

Arlington Street Church, *Unitarian Universalist*

Boston, Massachusetts

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15TH, 2013

PRELUDE

The Well Tempered Clavier Book 2 *J.S. Bach* (1685-1750)

Prelude and Fugue in F min, BWV 881

Prelude and Fugue in A min, BWV 889

Nick Place, piano

WELCOME, CHALICE LIGHTING, AND GREETINGS

In celebration of the life of Herb Gleason

The flaming chalice is the symbol of our free faith.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Better Days *Pat Humphries and Sandy Opatow*

arr: *Mark David Buckles* (b. 1980)

Rachel Kelly, violin; Mark David Buckles, guitar & vocals

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH ~ ADVENT 3

Joy *Catie Scudera*

On the four Sundays before Christmas, we light a candle on the Advent wreath in recognition of the eternal cycle of the seasons, and in honor of the birth of prophets old and new.

*HYMN 241

In the Bleak Midwinter

STORIES IN THE SANCTUARY *Laura Evonne Steinman*

The (Urban) Mitten Tree (*Carol Fisher* playing herself)

author: *Candace Christiansen*; adapted: *Laura Evonne Steinman*

DECORATING THE MITTEN TREE

Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree *Johnny Marks* (1909-1985)

Nick Place, piano

CHILDREN'S BLESSING

Children's Benediction text: *Barbara Pescan*

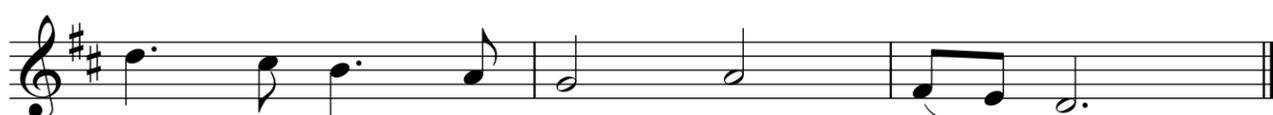
music: *Bart Bradfield*



Go in joy,— go in peace to meet the day! With



op - en hearts em - brace life's won - der. We will guide you,



we will love you on your way.

*At this time, all children are welcome to join
the Children's Religious Education program!*

COMMUNITY CANDLES OF SORROW & JOY

You are invited to share your sorrows and joys with the congregation by filling out a Candle Card in the back pew on the right-hand side of the sanctuary. Candle Cards are collected until the beginning of the first hymn. After the service, Candle Cards are posted downstairs during coffee hour. You may also submit a candle by Saturday night at the church website, ASCBoston.org, by clicking on "Worship."

Some of us pray with words, some of us pray through action, and some of us use words other than prayer to describe our connection to the divine and to one another. As you feel called, please join us in singing the chorus of *Healing Prayer*.

Healing Prayer music: *Nick Page* (b. 1952)

text: *African American Spiritual "Balm in Gilead" and Nick Page*

Glorivy Arroyo, mezzo soprano; Julie Gregorio, soprano

The image shows musical notation for the song 'Healing Prayer'. It consists of two staves. The top staff is labeled 'Drone' and the bottom staff is labeled 'Melody'. Both staves are in 3/4 time and have a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The Drone staff contains a series of quarter notes: B-flat, E-flat, A-flat, B-flat, E-flat, A-flat, B-flat, E-flat, A-flat. The Melody staff contains a series of notes: B-flat, E-flat, A-flat, B-flat, E-flat, A-flat, B-flat, E-flat, A-flat, B-flat, E-flat, A-flat. There is a triplet of eighth notes (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) in the Melody staff. The lyrics 'We pray' are written below the Drone staff, and 'We' is written below the Melody staff.

AFFIRMATION AND COVENANT

Love is the spirit

of this congregation,

And service is our gift.

This is our great covenant:

To dwell together in peace,

To speak our truths in love,

And to help one another.

El amor es el espíritu

de nuestra congregación

Y el servicio es nuestro regalo.

Esto es a lo que nos comprometemos:

Convivir en paz,

Hablar nuestras verdades con amor,

Y ayudarnos los unos a los otros.

*HYMN 55

Dark of Winter

SERMON

The Fruitful Darkness Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie

SILENT REFLECTION, MEDITATION, AND PRAYER

ANTHEM

Cybele Laments music: *Mark David Buckles* (b. 1980)

text: *François Mauriac* (1885-1970); translation: *Roger Hooper*

Commissioned for the Arlington Street Church Choir,

in memory of David Clarence McCammack Jr.,

and for all of the lost but not forgotten

from "Plaintes de Cybèle" from *Le Sang d'Atys*

A line of sand, the dune's upswelling rise,

A lip of foam and seaweed fringe: the sea...

The soft traces of lashes on your brown eyes

And by your vacant brow, the thick dark trees:

So like your eyes whose fire lights your face,

Stars in my night whose twin flames burn in space

Blaze on another world when you're asleep.

OUR SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

Over 300 pledging members and friends support the work of Arlington Street Church with commitments averaging \$20 a week plus volunteer service. Whatever you give is greatly appreciated. Please consider a generous donation today! Contributions placed in an envelope will be credited toward your pledge or gift.

OFFERTORY

Gesu Bambino *Pietro Yon* (1886-1943)
Julie Gregorio, soprano; Nick Place, piano

PARISH HIGHLIGHTS

*HYMN 118

This Little Light of Mine

*BENEDICTION AND EXTINGUISHING THE CHALICE

*CHORAL BENEDICTION *(sung twice; please join in!)*

When You Walk From Here text: *Linnea Good*
music: *Tom Witt*, arr. *Buckles*

When you walk from here, When you walk from here,
Walk with justice, Walk with mercy, And with God's humble care.

POSTLUDE

Menuet 1 from Partita No. 1 in Bb Major, BWV 825
Nick Place, piano *J.S. Bach* (1685-1750)

**You are invited to stand as you are willing and able.*

Today in Children's Religious Education (CRE)

It's Mitten Tree Sunday! We'll remain upstairs a little longer than usual so the children can add mittens, scarves, and other gifts to the Mitten Tree. Then, we'll meet in our age-based groups to make holiday decorations for the Dec. 20th Friday Night Supper, when the Mitten Tree gifts will be presented to the guests.

- Kindergarten-2nd graders and Grady are making scarves.
- 2nd-5th graders and Kate are making snowflakes and paper chains.
- 5th-8th graders and Vickie are making holiday signs.

If you are interested in getting involved with CRE, please email Erica at elong@ascboston.org.

We thank David Schumann and Jimmy from Lotus Designs
for the beautiful songbird Christmas wreath
on the pulpit!