

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup>, 2023



*Top:* Arlington Street welcomes the winter solstice in the Boston Public Garden

*Bottom:* Our 17th Annual Carol Sing, thanks to Director of Music Mark David Buckles

*photo credit: Kem Morehead*

Thanks to Jon Andersen-Miller, Chair of our Restoration Committee, we have new handrails leading into the parish hall (alleyway entrance)! Our Christmas Eve collection will go to fund more safety infrastructure: illuminated exit signs; emergency lighting; and egress modifications, such as bump bars on all the doors

Dearly Beloved,

I love all our holidays and traditions throughout the year at Arlington Street — and we have a lot! — but if I had to choose just one, it would be Christmas Eve. Thank you to my beloved accomplices, Executive Minister Rev. Beth Robbins and Director of Music Mark David Buckles, and to our volunteers, who so wholeheartedly bring the magic of this season both to our beloved spiritual community and far beyond our walls.

This Sunday, December 24th, is when it happens — three services' worth! We begin at 11:00 with an abridged reading of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, which Mark David (vocals) and Hyunju Jung (piano) will illuminate with *Unredeemable* (from *Spirited*, the modern musical take on Scrooge's transformation). In addition, there will be lots of caroling and "sweet singing in the choir!" Here's the playlist: *Still, Still, Still*;

*White Christmas; Love Came Down at Christmas; The First Noel; O Little Town of Bethlehem; Angels We Have Heard On High; I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day; Go Tell It On the Mountain; Joy to the World; We Wish You a Merry Christmas; and It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas!*

After both virtual and in-person coffee hours, we'll head home for a little nap, perhaps, and then we'll be back for two (identical) evening services: our beloved Christmas Eve by Candle Light at 7:00 and 9:00, featuring music by the Boston Gay Men's Chorus, accompanied by Hyunju; as well as jazz piano by Joe Della Penna and organ by Rodger Vine. Rev. Beth joins me in the pulpit; my sermon is called Joy!

If you've ever thought about inviting someone to Arlington Street but worried they'd think you were a religious fanatic, had joined a cult, or otherwise taken leave of your senses, this is the moment! Extending the invitation to our Christmas Eve services is almost certainly risk-free; it's just a really great show (and a deeply spiritual experience, but you can let them discover that for themselves!).

Zoomers, a reminder to please bring a candle to the evening services with you (if you don't have a candle, the flashlight on your cellphone will do!), and if you have a way to turn off or dim the lights in your Hollywood Square, the Zoom room will be especially beautiful!

Here comes Christmas Eve! *Let your heart be light!*

*Faithfully yours, with love  
Kim*

