



ARLINGTON STREET CHURCH, UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Boston, Massachusetts

tinyurl.com/ASCZoom (video)

or (929) 436-2866 (phone)

[Meeting ID: 895 886 6876]

SUNDAY, APRIL 20, 2025

HAPPY EASTER!

PRELUDE

Prelude for the Holy Day of Easter *Jeanne Joulain* (1920–2010)

Allein Gott in der Hoh sei Ehr *Johann Sebastian Bach* (1685–1750)

Prelude in Classic Style *Gordon Young* (1919–1998)

Rodger Clinton Vine (he/him), Artist in Residence, organ

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 269

Lo, the Day of Days Is Here text: *Frederick Hosmer* (1840–1929)

music: *Robert Williams* (1781–1821)

arrangement: *Mark David Buckles* (b. 1980)

Lo, the day of days is here, Alleluia!

Festival of hope and cheer! Alleluia!

At the south wind's genial breath,

Alleluia!

Nature wakes from seeming death,

Alleluia!

Fields are smiling in the sun, Alleluia!

Loosened streamlets seaward run,

Alleluia!

Tender blade and leaf appear, Alleluia!

'Tis the springtide of the year, Alleluia!

Lo, the Eastertide is here, Alleluia!

Music thrills the atmosphere, Alleluia!

Join, you people all, and sing, Alleluia!

Love and praise and thanksgiving,

Alleluia!

WELCOME & GREETINGS Rev. Parisa Parsa (she/her)

Rev. Beth Robbins (she/her)

AFFIRMATION & 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.

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

A Note on Today's Cantata

This Easter, the Arlington Street Choir is diving headfirst into the struggle between life and death with Johann Sebastian Bach's masterpiece *Christ lag in Todesbanden* (Christ Lay in Death's Bonds). The 8-movement cantata will be performed by choir, string quintet, and organ. The lyrics, penned by Martin Luther himself, acknowledge a world of pain and wrong, yet lead ultimately to a celebration of hope and hallelujahs.

The piece was likely composed in 1707 and is one of Bach's earliest existing cantatas. It is based upon a chorale tune (a hymn) that would have been familiar to congregants at the time, which, in turn, is based on an 11th century Easter chant, *Victimae Paschali Laudes*. Widespread congregational singing was one of the reforms initiated largely by Martin Luther. Bach weaves the hymn melody through every single movement of the cantata, often in long notes while the other voices dance around it in a faster polyphony.

The piece begins with a brief but emotionally-charged sinfonia (as an aside, sinfonias were short introductory instrumental movements which later inspired composers to write "symphonies" which were entirely instrumental!).

Following this, the movements are arranged symmetrically: chorus-duet-solo-chorus-solo-duet-chorus. The central choral movement focuses on one of the central themes of Easter: the battle between life and death. All the movements are in the same key: E minor. This tonality, and the overarching presence of the chorale tune, give a unity and solidity that transcends the variations in style and affect movement to movement.

Now, a note on the text. Unitarian Universalists often shy away from discussions of sin. We tend not to want to focus on our wrongdoings, and we tend not to believe in a theology that one person's suffering is necessary to redeem another's guilt. We celebrate Jesus for his life, rather than for his death. And we honor his teachings, rather than his miracles.

And I think it's perfectly valid to listen to this music without thinking about the words and be moved deeply by its transcendent beauty.

But let me offer at least one potential way into this story and the words. In a world undeniably full of wrong, perhaps an acknowledgement of the presence of sin can ask us to pause pointing fingers, and to see how we too might be contributing to wrongdoing, to acknowledge where we have also fallen short, and thus hopefully charge us to actively work to make things better.

Rather than being uniquely rescued by one person, Unitarian Universalism calls upon all of our divine power to collectively save one another, that we may we all may emerge from the darkness and offer each of our lights to the world.

As we travel together through this season of resurrection, I hope that this music from long ago can help us find comfort; there has always been pain and struggle, but that there has also always been life, and celebration, and rebirth. I hope this cantata may serve as both a catharsis and a balm.

-Mark David Buckles

CANTATA

Cantata BWV 4 Christ lag in Todesbanden music: *J. S. Bach* (1685–1750)
text: *Martin Luther* (1483–1546)

I. Sinfonia

II. Chorus

Christ lag in Todesbanden
Für unsre Sünd gegeben,
Er ist wieder erstanden
Und hat uns bracht das Leben;
Des wir sollen fröhlich sein,
Gott loben und ihm dankbar sein
Und singen halleluja,
Halleluja!

