

FRIDAY, APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2022



*Spring in the Netherlands.  
This is Holland's sea of flowers in full bloom — over 30 million tulips!*

Dearly Beloved,

I have two VERY EXCITING things to tell you!

Last Sunday's Covenant Renewal was so successful, we had to announce the total long before our sainted treasurer, Liz Teixeira, was done counting our pledges for the coming fiscal year! The first very exciting thing is going to be the up-to-the-minute number from the pulpit on Sunday morning. It's *astounding!*

The second very exciting thing has a backstory: Our beloved Harlow Robinson sings with the Yale Russian Chorus. The chorus performed at Arlington Street in 2005, but not since — despite several attempts to schedule them. Most recently, we were foiled — twice — by the pandemic. And then Russia invaded Ukraine.

How can we, in good conscience, host the chorus ... and, the chorus wondered, How can we sing? The answer was obvious: Make it a benefit for Ukraine! *Sing for peace.*

The chorus quickly agreed (their conductor, my friend Alex Kuzma, is Ukrainian), and will be accepting donations at their come-one-come-all free concert at Arlington Street on Sunday, May 1st, at 3:00! More information, including beneficiaries, to come — *please save the date!*

Highlights from this Sunday's service: Cheng Cheng opens on piano, playing pieces that share the theme of flowers (fourth of four: "Edelweiss," from *The Sound of Music!*). Director of Music Mark David Buckles (guitar and piano) and Julie Metcalf (violin) sing Sean McConnell's "Beautiful Rose," and Bek Zehr (mezzo soprano) joins them for Ryan O'Neal's "Taste" (from *Sleeping at Last*). Every single hymn has the word "rose" in it... and my sermon is called "Bread and Roses." American poet James Oppenheim wrote,

Our lives shall not be sweated from birth until life closes  
Hearts starve well as bodies; give us bread, but give us roses!

*Faithfully yours, with love,  
Kim*



*Happy International Transgender Day of Visibility!*