

Arlington Street Church, *Unitarian Universalist*

Boston, Massachusetts

<https://zoom.us/j/8958866876> (video)

or (929) 436-2866 (phone)

[Meeting ID is 895 886 6876]

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26TH, 2021

WELCOME HOME, REV. VERA O'BRIEN!

Rev. Vera discovered Unitarian Universalism on a Thanksgiving morning in the 1980's when she unexpectedly followed the Pilgrim's Progress into the service at First Parish in Plymouth.

She received her MDiv from Meadville Lombard Theological School, one of our Unitarian Universalist seminaries. In 2007, Rev. Vera was ordained here at Arlington Street while serving as our Lifespan Religious Educator and a chaplain at Brigham and Women's Hospital.

She is currently a chaplain at South Shore Hospital in Weymouth, Massachusetts and one of our affiliated community ministers.

PRELUDE

Largo (from Xerxes, HWV 40) *George Frideric Handel* (1685 – 1759)

I Wonder as I Wander *John Jacob Niles* (1892 – 1980)

We Three Kings of Orient Are *John H. Hopkins, Jr.* (1820 – 1891)

More Precious than Silver *Lynn DeShazo* (b. 1956)

Cheng Cheng, piano

WELCOME AND CHALICE LIGHTING Rev. Vera O'Brien

The flaming chalice is the symbol of our free faith.

INTROIT

I Am Light *India.Arie* (b. 1975)

Rev. Joanna Lubkin, vocals

I am light, I am light

I am light, I am light

I am not the things my family did

I am not the voices in my head

I am not the pieces of the brokenness inside

I am light, I am light

I am light, I am light

I am light, I am light

I'm not the mistakes that I have made

or any of the things that caused me pain

I am not the pieces of the dream I left behind

I am light, I am light

I am light, I am light

I am light, I am light

I am light, I am light

I am not the color of my eyes
I am not the skin on the outside
I am not my age
I am not my race, my soul inside is all light, all light

I am light, I am light
I am light, I am light

I am divinity defined
I am the G*d on the inside
I am a star, a piece of it all

I am light, I am light

GREETINGS Darrell Waters, Worship Coordinator

HYMN 290

Bring, O Past, Your Honor text: *Charles H. Lyttle* (1884 – 1980)
music: *John Bacchus Dykes* (1823 – 1876)

Bring, O Past, your honor; bring, O Time, your harvest,
Golden sheaves of hallowed lives and minds by Truth made free;
Come, you faithful spirits, builders of this temple:
“To Holiness, to Love, and Liberty.”

Ring, in glad thanksgiving, bell of grief and gladness,
Forth to town and prairie let our festal greeting go.
Voices long departed in your tones re-echo:
“Praise to the Highest, Peace to all below.”

Shrine of frontier courage, Sinai of its vision,
Home and hearth of common quest for life’s immortal good,
Stand, in years oncoming, sentinel of conscience,
As through the past your stalwart walls have stood.

Church of pure reformers, pioneers undaunted,
Company of comrades sworn to keep the spirit free;
Long o’er life’s swift river preach th’eternal gospel:
Faith, hope, and love for all humanity.

COMMUNITY CANDLES OF SORROW & JOY

Sanctuary *John W. Thompson* and *Randy Scruggs* (b. 1953)
adaptation: *Crawford Harvie/Buckles*
arrangement: *Mark David Buckles* (b. 1980)

Open my heart to be a sanctuary
All made holy, loved and true
With thanksgiving, I’ll be a living
Sanctuary for you

To have your candle of sorrow or joy read during the service, please submit it in advance [here](#). During the service, candles are welcome in the Zoom chat.

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 95

There Is More Love Somewhere *African American Hymn*

There is more love somewhere,
There is more love somewhere.
I'm gonna keep on 'til I find it.
There is more love somewhere.

There is more hope...

There is more peace...

There is more joy...

