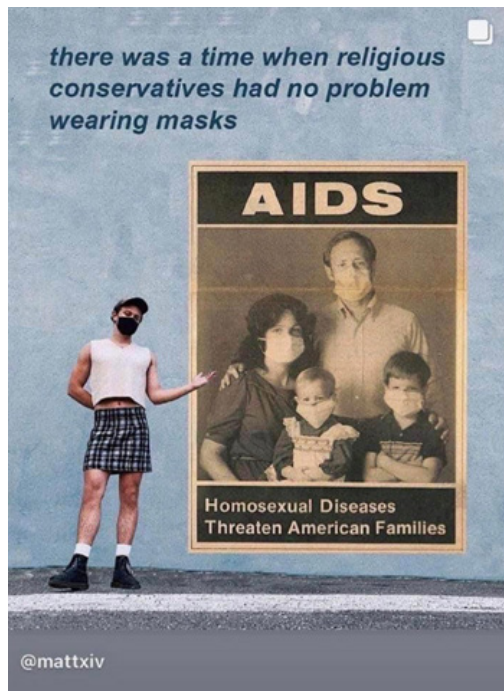


FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH, 2021



Dear Ones,

On behalf of our longtimers, I want to apologize to those of you who are new to Arlington Street and live at a distance for all our heartache around not being able to reopen the sanctuary this month — a part of the “old normal” we’re grieving. Please know that we’ve hired an AV professional who’s working with a truly spectacular team to be sure that, when the moment comes to reopen, the hybrid Sunday morning experience — some of us in person, some on Zoom — will be vibrant and engaging. We are one congregation!

Last month, after I wrote to our leadership that the COVID positivity rate in Boston was too high for us to gather in the sanctuary, knowing that we might regret being too cautious but that we would regret far more not being cautious enough, the very first email I received was from Art Nava, our Tech Team lead. He and his husband, videographer Rich Abreu, have produced 78 Zoom services; one might imagine they’d like to rest. Instead, he said, “We of course support your decision and will be ready to continue bringing church to Zoom.” Likewise, Tech Team members Kem Morehead and Sandy Dixon, both engineers in former incarnations, also said, “No worries; we’re all in!” I cannot say this often enough: We literally could not do this without our Tech Team, and they do it with so much heart, so much skill and beauty, and unceasing generosity and grace. Please join me in thanking them again and again!

Thanks, too, to our leadership who kept the Zoom room open all summer long — Art and Rich, summer intern minister John O’Connor, all our summer preachers, and to Darrell Waters, Philip Roberts, Sharon Gentges, Trisha Zembruski, and Queen Cheryl, who hosted our weekday offerings. Thanks to Dr. Alan Rodgers for his good counsel on all things COVID. And thanks to the Tiffany Center volunteers who enacted COVID-safe protocols and welcomed visitors to tour the sanctuary all summer.

This Sunday, we welcome our new section leaders to the Arlington Street music team! Huge props to Director of Music Mark David Buckles for auditioning and onboarding his new team members mid-pandemic. Joining tenor Daniel Rosensweig are Andrew Stack (bass), Darby Clinard (alto), and Hannah Shanefield (mezzo soprano). Yulia Yun will open the service playing Chopin on piano, and we'll be singing some favorites, including *Ozi v'Zimrat Yah* and *Olam chesed yibaneh* (honoring the Jewish High Holy Days. L'shanah Tovah, dear ones!); The Wailin' Jennys' *Beautiful Dawn*; *I Hope You Dance* (Arlington Street meets Country); Mark David's setting of the Rumi text *Dance When You're Broken Open*; and *Home* (Arlington Street meets American Idol). Artist in Residence Rodger Clinton Vine closes the service playing a John Stanley trumpet voluntary on the organ. Rev. Beth joins me in the pulpit. My sermon is called One Wild Word. Come [here](#)!

The program staff and the Tech Team have what we pray will be a wonderful treat for everyone this Sunday. Since it involves new, as-yet untested technology, equipment, and staff, it will either be a sweet surprise or there will be a story to tell. Consider this teaser an invitation to get excited ... and a plea to get ready to be forgiving!

A reminder that our weekly Wednesday tea party is moving to a 4:00 start time. In addition to all the usual wonderful weekday Zoom offerings, I'm eager for us to begin experimenting with hybrid life — some of us in person, outdoors, and some in our [Zoom room](#). The two inaugural events are coming right up: At 2:30 this Sunday afternoon, Mark David will lead an in-person “sing” from our Great Doors! Let's plan to gather on the sidewalk, masked and distanced, or in the Zoom room; members of our Tech Team will be on hand to livestream. And on Wednesday evening, I'll be leading a walking meditation in the Public Garden. Let's gather COVID-safely in front of the Great Doors at 6:45; at 7:00, I'll open the Zoom room, and we'll go for a beautiful walk together. The Arlington Street Meditation Center has always walked outside in all kinds of weather; I'll be there rain or shine, and would love (LOVE) to see you! I'll be test-driving a fetching harness my resident Tech Team member found for me that makes my iPhone into a GoPro (a whole new level of geek meets nerd), so that those of you who would like to walk in your home or neighborhood can come with us where we're going.

