien leaves her interfaith ministry at Brigham and Women's Hospital today. In late January, she begins a new adventure as a Hospice Chaplain on the Cape and Martha's Vineyard. Rev. Vera attended Meadville Lombard Theological School and was joyfully ordained at Arlington Street Church in 2007 while serving as our Lifespan Religious Educator. Rev. Vera invites you to relax and enjoy a "resolution free zone" during our service as we let go of the challenges of 2017 and prepare to celebrate all the possibilities of the New Year.

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!*