

# Arlington Street Church, *Unitarian Universalist*

Boston, Massachusetts

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2017

*You are invited to share your sorrows and joys with the congregation by filling out a Candle Card in the back pew on the right-hand side of the sanctuary. Candle Cards are collected until the end of greetings.*

## **PRELUDE**

Nocturne in D-flat ..... *Claude Debussy* (1862 - 1918)  
Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring ..... *Johann Sebastian Bach* (1685 - 1750)  
Rodger Clinton Vine, piano

## **WELCOME, CHALICE LIGHTING, AND GREETINGS**

*The flaming chalice is the symbol of our free faith.*

## **INTROIT**

Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella ..... *Traditional French Carol*  
arranged: *Mark Hayes* (b. 1953)  
Julie Gregorio, soprano

## **LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH ~ ADVENT 2: PEACE**

Peace ..... *The Pontes Family*

## **\*HYMN 235**

Deck the Hall

*Dedicated with gratitude and love to Robert Holley  
for his magnificent transformation of our sanctuary,  
and with thanks to his elves!*

## **DRESSING THE MITTEN TREE**

Beth Robbins and Erica Rose Long

## **COMMUNITY CANDLES OF SORROW & JOY**

Sanctuary ..... *John W. Thompson and Randy Scruggs* (b. 1953)  
text adapted: *Crawford Harvie/Buckles*  
music arranged: *Mark David Buckles* (b. 1980)

Open my heart to be a sanctuary  
All made holy, loved and true  
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living  
Sanctuary for you

*\*You are invited to stand as you are willing and able.*

## AFFIRMATION AND COVENANT

Love is the spirit  
of this congregation,  
And service is our gift.  
This is our great covenant:  
To dwell together in peace,  
To speak our truths in love,  
And to help one another.

El amor es el espíritu  
de nuestra congregación  
Y el servicio es nuestro regalo.  
Esto es a lo que nos comprometemos:  
Convivir en paz,  
Hablar nuestras verdades con amor,  
Y ayudarnos los unos a los otros.

### \*HYMN 225

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

### SERMON

Meeting Grace Halfway ..... Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie

## SILENT REFLECTION, MEDITATION, AND PRAYER

### CANTICLE

Grace ..... text and music: *Elizabeth Alexander* (b. 1962)

Julie Gregorio, soprano

It's how I hold my head up after I have missed the mark,  
It's how I know I'm loved when things are dark,  
It's how I stand when I am feeling small,  
How I stand again after a fall –  
It's how I'm even standing here at all:  
Some people call it Grace.

*Falling down like rain on everyone,  
So warm, like greetings from the sun,  
Like a gentle snow it's making every surface glow.  
And I know I didn't earn it:  
That's how I know it's Grace.*

It's how two people stay together through the many years,  
It's how a broken people sing again,  
It's how a man can overcome his shame,  
How a woman moves beyond her fears –  
It's how I know that holy is my name.  
We're all the same to Grace.

I didn't have to earn it through a word or through a deed,  
Or through a trial or through a creed,  
Or by denying what I need.  
I only had to reach out my hand, and it was there.  
But still it cannot take away the truths I have to face.  
Oh no, that's not how it works with Grace.

## OUR SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

During the offertory, you are invited to open your heart and engage in the spiritual practice of generosity. For 288 years, the abundant support of our community has allowed Arlington Street Church to remain a beacon for liberal religious values in downtown Boston. Your gifts in the Sunday plate sustain both the church and the larger community – half of the offering is shared with a partner



in our mission of love, service, justice, and peace. As a convenient option, you may text the word GIVE to 617-300-0509 or scan the QR code.

*Thank you for your stewardship and support!*

## OFFERTORY

Prelude on *Amazing Grace* ..... tune: *Columbian Harmony* (1829)  
arranged: *Mark Hayes* (b. 1953)

Rodger Clinton Vine, piano

## PARISH HIGHLIGHTS

### \*HYMN 205

*Amazing Grace*

### \*BENEDICTION AND EXTINGUISHING THE CHALICE

### \*RECESSIONAL (*sung twice; please join in!*)

When You Walk From Here ..... text: *Linnea Good*  
music: *Tom Witt*, arranged: *Mark David Buckles*

*When you walk from here, When you walk from here,  
Walk with justice, Walk with mercy, walk humbly in God's care.*

## POSTLUDE

Fugue sur le thème du Carillon des Heures de la Cathédrale  
de Soissons Op. 12 *Maurice Duruflé* (1902 - 1986)

Rodger Clinton Vine, organ

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## Today in Children's Religious Education (CRE)

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Mitten Tree Sunday is an intergenerational service with many opportunities for families to participate! Thank you to Lena Pontes (and family) for lighting the Advent wreath; Lucy Humphrey for serving as co-Worship Coordinator; and all of the children who are helping dress our Mitten Tree.

Children and youth are invited to sit with their families or join Beth and Erica in the balcony to enjoy the sermon together with coloring, sermon bingo, and some of our favorite stuffed animal friends. We will head up to the balcony as we sing *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* and return during our closing hymn, *Amazing Grace*.

Allie and Lena are available in the nursery to care for babies and small children. To find the nursery, go through the leather door to the right of the pulpit and cross through the chapel. The nursery is on your left before the stairs.

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## Share the Plate: Friday Night Supper Program

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The Friday Night Supper Program was established here at Arlington Street in 1984. Since then, every Friday night, they have provided nutritious, home-cooked meals to Boston's homeless and hungry.

Through the end of the year, our Share the Plate offering will be given to the Friday Night Supper Program. They will be serving a festive holiday meal and distributing warm clothing and goodies to their guests, and will continue to provide hot meals and outerwear throughout the winter. *Thank you for your generosity!*

### **Service is Our Gift**

Candles Coordinator, *Art Nava (with Ali Jablonsky)*

Candles Chaplain, *Darrell Waters*

Lead Greeter, *David Scanlon*

Lead Usher, *Mike Cournoyer*

Worship Coordinators, *Patrick Cooleybeck (with Lucy Humphrey)*

Assistant Treasurer, *Alma Antoniotti & Gail Jennes*