I'll close with a message from our beloved Don Rickter, who, at 90 years old, is leading the charge for Massachusetts to bury its racist state flag. Don writes,

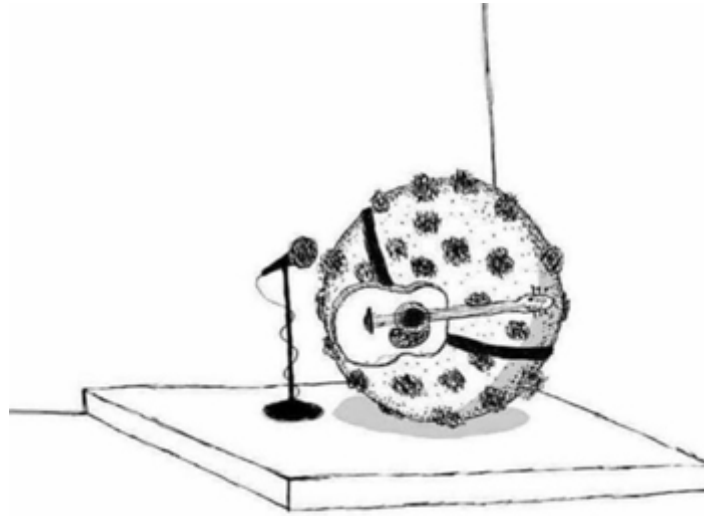
“The Massachusetts state flag is an ancient, white supremacist symbol, depicting the colonial sword over the head of a subdued native. In addition, people who are experts in the study of flags (vexillologists) say the design itself is an example of a bad flag (there is a small book, *Good Flag, Bad Flag: How to Design a Great Flag*, which outlines the 5 basic principles to create an outstanding flag).

“We could get rid of the current flag and replace it with a clear symbol appropriate to the 21st century. We could look forward, not backward in time *Instead of Subjugation, we could emphasize Innovation*. I have some ideas about a new flag, but first we have to get rid of the current flag.

“A special commission has been formed to invite leaders of Native Nations of the region now called Massachusetts to sit with state legislators to design a new state flag and seal. Information is [here](#). This is a rare opportunity to mobilize for social justice! To contact your Massachusetts state representative go [here](#). And please call Governor Charlie Baker at (888) 870-7770 (toll-free). The commission is required to report by the first of October.”

Thank you, Don!

*Faithfully yours, with love,
Kim*



*"This one's dedicated to all the people that didn't believe
in me when I was getting started."*

Wednesday's tea party prompt was, *Read any good books lately?* Here are some of ours! Isabel Wilkerson, *Caste*; Frank Ostaseski, *The Five Invitations*; Rachel Kadish, *The Weight of Ink*; Louise Penny, *Still Life* (and all her books that follow); Dawnie Walton, *The Final Revival of Opal & Nev*; Mark Twain, *Huckleberry Finn* (and everything he ever wrote); Ted Keyes, ed., *Good Flag, Bad Flag*; Beacon Hill Garden Club, *The Hidden Gardens of Beacon Hill*; Walter Isaacson, *Leonardo da Vinci*; Flannery O'Connor, *The Complete Stories*; John Sandford, *Shock Wave*; David Sedaris, *Naked*; James Herriot, *All Creatures Great and Small*; Lee Child, *Make Me and Never Go Back*; Jennet Conant, *109 East Palace*; Sebastian Junger, *Tribe*; Eddie S. Glaude, Jr., *Begin Again*; Pam Muñoz Ryan, *Esperanza Rising*; Christopher Paul Curtis, *Bud Not Buddy*; J.M.M. Nuñez, *Birdie and Me*; Vickie Mackenzie, *Cave in the Snow*; David Schneider, *Street Zen*; Thich Nhat Hanh, *The Miracle of Mindfulness*; Sharon Salzberg, *Loving-Kindness*; Pema Chödrön, *When Things Fall Apart and No Time to Lose*; Maya Angelou, *The Heart of a Woman*; Ibram X. Kendi, *400 Souls*; Jee Leong Koh, *Snow at 5 PM*; Atul Gawande, *Being Mortal*; Kate DiCamillo, *Because of Winn-Dixie*; Laurie Frankel, *This Is How It Always Is*; Isaac Asimov, *Understanding Physics*; Alexandra David-Neél, *Magic and Mystery in Tibet*; Colson Whitehead, *The Underground Railroad*, *The Nickel Boys*, and *Harlem Shuffle*; James Baldwin, *Go Tell It On The Mountain* (and everything he ever wrote); Jack Kornfield, *Buddha's Little Instruction Book*; Ted Nancy, *Letters from Ted Nancy*; John Berendt, *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*; Howard Frank Mosher, *Where the Rivers Run North*; Truman Capote, *Other Voices*, *Other Rooms* (and many more); Ben McIntyre, *Agent Sonya*; Louis Menand, *The Free World*; Paula Marantz Cohen, *Of Human Kindness*; Billie Jean King, *All In*; Dennis Baron, *What's Your Pronoun?*

This week's prompt is, *What is home?* See you in the Zoom room on Wednesday at 4:00. BYOT!



BREAKING NEWS

**LYFT AND UBER ANNOUNCE THEY
WILL COVER 100% OF THE LEGAL
FEES OF DRIVERS WHO ARE SUED
FOR "AIDING AND ABETTING"
UNDER TEXAS' ABORTION LAW.**

MEIDAS TOUCH