



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2020

Here's what we know so far



Dearly beloved,

I greet you as the outcome of the presidential election is still unclear. Many of us are the worse for wear after many days of late (or sleepless) nights. We are reminded that democracy is good, hard, and sometimes messy work and that the democratic process can take a long, long time. Please take care of yourself!

Thanks to everyone who showed up in the Arlington Street Zoom room for our Election Edition special gatherings this past week; to Kem Morehead for hosting our Election Night Watch Party; to Queen Cheryl, Bruce Dallaire, and Tom Anderson for boarding up windows and doors around the church; and to the Arlington Street members who gathered (masked and physically distanced) on the Boston Common for the next day's Count Every Vote rally, where our own Barb Seidl served as a marshal, Julia Simon & Toby March served as street medics, and Kem & I served as "peacekeepers." A very special thanks to the Arlington Street members — some on-site at the church and others working remotely — who provided exquisite support for this important affirmation of the foundations of our democracy.

Bill Briggs put his prodigious skills as an emergency room nurse who works to establish emergency rooms all over the country to great use, and, working with Tech Goddess Hala Hazar, organized volunteers into teams of Counselors and Lawyers (available by phone or at the church to provide listening, counseling, and legal support); Logistics (providing food and beverages for street medics and volunteers as well as keeping the church clean and sanitized); Security (keeping the church and our volunteers safe, including monitoring the entrances and church grounds and screening anyone entering the building); Street (those participating in the rally); Technology (one person per shift was in the church office, covering the phone; and a network of volunteers at home monitored news, internet feeds, social media, and the police scanner to keep the church teams aware of crowd

volumes, movement, and potential for violence. The team also set up a communications plan including using Signal, an encrypted instant messaging app, and handled incoming and outgoing email); and Versatility (available to fill in on any team at any moment from serving food to security to cleaning to driving) ... all while adhering to COVID-19 safety protocols. As Bill wrote to everyone in his debrief, “We have a good plan and know that it works. If we need to execute it in the coming weeks or months, we are ready.”

After nearly eight months of having been absent from the building, with months of continuing to gather virtually before us, this was an extraordinary homecoming and powerful reminder of who we are and how we serve as a beloved spiritual community. My deepest thanks to Bill & Keith, Julia & Toby, Hala, Barb, and Kem, as well as to Art J. & Susan, Art N. (co-lead), Barbara (co-lead), Bob, Bruce & Tom (leads), Caroline, Chef Eddie, Cheryl S., Connie, Eve, Fishy, Judah (lead), Julie, Gaby & George (lead), Gail & Alma, George, Harriotte & Frank, Kat (lead), Ksenia, Laura P. (co-lead), Margaret, Maureen, Melissa W., Misty, Nikki & Suzanne, Queen Cheryl (lead), Rick, Sarah C., Stephen, Philip (co-lead), Reese, Sarah N, Tina, and Trisha. If I missed you, please let me know so we can acknowledge and thank you next week!

This Sunday’s service opens with Batya Levine’s We Rise:

We rise, humbly hearted
Rise, won’t be divided
Rise, with spirit to guide us
Rise!

Director of Music Mark David Buckles is joined by Ann-Marie Iacoviello, Julie Metcalf, Hana and Kazuhiro Omori, and Yulia Yun, who will also bring us everything from Rising Appalachia’s *Resilient* to Shirley Caesar’s *This Joy*; from *Let It Go* to *Let it Be*, with some Mozart poured in for good measure! Hala Hazar is worship coordinating. My sermon is called Let Go.

A reminder that All Souls: A Capital Campaign for the Preservation of Arlington Street Church, will officially launch in two weeks — Thanksgiving Sunday — and the “internal” phase, in which each of us will be invited to give, will last just through December. We’re being invited to make a year-end gift to this building we call home — this building we received as a gift and which we will pass on to future generations. In between, it’s ours to love well.

I’ll close now with these words from my colleague, Rev. angel Kyodo williams, which I have carried in my pocket for many weeks, now:

My ancestors had to prepare themselves over and over again
for moving toward a freedom that was nowhere in sight.
We prepare for life as it unfolds,
not our ideal image of it.
That is literally the only path forward.

Faithfully Yours, with love always,
Kim

