

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup>, 2022



*Left to right: Rev. Kevin Peterson (New Democracy Coalition) and our own Rev. John Gibbons (Community Minister for Good Trouble) and Rev. George Whitehouse (Community Minister at Large) speak in Copley Square this summer in the wake of the racist attack on activist, artist, and musician Charles Murrell. Thank you, George and John, for being ambassadors for justice in our good name!*

Dearly Beloved,

Wednesday was the first day since March of 2019 that being at the church felt, well, normal (as in “old normal”). From early morning, when the construction crew showed up to continue their work renovating the Arlington Street steps, people were coming and going all day and into the evening. Our executive minister, Rev. Beth Robbins; our Restoration Committee Chair, Jon Andersen-Miller; and I had a lunch-time meeting with Elsa Mosquera, founder of Ágora Cultural, the Latinx arts hub at Arlington Street; three members of her staff, two of whom had just arrived from Puerto Rico; and a potential funder for some interior capital projects.

Jon said the words “elevator” and “air conditioning” (!) to our guests before heading down to the Perkins room for a construction project meeting with half a dozen people whose companies all have a hand in this giant undertaking. And then, speaking of giant, Gentle Giant Moving Company arrived with huge shipping crates containing the Clarke room’s restored stained glass windows. It took three big guys to carry them up the stairs and navigate the turn at the halfway point. It was cover-your-eyes nerve-racking! Meanwhile, our archivist, Fitch Henry, was downstairs in the Smith room, sorting through tall piles of old papers. A lovely couple from Colombia arrived at the 351 Boylston Street door, thrilled to wander around in the sanctuary and take in the Tiffany windows. While pianist Danilo Pérez, Panama’s Father of Jazz, gave a master class to Berklee College of Music students (his band had arrived earlier along with a truckload of instruments), Rev. Beth and I Zoomed in to our weekly tea party

from the Frothingham Library (if you haven't come, yet, please join us; it's both hilarious and tender!). As we finished up, the doorbell rang; it was a professor from Berklee in search of a saxophone stand. And finally, our own Julia Simon and her fiancé, Toby March, arrived with another couple who will also be married this fall to do a walkthrough of the sanctuary and chapel for their weddings.

I am under no illusion that the pandemic is over — of the 31 teenage girls with whom Kem and I live as house faculty at Concord Academy, eight left campus over the past three days, positive for COVID. But it's thrilling to have so much life in the church after these long years and months of silence and stillness. Sunday's sermon is called *Graceful Change*.

Director of Music Mark David Buckles will direct Cheng Cheng (piano), Julie Metcalf (violin), and the Arlington Street Church choir as they open the service with David Glasgow's *Here Together*:

We are here, here together  
in this holy moment  
and we're grateful for the winding road  
that brought us to this place

... and we'll let it all unfurl from there. I am so grateful.

*Faithfully yours, with love,  
Kim*

p.s. Kevin Tyrrell, lead of our lead ushers, is looking for a few people who attend church incarnate who would like to usher once a month or so. This is a wonderful way to give service to Arlington Street members, friends, and visitors; the ushers hand out orders of service, keep an eye on everything, help out as needed ... and win my undying gratitude! *Newcomers are welcome!* Please contact Kevin at [ushers@ASCBoston.org](mailto:ushers@ASCBoston.org) with questions or to say yes! *Thank you!*



*The restored Clarke room stained glass windows return!  
Our deepest thanks to Restoration  
Committee lead Jon Andersen-Miller.*