Christ lay in death's bonds
Handed over for our sins,
He is risen again
And has brought us life
For this we should be joyful,
Praise G-d and be thankful to him
And sing alleluia,
Alleluia!

OPENING WORDS & CHALICE LIGHTING Rev. Parisa Parsa

CANTATA

Cantata BWV 4 Christ lag in Todesbanden music: *J. S. Bach* (1685–1750)
text: *Martin Luther* (1483–1546)

III. Duet (Soprano/Alto)

Den Tod niemand zwingen kunnt
Bei allen Menschenkindern,
Das macht' alles unsre Sünd,
Kein Unschuld war zu finden.
Davon kam der Tod so bald
Und nahm über uns Gewalt,
Hielt uns in seinem Reich gefangen.
Halleluja!

Nobody could overcome death
Among all the children of mankind.
Our sin was the cause of all this
No innocence was to be found.
Therefore death came so quickly
And seized power over us,
Held us captive in his kingdom.
Alleluia!

IV. Aria (Tenor)

Jesus Christus, Gottes Sohn,
An unser Statt ist kommen
Und hat die Sünde weggetan,
Damit dem Tod genommen
All sein Recht und sein Gewalt,
Da bleibet nichts denn Tods Gestalt,

Den Stach'l hat er verloren.
Halleluja!

Jesus Christ, G-d's son,
Has come in our place
And has put aside our sins,
And in this way from death has taken
All his rights and his power,
Here remains nothing but death's
outward form
It has lost its sting.
Alleluia!

V. Chorus

Es war ein wunderlicher Krieg,
Da Tod und Leben rungen,

It was a strange battle
Where death and life struggled.

Das Leben behielt den Sieg,
Es hat den Tod verschlungen.
Die Schrift hat verkündigt das,
Wie ein Tod den andern fraß,
Ein Spott aus dem Tod ist worden.
Halleluja!

Life won the victory,
It has swallowed up death
Scripture has proclaimed
How one death ate the other,
Death has become a mockery.
Alleluia!

COMMUNITY PRAYER

Sanctuary *John W. Thompson (b. 1950) & Randy Scruggs (1953–2018)*
adaptation: *Crawford Harvie/Buckles*
arrangement: *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

Please email Care@ASCBoston.org to reach a member of our Pastoral Care team

CANTATA

Cantata BWV 4 Christ lag in Todesbanden music: *J. S. Bach (1685–1750)*
text: *Martin Luther (1483–1546)*

VI. Aria (Bass)

Hier ist das rechte Osterlamm, Davon
Gott hat geboten,
Das ist hoch an des Kreuzes Stamm
In heißer Lieb gebraten,
Das Blut zeichnet unsre Tür,
Das hält der Glaub dem Tode für,
Der Würger kann uns nicht
mehr schaden.
Halleluja!

Here is the true Easter lamb
That G-d has offered
Which high on the trunk of the cross
Is burned in blazing love,
Whose blood marks our doors,
Which faith holds in front of death,
The strangler can harm us no more
Alleluia!

VII. Duet (Soprano/Tenor)

So feiern wir das hohe Fest
Mit Herzensfreud und Wonne,
Das uns der Herre scheinen läßt,
Er ist selber die Sonne,
Der durch seiner Gnade Glanz
Erleuchtet unsre Herzen ganz,
Der Sünden Nacht ist
verschwunden.

Halleluja!

Thus we celebrate the high feast
With joy in our hearts and delight
That the Lord lets shine for us,
He is himself the sun
Who through the brilliance
of his grace
Enlightens our hearts completely,
The night of sin has disappeared.

Alleluia!

VIII. Chorale

Wir essen und leben wohl
In rechten Osterfladen,
Der alte Sauerteig nicht soll
Sein bei dem Wort Gnaden,
Christus will die Koste sein
Und speisen die Seel allein,
Der Glaub will keins andern leben.
Halleluja!

We eat and live well
On the right Easter cakes,
The old sourdough should not
Be with the word grace,
Christ will be our food
And alone feed the soul,
Faith will live in no other way.
Alleluia!

