

Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie  
 Arlington Street Church  
 1 June, 2009

## **Rededication of the Arlington Street MBTA**

It was Unitarian minister and abolitionist Theodore Parker who first said, “The moral arc of the universe is long, but it bends toward justice.”

In the United States of America, Boston is the birthplace of mass transportation; it first emerged in this great city in 1631.<sup>1</sup> Today, 378 years later, we rejoice in the completion of the accessibility project at Arlington Street station, as *all* people can finally enjoy full access to our public transportation system. We at Arlington Street church are grateful and honored that yet another civil rights milestone has been achieved on this corner!

Let the spirit of this celebration fuel our commitment to move forward in this great endeavor, until every station and every line, end to end, is fully accessible to all. Let us remember that then, and only then, will public transportation be truly public.

At the inauguration of President Barack Obama, Rev. Dr. Joseph Lowery prayed from the Black National Anthem, James Weldon Johnson's *Lift Every Heart and Sing*. It was perfect for that occasion, and it is perfect for this one; let us join our hearts in prayer.

God of our weary years,  
 God of our silent tears,  
 Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;  
 Thou who hast by Thy might  
 Led us into the light,  
 Keep us forever in the path, we pray.

Let our rejoicing rise

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<sup>1</sup> [mbta.com/about\\_the\\_mbta/history/](http://mbta.com/about_the_mbta/history/)

High as the listening skies,  
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.  
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,  
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us.  
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,  
Let us march on – let us roll on! – 'til victory is won.

Amen.