



SATURDAY, JANUARY 2, 2021



Dearly Beloved,

Happy New Year!

Tomorrow, Director of Music Mark David Buckles (guitar and vocals) and Julie Metcalf (violin and vocals) start us off with Samuel Longfellow's *O Life That Maketh All Things New*. Samuel was poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's younger brother and a Unitarian minister. While a student at Harvard Divinity School, he and his classmate, Sam Johnson, edited *A Book of Hymns* for Public and Private Devotion, known as *The Book of Sams*. One of the most extraordinary features of the Sams' hymns were the many synonyms for what was, in their day, always called G\*d ... starting with "O Life that Maketh All Things New." Today, Unitarian Universalists are well known for "translating" our worship materials into all-inclusive language. We have the Sams to thank for their pioneering work!

Hana Omori (soprano) and Kazuhiro Omori (piano) will sing David Raskin's *Smile*, Tevan Goldberg (piano and vocals) sings Robert Schumann's *Ich Grolle Nicht*, and Mark David and Julie will also sing Joyce Poley's *When Our Heart Is In a Holy Place*, Lori Amey's *Heal*, and Ruth Moody's (The Wailin' Jenneys) *Beautiful Dawn*. Yulia Yun opens with Bach and closes with R. Kelly's *I Believe I Can Fly* ... on organ! Patrick Cooleybeck is our worship coordinator. My sermon is called *Follow Your Heartbreak*.

In addition to our regular gatherings in the Zoom room this week, we have two new offerings: On Monday at 5:00, Anthony Cannella, Darrell Waters, and Al Ingram are hosting *Gay Men's Coffee Connections*. The conversation prompt is, "What's the funniest or most awkward date you're ever been on?" And coming up on Wednesday at 12:30 is the first of two *The Wednesdays* literary salons devoted to T.S. Eliot's enormous and enormously complex poem, *The Wasteland*. In this gathering, the inimitable Professor Alan Helms is

going to talk us through it in an unprecedented lecture; a week from Wednesday will be devoted entirely to our questions and his answers! Also, you'll want to begin reading Vickie Mackenzie's *Cave in the Snow* and James Baldwin's *The Fire Next Time* for upcoming book discussions! Information about everything that's going on can be found on the homepage at [ASCBoston.org](http://ASCBoston.org).

To honor the new year, Queen Cheryl brought Alfred Lord Tennyson's Ring Out, Wild Bells to Poems to Go On. In the spirit of The Sams, it's easy enough to rewrite "man" and "mankind," and Margaret Femia suggested we recast the final line, "Ring in the Earth that is to be." As you like it! Let's dedicate this to our beloved Boss of the Bell Tower, Rev. George G. Whitehouse.

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,  
The flying cloud, the frosty light:  
The year is dying in the night;  
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,  
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:  
The year is going, let him go;  
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring out the grief that saps the mind  
For those that here we see no more;  
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,  
Ring in redress to all mankind.

Ring out a slowly dying cause,  
And ancient forms of party strife;  
Ring in the nobler modes of life,  
With sweeter manners, purer laws.

Ring out the want, the care, the sin,  
The faithless coldness of the times;  
Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes  
But ring the fuller minstrel in.

Ring out false pride in place and blood,  
The civic slander and the spite;  
Ring in the love of truth and right,  
Ring in the common love of good.

Ring out old shapes of foul disease;  
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;  
Ring out the thousand wars of old,  
Ring in the thousand years of peace.

Ring in the valiant man and free,  
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;  
Ring out the darkness of the land,  
Ring in the Christ that is to be.

*Faithfully yours, with love,  
Kim*



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Its has become very clear to me why the 1918 pandemic was followed by the roaring 20s & why people were dressing up to go just about anywhere