

Friday, October 7^{th} , 2022























Dearly beloved,

So many thanks to Jon Andersen-Miller, Chair of our Restoration Committee, for documenting (and explaining!) an especially momentous week in our building renovation. Last Saturday, the construction team began work at 5:30 in the morning. The photos above tell the story: The huge, lower blocks of brownstone that flank the stairs leading up to the Great Doors ("cheek walls") were tipping into the Arlington Street sidewalk. A giant crane lifted them from where they've sat for over 160 years. The crew cleaned out old mortar and installed steel clips to keep the stone in place, then lowered the blocks back into place. Finally, the stone surfaces were refinished and the reconditioned iron handrails were reinstalled. Tomorrow morning, they do it all over again, re-setting the left cheek wall!

This Sunday, we honor Indigenous Peoples Day. Cheng Cheng opens the service on piano, playing Melissa Sky-Eagle's settings of three Unitarian Universalist hymns. Tara Houska Zhaabowekwe (Crouching First Nation) is a tribal attorney and climate justice activist; Director of Music Mark David Buckles directs the choir in singing her text *Singing for Water*, set to music by Brent Michael Davids, which honors the 2016-2017 pipeline protests at Sanding Rock (Lakota and Dakota Sioux Nations). It says,

They say we are violent. We are unarmed. They say we are rioting. We are praying.... We are singing for the 7th grandddaughter.... Water is life. Mní Wi óni.

My sermon is called Dancing Our Prayers. We'll close the service with the civil rights freedom song, *When the Spirit Says Do*.



Also this Sunday, please join me in welcoming my beloved colleague, Rev. Dr. Kelly Murphy Mason, Arlington Street's new Community Minister for Spiritual Direction! Rev. Kelly was ordained to our ministry by the historic Community Church in New York and is a licensed social worker (LICSW). Previously, Kelly served as Senior Minister at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Wellesley Hills; was Managing Director for the Psychotherapy & Spirituality Institute in Manhattan; and taught on the faculties of two of her alma maters: Columbia University and Union Theological Seminary. Kelly is devoted, she writes, "to integrating spiritual wisdom with psychological insight in the sacred service of helping individuals, healing communities, and fostering human flourishing." She blogs at TheReverendDr.com on the topic of "what heals us in our souls." Kelly will be incarnate in the sanctuary this coming Sunday; attending our 4:00 tea party on Zoom this coming Wednesday; and leading "Welcoming Prayer" on Thursday evening at 6:00. All are welcome!

And finally, Buddhist teacher and author Timber Hawkeye is on tour with his newest book. Thanks to Kevin Tyrrell, he'll be speaking in the sanctuary at Arlington Street on Sunday at 1:00.

Our Executive Minister, Rev. Beth Robbins, captured these fabulous photos (below) during last Sunday's exuberant Blessing of the Animals. In case you missed it, Tech Team Lead Art Nava created a beautiful YouTube video; enjoy watching it here!

Faithfully yours, with love, Kim