SERMON

Gold Rev. Vera O'Brien

SILENT REFLECTION, MEDITATION, AND PRAYER

ANTHEM

Hear My Song, from *Songs for a New World*

text and music: *Jason Robert Brown* (b. 1970)

Rev. Joanna Lubkin, vocals
Cheng Cheng, piano

Child, I know you're weary
And your eyes want to close
The days are getting longer
We're not getting any stronger
Trust me, mama knows

But lie in my arms while you're sleeping
And think of the rivers you've crossed
I'll tell you the dreams I've been keeping
For moments like this, when your hope is lost

Hear my song, it'll help you believe in tomorrow
Hear my song, it'll show you the way you can shine
Hear my song, it was made for the time
When you don't know where to go
Listen to the song that I sing
You'll be fine

Child, I know you're frightened
And your throat's parched and dry
But just trust in Mama's singing
And the gift tomorrow's bringing
Trust it, don't ask why

Just lie in my arms and I'll tell you
The things that you know, but forget
The lies no one ever could sell you
I know that it's hard
But don't give up get

Hear my song, it'll help you believe in tomorrow
Hear my song, it'll show you the way you can shine
Hear my song, it was made for the times
When you don't know where to go
Listen to the song that I sing
You'll be fine

'Cause I'll be singing —
"Hold on, hold tight"
I know it's dark right now
But just believe somehow
That soon there will be light

Hold on, hold fast
That's not enough for some
But trust the light will come
And we'll get past
You and Mama
Safe at last!

Hear my song
It'll help us get through 'til tomorrow
Hear my song
It'll help us survive all the pain
Hear my song
It's the one thing I have
That has never let me down
Listen to the song that I sing
Listen to the words in my heart
Listen to the hope I can bring
And we'll start
To grow
And shine

Listen to the song that I sing
And trust me
We'll be fine

OUR SHARED RESPONSIBILITY DURING THE GLOBAL PANDEMIC

Friends, these are extraordinary times that call for extraordinary generosity. You can text the word GIVE to (617) 300-0509 or scan the QR code to give any amount you'd like. Even more helpful for cash flow would be to set up [automatic payments](#) via bank transfer or credit card. Our treasurer,



Liz Teixeira, (treasurer@ascboston.org) would be happy and grateful to assist you with this process! In addition, please consider making an extra gift to sustain Arlington Street this month. Closer than ever, we can thrive! *Thank you for your steadfastness and support!*

OFFERTORY

Give Thanks *Henry Smith* (b. 1952)
Cheng Cheng, piano

PARISH HIGHLIGHTS

DECEMBER SHARE THE PLATE: THE MEMORY PROJECT

Founded by visionary Ben Schumacher in 2004, The Memory Project (memoryproject.org) began with the idea of providing handmade, heartfelt portraits as special mementos to children in orphanages around the world. Since then, it has expanded its mission to connecting youth through art to help build cultural understanding and international kindness.

When Afghanistan fell to the Taliban this September, The Memory Project organized flights to Pakistan for seven families who had been working with them and were in grave danger as “collaborators” with Americans. The Memory Project rented two houses in Islamabad, where 33 Afghan refugees — 20 children, 7 women, and 6 men — are now entirely in their care.



One hundred percent of our gifts will be used for food and basic needs while they await visas to the United States, where host families are waiting to receive them. Our own Rebecca Mesgil has been working with The Memory Project for many years. Thanks to Rebecca for connecting Arlington Street with this extraordinary organization!
Thank you for your generosity!

HYMN 118

This Little Light of Mine *African American Spiritual*
arrangement: *Mark David Buckles* (b. 1980)

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

All through the night, I'm gonna let it shine
All through the night, I'm gonna let it shine
All through the night, I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine
Everywhere, I go, I'm gonna let it shine
Everywhere, I go, I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

Building up a world, I'm gonna let it shine
Building up a world, I'm gonna let it shine
Building up a world, I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

BENEDICTION AND EXTINGUISHING THE CHALICE

For our benediction, you are invited to put your hands over your heart in Namaste

I bow to the Divine in You.

RECESSIONAL

Where You Go (I Will Go) *Shoshana Jedwab* (b. 1964)
arrangement: *Mark David Buckles* (b. 1980)

Where you go I will go, beloved
Where you go I will go
Where you go I will go, beloved
Where you go I will go
For your people are my people
Your people are mine
Your people are my people
Your divine, my divine

POSTLUDE

Majesty *Jack W. Hayford* (b. 1934)
Cheng Cheng, piano

** Out of respect for Arlington Street Church members and friends who are Jewish,
we follow the tradition of not spelling out G*d's name.*



Need help? The Tech Team will be monitoring Arlington Street's Facebook page on Sunday morning. If you need assistance, please post a comment to www.facebook.com/ArlingtonStreetChurch, send a Facebook message, or email Outreach@ASCBoston.org.