



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16TH, 2022



Dearly Beloved,

I love these holiday seasons when Chanukah joins Christmas in coinciding with the winter solstice ... with Kwanzaa following close behind. So much light in the darkness!

Kem & I live at Concord Academy (with 31 teenagers!); I grew up three and a half miles away. My sixth grade teacher, Bob Lemaire, is still teaching in Concord: a legend! Some of you have heard me tell the story of standing with him on the playground, where he taught me the invaluable lesson of how important it is to learn people's names. Mr. Lemaire has been very much on my mind lately, since it was he who introduced me to Dylan Thomas' *A Child's Christmas in Wales*, from which Rev. Erica Rose Long and I will be sharing this Sunday morning.

I'd love to know if there's a scientific explanation for this: You're thinking of someone, and then suddenly, there they are (we could always go with coincidences being G*d's way of remaining anonymous)! This week, as I was heading into the post office early one morning, there was someone coming out who'd gotten there even earlier than I: none other than Bob Lemaire. We recognized each other immediately and shared a joyous hug. And it turns out he'd been thinking of me, too; just that morning, he'd visited ASCBoston.org to find out what time Christmas Eve services are. Yes, he's planning to come! Mr. Lemaire said, "I look forward to being in your classroom, Kim." *My heart!*

This Sunday is our annual Lessons & Carols service. Our own eight-year-old Zoe Arcuri opens the service with her Arlington Street debut, playing a selection of Christmas favorites on cello! Rev. Beth and I are thrilled to be welcoming to the high pulpit some of our affiliated community ministers: the good reverends Ali Jablonsky, Erica Rose Long, Fred Small, John Gibbons, and Kelly Murphy Mason. Jess Acosta, our congregational administrator and UCC ministry student, will also join us: All hearts come home for Christmas!

In addition to the lessons, there will be lots of carols: *Hark, the Herald Angels Sing*, *Angels We Have Heard on High*, *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*, *The Friendly Beasts*, and *Go Tell It on the Mountain!* In celebration of Chanukah (Sunday is the first night!), Director of Music Mark David Buckles and Hannah Shanefield sing Debbie Friedman's *Light These Lights*, and we'll all join in *Rock of Ages*. The Arlington Street Church Choir brings us the traditional English carol *All Hayle to the Days*. And Mark David (piano) and Julie Metcalf (violin) sing Sara Bareilles and Ingrid Michaelson's *Winter Song*.

At 5:30 this Wednesday evening, the Winter Solstice, we'll be gathering (in person and on Zoom) for a candlelit walking meditation in the Public Garden, followed at 6:30 for our 16th annual Carol Sing, led by Mark David.

I'll write much more about this next week, but just to sound the opening notes: Christmas Eve services (in person and on Zoom!) are at 5:00, 7:00, and 9:00 p.m. Please visit ASCBoston.org for all the information you'll need.

How much do we love being together for the holidays? Sooo much!

*Faithfully yours, with love,
Kim*

