



FRIDAY, JANUARY 12TH, 2024



Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Vietnamese Buddhist monk Thích Nhất Hạnh, whom Dr. King nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1967. The prize was not awarded that year.

Dearly Beloved,

I've done more crying in the past week than since my grandfather died. Retirement: Doing the right thing is not always easy.

I so deeply appreciate your messages of love and support, and especially reading of your steadfast, abiding devotion to this beloved spiritual community; to our mission of love, service, justice, and peace; and to our great covenant. Some of you have promised your leadership, a blessing to us all and a balm to my soul. *Thank you! My love for you is vast, and without end.*

If you have questions I didn't address in my letter to you about what happens after I step down in June, would you please send them to me? Early next week, our Prudential Committee chair and co-chair, Tom Anderson and Alan Kemp, will be meeting with Rev. Keith Kron, director of the Unitarian Universalist Association's Transitions Office, to discuss the process for hiring a two-year interim minister. Among the three of us, we will ask your questions of Rev. Keith and I'll print the answers in next week's Snapshot — and in the weeks to come.

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This Sunday, we celebrate the ministry of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The service opens with the Arlington Street Choir singing Director of Music Mark David Buckles' setting of the second principle of Unitarian Universalism — our commitment to justice, equity, and compassion in all relations. We'll sing the great African American spirituals *Woke Up This Morning with My My Mind Stayed On Freedom*, *Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Around*, and *I'm On My Way*. Mark David and guest singer Sé (Shea) Brown will sing *Better Than We Found It*.

And the choir will sing Max Exner's setting of some lines from Dr. King's anointed speech, *I Have a Dream*.

I say to you today, my friends,
that is spite of the difficulties and frustrations of the moment,
I still have a dream.

It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream.

I have a dream that one day, this nation will rise up
and live out the true meaning of its creed:
“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.”

I have a dream that one day the sons of former slaves
and the sons of former slave owners
will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation
where they will not be judged by the color of their skin
but by the content of their character.

I have a dream that one day little black boys and black girls
will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls
and walk together as sisters and brothers.

I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted,
and every hill and mountain shall be made low,
the rough places will be made plain,
and the crooked places will be made straight;
and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed
and all flesh shall see it together.

My sermon is called *Impatience is a Virtue*. Guest collaborative pianist Young Woong Cho closes the service with the Black National Anthem, J. Rosamond Johnson's *Lift Every Voice and Sing*.

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I know many of you have been concerned about our beloved Gaby & George Whitehouse. As the year turned, their daughter, Jenny, died after a long journey with ovarian cancer, and then they both got COVID for the first time. Gaby recovered quickly; George was hospitalized and is now recovering at Neville Center (640 Concord Ave., Cambridge, MA 02138), just across the street from their condo on Fresh Pond. For those of you in the Boston area, please drop by for a visit! Mask up, sign in at the reception desk, and you'll find George on the first floor at the end of the hall, in the last room on the right. Thanks to those of you who have already sent cards, brought food, and visited. Hala Hazar & Jen Eno sent a huge balloon bouquet, which George loves! If you're wondering if you could bring something, he has an epic sweet

tooth. Ice cream (any flavor but coffee), cookies, and all things chocolate will make him very happy! While you're in the neighborhood, Gaby might like to visit, too. To make a plan with her, or simply to say hello, you can write her at GabyGeo@tiac.net

A reminder that, as part of CommUUnity Collaborative, my beloved friend and colleague, Rev. Chris Jablonski (the senior minister serving our congregation in Belmont, MA), and I will be co-leading a special dinner time discussion of Pema Chödrön's *When Things Fall Apart: Heart Advice for Difficult Times*. We'll gather in the Arlington Street Zoom room this coming Monday, January 15th, at 6:00 ET, to discuss the first eleven chapters (the second meeting will be on Monday, February 19th). There's no need to pre-register, and you don't have to have read the book ... though you'll love it! All are welcome!

Finally, please be sure that Saturday, May 4th, is in your calendar in ink: It's our spring gala! The planning team is in full swing; much more information will be forthcoming soon. If you'd like to join the team, you'd be so welcome; if you'd like to volunteer for the night-of, that would be fabulous; if you have something to donate to the live or silent auction, we'd be so grateful; and if you come, it will be a party!

*Faithfully yours, with love always,
Kim*

