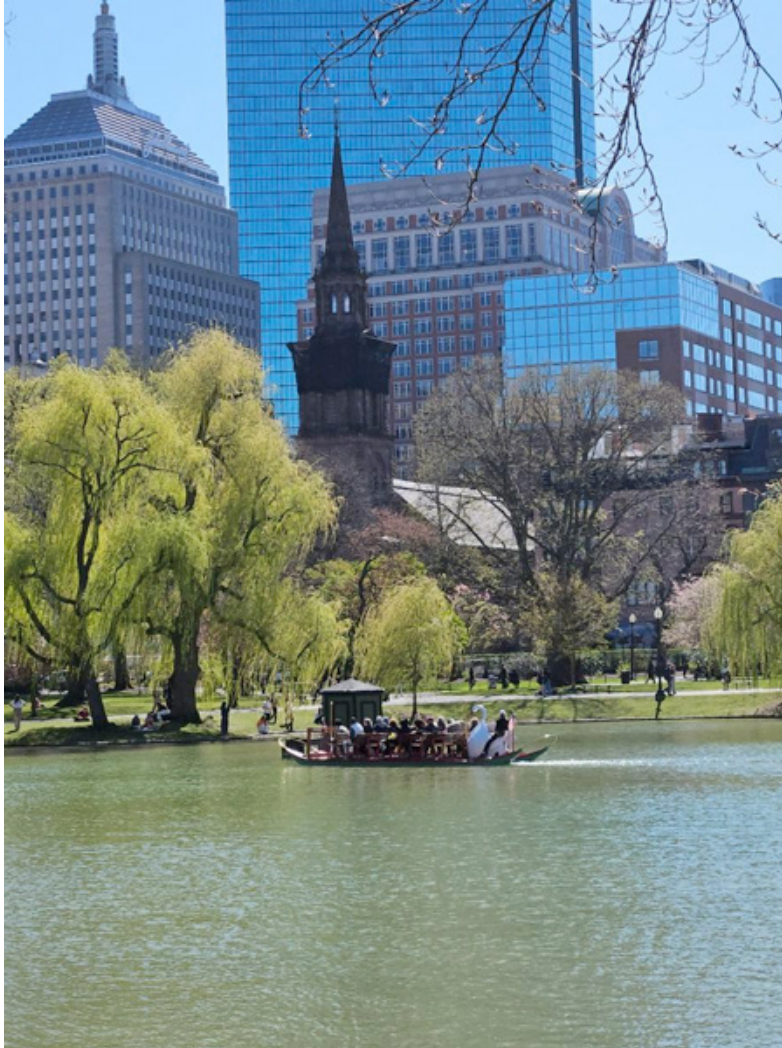




FRIDAY, APRIL 26TH, 2024



Boston Public Garden ~ photo credit: Lois Hartsough

Dearly beloved,

Kem & I are attending a seder tomorrow night at the home of an old friend, charged with bringing an orange for the seder plate. This feels like a special honor; do you know the story? It's been embellished into legend, but what happened is simply this: Dr. Susannah Heschel (author of *The Women's Passover Companion*) was speaking at the Hillel at Oberlin College and came across a haggadah (the narrative read during the Passover meal, which includes the story of the Exodus) written by Oberlin students to bring a feminist voice into the holiday. In it, a story is told about a young girl who asks

an orthodox rabbi what room there is in Judaism for a lesbian. Note that leavened bread is prohibited during Passover: The rabbi rises in anger and shouts, “There’s as much room for a lesbian in Judaism as there is for a crust of bread on the seder plate!”

The next year, Dr. Heschel put an orange on the seder plate. “I chose an orange,” she writes, “because it suggests the fruitfulness for all Jews when lesbians and gay men are ... active members of Jewish life.” The symbolism and the language has deepened and grown over the years to include all queer people and all people who are marginalized. Jewish teacher Anita Silvert writes, “It wasn’t a navel organ; it had to have seeds to symbolize rebirth, renewal. And spitting out the seeds reminds us to spit out the hatred and ostracization of [queer people] and others who feel prejudice’s sting.... The orange is segmented, not fragmented. Our community has discrete segments, but they form a whole.” *Chag Same’ach!* Happy Passover!

This Sunday, we’ll be hearing from our Among Team — a group of Arlington Street members working to address issues of racial justice in our congregation and beyond. They have written a beautiful covenant, which they’ll be sharing in their many voices, and we’ll be hearing from Lois Hartsough about her decision to fund our participation in Meadville Lombard Theological School’s Among course. So many thanks to Lois and to the entire team!

My sermon is called *Around the Campfire*. Director of Music Mark David Buckles took the theme and ran with it! Collaborative pianist Hyunju Jung opens the service with Jihun Lee’s *Campfire*. The Arlington Street Church Choir sings Elizabeth Alexander’s *Kindling: Small Reflections on a Limitless Faith* and Karisha Longaker’s *We Shall Be Known*:

We shall be known by the company we keep
By the ones who circle round to tend these fires=

We’ll all sing *Come Down, O Love Divine*:=

Come down, O Love divine
Seek thou this soul of mine
And visit it with thine own ardor glowing
O Comforter, draw near
Within my heart appear
And kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing

and Will Reagan’s *Set a Fire*:

Set a fire down in my soul
That I can’t contain and I can’t control
I want more of you, love
There’s no place I would rather be
Than here in your love, here in your love!

And Mark David and Sé Brown bring us Melanie DeMore’s *I Am Sending You Light*:

I am sending you light,
to heal you, to hold you
I am sending you light,
to hold you in love

Bring your fire and come share in the warmth of our beloved spiritual community!

*Faithfully yours, with love,
Kim*

p.s. All interested newcomers are invited to join the Membership Team and me on Wednesday evening at 6:00 to [Zoom in](#) to our new member class. Come so we can begin to know each other and you can ask all your burning questions!

— YOU'RE INVITED —

Please join us for a

**Sparkling,
Dazzling Evening
to Honor Rev. Kim!**

**We'll mark a milestone
in our lives like no other**

Saturday, May 4

Join us at ASC for a night of celebration, fundraising and music as we thank Rev. Kim Crawford Harvie for her 35 years of love and service to our beloved community.

Your presence will not only make this party unforgettable but also ensure the spirit of compassion and community lives on at Arlington Street Church for years to come.

6pm - 9pm
Arlington Street Church
351 Boylston Street
at the corner of Arlington Street in Boston

Dress to sparkle and dazzle!

buy your tickets now!
RSVP by April 24 by [clicking here.](#)



For more information or questions,
contact Jeff Fogelman.