SERMON

A Love Stronger Than Death Rev. Parisa Parsa

*HYMN 266

Now, the Green Blade Riseth text: *John Macleod Campbell Crum* (1872–1958), alt.
music: *Medieval French Tune*, arrangement: *Mark David Buckles* (b. 1980)

Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain
Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain
Love lives again, that with the dead has been
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green

In the grave they laid him, love by hatred slain
Thinking that never he would wake again
Laid in the earth, like grain that sleeps unseen
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain
Love's touch can call us back to life again
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green

OUR SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

Each year, we dedicate the Easter offering to Arlington Street's music program. Under the inspired leadership of our Director of Music, Mark David Buckles, the beautiful gift of music from our choir, soloists, and instrumentalists uplifts and inspires us every single week. Your generous support allows Arlington Street to program a diverse array of music from our accomplished team of professionals including Bek Zehr, Sé Brown, Hannah Shanefield, Sam LaGrego, Andrew Stack, and Hyunju Jung. Today, let's make a special gift to show them our gratitude and love!

To celebrate her final Easter Sunday as Arlington Street's Executive Minister and to convey her profound appreciation for our music program, Rev. Beth Robbins is pledging a gift of \$500. She invites you to join her in giving generously this morning to ensure the legacy of transcendent music at Arlington Street Church.



WAYS TO GIVE

1. Scan the QR code
2. Visit tinyurl.com/GiveASC
3. Search @ArlingtonStreet on Venmo (Charities)
4. Text the word “GIVE” to (617) 300-0509
5. Mail a check to Arlington Street Church

Whatever you give is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your generosity!

OFFERTORY

Easter Parade text & music: *Irving Berlin* (1888–1989)
Joe Della Penna (Jazz Artist in Residence), piano and vocals

Never saw you look quite so pretty before
Never saw you dressed quite so lovely, what's more
I can hardly wait to keep our date this lovely Easter morning
And my heart beat fast as I came to the door, for

In your Easter bonnet, with all the frills upon it
You'll be the grandest lady in the Easter parade
I'll be all in clover, and when they look you over
I'll be the proudest fellow in the Easter parade

On the Avenue, Fifth Avenue, the photographers will snap us
And you'll find that you're in the rotogravure
I could write a sonnet about your Easter bonnet
And of the girl I'm taking to the Easter parade

BLESSING OF THE RUNNERS

*HYMN 61 or 268

Lo, the Earth Awakes Again text: *Samuel Longfellow* (1819–1892)
tune: *Lyra Davidica Collection* (1708)
arrangement: *Mark David Buckles* (b. 1980)

Lo, the earth awakes again, Alleluia!
From the winter's bond and pain, Alleluia!
Bring we leaf and flower and spray, Alleluia!
To adorn this happy day, Alleluia!

Once again the word comes true, Alleluia!
All the earth shall be made new, Alleluia!
Now the dark, cold days are o'er, Alleluia!
Spring and gladness are before, Alleluia!

Change, then, mourning into praise, Alleluia!
And, for dirges, anthems raise, Alleluia!
How our spirits soar and sing, Alleluia!
How our hearts leap with the spring! Alleluia!

BENEDICTION & EXTINGUISHING THE CHALICE

RECESSIONAL

Where You Go (I Will Go) *Shoshana Jedwab* (b. 1964)
arrangement: *Mark David Buckles* (b. 1980)

Where you go I will go, beloved
Where you go I will go
Where you go I will go, beloved
Where you go I will go

For your people are my people
Your people are mine
Your people are my people
Your divine, my divine

POSTLUDE

Allegro Maestoso, from Sonata No. 5 *Felix Mendelssohn* (1809–1847)
Rodger Clinton Vine, Artist in Residence, organ



*Out of respect for Arlington Street Church members and friends who are Jewish,
we follow the tradition of not spelling out G-d's name.*

*** As part of our continuing commitment to offer an authentic, inclusive welcome, we have retired the recitation
of the Spanish version of our Affirmation and Covenant. We honor its history in our community and look
forward to new ways of building deeper relationships with our neighbors of many cultures.*



Arlington Street Staff Directory

Rev. Parisa Parsa (she/her) • Senior Minister (SeniorMinister@ASCBoston.org)
Rev. Beth Robbins (she/her) • Executive Minister (BRobbins@ASCBoston.org)
Mark David Buckles (he/him) • Director of Music (MBuckles@ASCBoston.org)
Jeff Fogleman (he/him) • Congregational Administrator (Office@ASCBoston.org)
kel alford (she/her) • Student Minister (StudentMin@ASCBoston.org)

Office Hours: Monday–Friday 10:00 am–6:00 pm
(617) 536-7050 • www.ASCBoston.org • Office@ASCBoston.org

