



**ARLINGTON STREET CHURCH, UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST**

Boston, Massachusetts

[tinyurl.com/ASCZoom](https://tinyurl.com/ASCZoom) (video)

or (929) 436-2866 (phone)

[Meeting ID: 895 886 6876]

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2024

ADVENT IV: LOVE

Happy Solstice!

**PRELUDE**

Nocturne in C# minor, Op. posth. .... *Frédéric Chopin* (1810–1849)  
Nocturne in E b major, Op. 9, No. 2 ..... *Frédéric Chopin*  
(1810–1849) Young Woong Cho (he/him), piano

**WELCOME & GREETINGS** ..... Rev. Parisa Parsa (she/her), Senior Minister  
Rev. Beth Robbins (she/her), Executive Minister

**INTROIT**

Or Zarua ..... music: *Dan Nichols* (b. 1969)  
arrangement: *Mark David Buckles* (b. 1980)  
text: *Psalms 97 & Rabbi Shefa Gold* (b. 1954)

Or Zarua latzadik u'l'yish'rey lev simchah

Plant the seeds of Joy and Light  
Tend them carefully day and night  
In this soil so dark and deep  
I plant the dreams that Love will reap

**OPENING WORDS & CHALICE LIGHTING**

How the Light Comes ..... *Jan Richardson*  
Rev. Parisa Parsa

*The flaming chalice is the symbol of our free faith.*

**KINDLING THE ADVENT WREATH: LOVE** ..... Rev. Beth Robbins

**\*HYMN**

Come Darkness, Come Light ..... *Mary Chapin Carpenter* (b. 1958)

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

Come darkness, come light  
Come new star, shining bright  
Come love to this world tonight  
Alleluia

Come broken, come whole  
Come wounded in your soul  
Come anyway that you know  
Alleluia

There's a humble stable and a light within  
There's an angel hovering and three wise men  
Today a baby's born in Bethlehem  
Alleluia

Come doubting, come sure  
Come fearful to this door  
Come see what love is for  
Alleluia

Come running, come walking slow  
Come weary on your broken road  
Come shed your heavy load  
Alleluia

There's a humble stable and a light within  
There's an angel hovering and three wise men  
Today a baby's born in Bethlehem  
Alleluia

Come darkness come light  
Come new star burning bright  
Come love to this world tonight  
Alleluia

## **COMMUNITY CANDLES OF SORROW & JOY**

Sanctuary ..... *John W. Thompson* (b. 1950) & *Randy Scruggs* (1953–2018)  
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 at [ASCBoston.org](http://ASCBoston.org).  
During the service, candles are welcome in the Zoom chat.*

## AFFIRMATION & 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 ..... *Shelley Jackson Denham (1950–2013)*

Dark of winter, soft and still, your quiet calm surrounds me  
Let my thoughts go where they will; ease my mind profoundly  
And then my soul will sing a song, a blessed song of love eternal  
Gentle darkness, soft and still, bring your quiet to me

Darkness, soothe my weary eyes, that I may see more clearly  
When my heart with sorrow cries, comfort and caress me  
And then my soul may hear a voice, a still, small voice of love eternal  
Darkness, when my fears arise, let your peace flow through me

## READING

Mycelial ..... *Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer*

## SERMON

Night Work ..... *Rev. Parisa Parsa*

## SILENT REFLECTION, MEDITATION, AND PRAYER

## ANTHEM

Trust the Seeds ..... music & text: *Elizabeth Alexander* (b. 1962)

Trust the seeds, although they lie in darkness,  
Stirring beyond your watchful eye.  
Though they may not flower as you dreamed they would,  
When the planting's over you must trust the seeds.

Some soon bloom to fill your heart with wonder,  
Some only after you are gone,  
You must give them freedom to grow as they should.  
Give them room to spread their roots, and trust the seeds.

In your heart, you know that some may wither,  
All you can do is hope and pray.  
Some will rise up grander than you dreamed they could.  
There is joy in planting if you trust the seeds.

## OUR SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

It's up to us to finance the beloved spiritual community we want to create! Today, we invite you to be part of Arlington Street's story of devotion, innovation, and transformative generosity.



### WAYS TO GIVE

1. Scan the QR code
2. Visit [tinyurl.com/GiveASC](https://tinyurl.com/GiveASC)
3. Search @ArlingtonStreet on Venmo (Charities)
4. Text the word "GIVE" to (617) 300-0509
5. Mail a check to Arlington Street Church

If you would like to give regularly, you can set up automatic payments at [tinyurl.com/GiveASC](https://tinyurl.com/GiveASC) or by contacting Liz Teixeira at [Treasurer@ASCBoston.org](mailto:Treasurer@ASCBoston.org). We also encourage you to provide now for a future gift to Arlington Street by remembering the church in your will. Thank you for helping to ensure a robust future for our beloved spiritual community!

