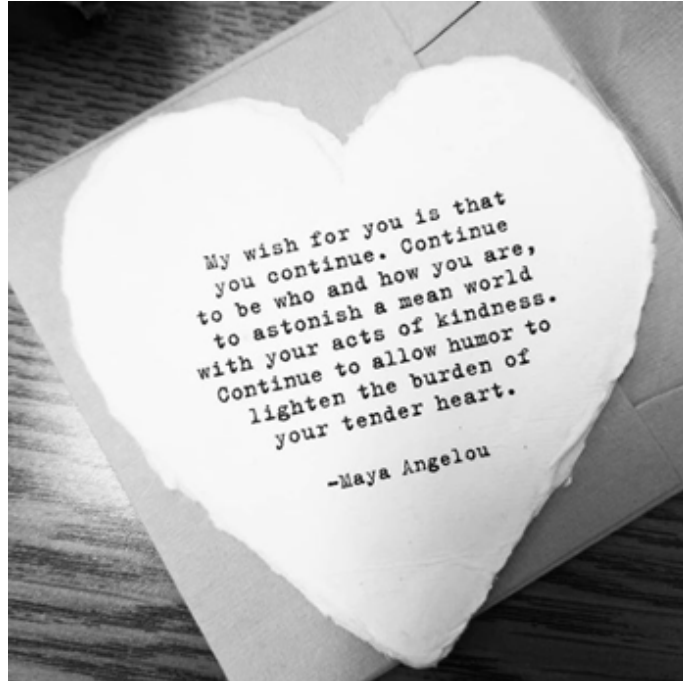




THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2021



Dearly Beloved,

Well, that was horrifying. I couldn't stomach watching much, but I watched more than enough of the footage of yesterday's attempted coup at the United States Capitol to be sickened, frightened, enraged, and grief-stricken. I know I am not alone in these feelings, and I am deeply grateful for your companionship in these difficult days.

For those of us for whom it has been a long time since we took a civics class, it occurs to me to look up the word "sedition." Here is the definition: Sedition is the act of inciting revolt or violence against a lawful authority with the goal of destroying or overthrowing it. History will bear this out: white fascists invading and interrupting the process of election certification, under the twin banners of the confederate flag (the supreme symbol of racism) and their führer, and the people that encouraged and abetted them, committed sedition.

Writing for *Smithsonian* magazine, Joseph Stromberg says that democracy in America didn't begin in 1776, with the signing of the Declaration of Independence; nor in 1788, at the states' ratification of the Constitution; nor even in 1789, when George Washington became our first president. It began, he says, in 1796, when President Washington made his farewell address — the first peaceful transfer of power. Yesterday marked a new low in the 225-year history of our democracy.

How will we revive it and shore up its shaken foundation? How will we renew the moral code and restore the soul of civil society, including mutual respect, social welfare, and constructive debate? This sacred work cannot fall solely to our elected officials. As citizens, it is incumbent on us to be aware, educated, and engaged. Our faith exhorts us to it; the eight principles of Unitarian Universalism call us to covenant to affirm and promote

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every being;
2. Justice, equity, and compassion in all relations;
3. Acceptance of one another and acceptance of spiritual growth;
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
5. The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process;
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence, of which we are a part; and
8. Building beloved community by dismantling racism and oppression within ourselves and our world.

So may we answer the call to live our faith — to create the beloved spiritual community and to heal the brokenness in our country, and in the world.

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This Sunday, Yulia Yun opens the service playing Schumann on piano — not Robert Schumann, but his overlooked wife, Clara Wieck Schumann. Born in 1819, she was one of the foremost piano virtuosos, considered to be in the same league as her contemporary, Franz Liszt. A Renaissance woman, she raised and financially supported seven children. During the period that her husband was unknown, Clara commanded an international reputation, and it was she who encouraged her husband to compose and she who premiered and played his works. Thanks to Yulia for bringing Clara to us!

Director of Music Mark David Buckles and Julie Metcalf sing and play Pat Humphries' (Emma's Revolution) *Keep on Moving Forward*; Faya Ora Rose Touré's *There's a River Flowing in My Soul*; the traditional Buddhist meditation *Filled with Loving Kindness*; and Benj Pasek and Justin Paul's ("The Greatest Showman") *This is Me*. Soprano Ann-Marie Iacoviello sings and plays Katy Perry's *Roar*; and tenor Daniel Rosensweig sings and plays Stephen Sondheim's *They Ask Me Why I Believe in You*. Darrell Waters is our worship coordinator. My sermon is called *Fire the Critic*. Yulia Yun closes the service in her signature style, playing Lady Gaga's *Born This Way ...* on organ!

After worship, all of you who are new to Arlington Street are invited to a gathering with our Membership Team, and the week will roll out with Monday Mett, Poems to Go On, Gay Men's Coffee Connections, Buddha's Belly Books (beginning Vickie Mackenzie's *Cave in the Snow*), Arlington Street Meditation Center, Tea Time with the Ministers, Kundalini Yoga, The Wednesdays Literary Salon (completing T.S. Eliot's "The Wasteland" and reading together "Ash Wednesday," "Journey of the Magi," and "The Hollow Men"), and Arlington Street Writes! As always, please keep your eye on ASCBoston.org. Let's be together!

Also for new people: Rev. Beth and I are planning a gathering to meet you and introduce ourselves next Thursday evening, the 14th, at 6:00. We're excited!



As Mark David and Julie sang on Christmas Eve,

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

~ Melanie DeMore

*Faithfully yours, with love,
Kim*



 **Bob Alper**
3h · 

A black man and a Jew walk into a bar in Georgia. The bartender looks at them and says, "What'll it be, Senators?"