The Arlington Street Church Choir & Orchestra

Mark David Buckles, conductor
Hyunju Jung, organ and piano
Tudor Dornescu, violin
Rachel Panitch, violin
Taisiya Sokolova, viola
Jason Amos, viola
Valerie Thompson, violoncello

Sopranos

Eve Lauria
Hannah Shanefield
Karen Tausch
Katie Kelley
Natalia St Jean

Altos

Barbara Seidl
Bek Zehr
Betsy Shearer
Lia Renzoni
Sé (Shea) Brown

Tenors

Daniel Rosensweig
Samuel LaGrego

Basses

Andrew Stackhouse
Dan d'Heilly
Dan Ivey
Daniel Simpson
Jon Dendy
Richard Marshall



Arlington Street Prudential Committee

The Prudential Committee is Arlington Street's elected, governing board.
"The Pru" is joined by Stephen Anable (Clerk) and Liz Teixeira (Treasurer)
in conducting the business of the church.







Alan Kemp, Chair
Sandy Dixon, Co-Chair
Kelly Anne Weaver, Co-Chair

Rachel Corey
Cathy DeMatto
Hala Hazar

Art Nava
Laura Pattison
Bob Sessions

We welcome your questions
and suggestions at Pru_Chair@ASCBoston.org

GOOD TO KNOW!

	Discounted Sunday parking is available at the Back Bay Garage at 500 Boylston Street. Please request a coupon from an usher. Also, meters are free on Sunday!
	Thanks to Art Nava and our amazing Tech Team, replays of each Sunday service are available at youtube.com/ASCBoston . Also, be sure to subscribe to the Arlington Street Church podcast to ensure you never miss a sermon!
	To have your candle of sorrow or joy read during the service, please submit at tinyurl.com/ASCCandle by 5:00 pm on Saturday. During the service, candles are always welcome in the Zoom chat.
	Providing pulpit flowers is a beautiful way to honor a loved one and give a gift the entire congregation can enjoy. Your dedication in memory, in honor, or in celebration of someone or something you love will be included in the Order of Service. Please email the church office at Office@ASCBoston.org to claim your Sunday!
	If you'd like to submit an announcement, please email the church office at Office@ASCBoston.org by Wednesday evening so it can be included in the weekly e-newsletter and the Order of Service.
	If you need extra emotional support, a listening ear, or a hug in these difficult times, you are warmly invited to connect. Pastoral caregivers are available at 10:30 on Sundays mornings. Look for them in the back pew on the far right as you enter the sanctuary. There is also a dedicated Zoom breakout room for pastoral care during virtual coffee hour. If you would like a check in during the week, please email Care@ASCBoston.org . <i>Love is the spirit of this congregation!</i>

Arlington Street Church, Unitarian Universalist
 351 Boylston Street
 Boston, Massachusetts 02116
 (617) 536-7050 • office@ASCBoston.org • www.ASCBoston.org



This Week at Arlington Street ~ You Are Invited!

SUNDAY, APRIL 20

11:00 am ~ Easter Service & Blessing of the Runners (Sanctuary & Zoom)

12:15 pm ~ Coffee Hour (Chapel & Zoom)

MONDAY, APRIL 21

Patriot's Day ~ Church Office Closed

12:00 pm ~ Monday Mettā (Zoom)

4:00 pm ~ Poems to Go On (Zoom)

TUESDAY, APRIL 22

6:00 pm ~ Buddha's Belly (Zoom)

7:00 pm ~ Arlington Street Meditation Center (Zoom)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23

5:00 pm ~ Tea with the Ministers (Zoom)

(Prompt: What is something someone did for you that you didn't have a chance to thank them for?)

6:00 pm ~ Kundalini Yoga (Zoom)

THURSDAY, APRIL 24

5:00 pm ~ Arlington Street Writes (Zoom)

SATURDAY, APRIL

3:00 pm ~ Celebrity Series Free Concert: Nadia Washington Quartet (Sanctuary)

SUNDAY, APRIL 27

11:00 am ~ Sunday Service (Sanctuary & Zoom)

12:00 pm ~ Coffee Hour (Chapel & Zoom)

For details and Zoom links for these events and more,
please visit [ASCBoston.org](https://ascboston.org).



Do you believe in magic?

Please join us
for the Arlington Street Church
2025 Annual Gala

**Saturday, May 17
6pm**

tickets
\$100 per person
go online or scan the QR
givebutter.com/2025ASCgala

