



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27TH, 2022



Dearly beloved,

Wasn't Pippa Koffel's baby dedication pure joy?! What you probably couldn't see is that, while I was going on about what we all wish for her, she pulled a Pepperidge Farm goldfish out of who-knows-where and popped it into her mouth — hilarious!

This week, Rev. Beth and I also had the great honor of officiating at the wedding of Arlington Street's Richard Schneider and Stephen Hemrick with Greta serving as Best Dog. Congratulations, dear Richard and Stephen!

This Sunday morning is our annual observance of El Día de los Muertos: Day of the Dead. We'll be building our traditional altar, known as an ofrenda, in the sanctuary — many thanks to our Zoomers who have sent in photos; you can email them to office@ASCBoston.org up until noon on Friday, October 28th. If you plan to be incarnate in the sanctuary, please bring photos and mementos!

You might want to build an altar at home, as well. I love this ritual! Here are the traditional elements on the altar:

Photos of loved ones who have died
Treats such as coffee, fruit, or candy
Elements of nature: Candles (fire), flowers (earth), and a glass of water
Marigolds and other bright flowers

I'll be explaining a little bit about how I came to bring El Día to Arlington Street, and preaching about its invitation both to grieve and to celebrate. My sermon is called *Love Conquers Death*. I've had the privilege of working with Bek Zehr and Andrew Stack in the creation of this service — you'll hear them sing *Remember Me* (from *Coco*) and the Mexican folk song *La Llorona*, popularized by [Joan Baez](#). As a special gift to the congregation, Arlington Street's own Joe "Jazzman" Della Penna will play Horace Silver's *Peace* in memory of Eric Jackson, "dean of Boston Jazz Radio," who died last month. And among other pieces, we'll all sing Ysaye Barnwell's setting of Birago Diop's poem *Breaths*:

Listen more often to things than to beings
Listen more often to things than to beings
'Tis the Ancestor's breath when the fire's voice is heard
'Tis the Ancestor's breath in the voice of the waters

*Faithfully yours, with love,
Kim*

p.s. A reminder that Rev. Beth and I would love you to join us at Coro Allegro's concert next Sunday afternoon at 3:00! Please visit coroallegro.org to purchase tickets and enter ASCFAMILY for a special discount, thanks to Arlington Street and Coro member Hala Hazar.