## SHARE THE PLATE: ROSIE'S PLACE

Generosity is a spiritual practice at Arlington Street Church. Because sharing our resources transforms both ourselves and our world, we share our Sunday offering with a partner in our mission of love, service, justice, and peace.



ROSIE'S  
PLACE

When Rosie's Place was founded on Easter Sunday of 1974, it was the first women's shelter in the country. Fifty years later, Rosie's Place is a multi-service community center that offers women emergency shelter and meals, and so much more: a food pantry, ESOL classes, legal assistance, wellness care, one-on-one support, housing and job search services, and community outreach. This season is especially hard on the women who rely on Rosie's Place, and we share the offering with them in a spirit of solidarity and hope.

To make your gift, please scan the QR code above; visit [tinyurl.com/GiveASC](https://tinyurl.com/GiveASC); or text the amount you want to give and the word **SHARE** (ex. \$50 SHARE) to (617) 300-0509.

*Whatever you give is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your generosity!*

## OFFERTORY

Canticle of the Turning ..... *Gary Daigle, Rory Cooney, & Theresa Donohoo*

Mark David Buckles (he/him), guitar and vocals  
Sé (Shea) Brown (they/them), vocals  
Bek Zehr (they/them), vocals

My soul cries out with a joyful shout  
That the G-d of my heart is great  
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things  
That you bring to the one who waits  
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight  
And my weakness you did not spurn  
So from east to west shall my name be blest  
Could the world be about to turn?

### Chorus

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.  
Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,  
And the world is about to turn.

Though I am small, my G-d, my all  
You work great things in me  
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past  
To the end of the age to be  
Your very name puts the proud to shame  
And to those who would for you yearn  
You will show your might, put the strong to flight  
for the world is about to turn

**Chorus**

From the halls of power to the fortress tower  
Not a stone will be left on stone  
Let the king beware, for your justice tears  
Every tyrant from his throne  
The hungry poor shall weep no more  
For the food they can never earn  
There are tables spread, every mouth be fed  
For the world is about to turn

**Chorus**

Though the nations rage from age to age  
We remember who holds us fast  
G-d's mercy must deliver us  
From the conqueror's crushing grasp  
This saving word that our forebears heard  
Is the promise that holds us bound  
'Til the spear and rod can be crushed by G-d  
Who is turning the world around

**Chorus**

**SOLSTICE LITANY**

Unison refrain:  
**Darkness feeds us as we grow toward the light**

**\*HYMN**

Planted ..... *Alex Fam* (b. 1989)

I was planted in the darkness

I was planted in the darkness

I feel the dark, it brings me life

I can grow in the darkness

I can grow in the darkness

I feel the dark, it brings me life

**BENEDICTION & EXTINGUISHING THE CHALICE**

**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**

Great Is Thy Faithfulness ..... *William M. Runyan* (1870–1957)  
arrangement: *Mark Hayes* (b. 1953)

Young Woong Cho (he/him), 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.*

**Flowers on the High Pulpit**

Would you like to make a gift of flowers for the entire congregation to enjoy on a Sunday morning? You can make your dedication in memory, in honor, or in celebration of someone or something you love.

You can have flowers delivered or bring your own (a minimum of two dozen flowers is perfect for our huge space). Please email [office@ASCBoston.org](mailto:office@ASCBoston.org) to claim your date! *Thank you!*

**Parking at Arlington Street Church**

Discount parking on Sundays is available at the Back Bay Garage at 500 Boylston Street. Please request a discount coupon from an usher. Also, metered parking is free in the city on Sundays.

## This Week (and beyond) at Arlington Street ~ You Are Invited!

### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22**

11:00 am ~ Sunday Service (Sanctuary & Zoom)

12:00 pm ~ Coffee Hour (Chapel & Zoom)

### **MONDAY, DECEMBER 23**

12:00 pm ~ Monday Mettā (Zoom)

4:00 pm ~ Poems to Go On (Zoom)

### **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24**

5:00 pm ~ Christmas Eve Service (Sanctuary & Zoom)

7:00 pm ~ Christmas Eve Service (Sanctuary & Zoom)

### **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25 - MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29**

11:00 am ~ Sunday Service (Sanctuary & Zoom)

12:00 pm ~ Coffee Hour (Chapel & Zoom)

### **MONDAY, DECEMBER 30**

12:00 pm ~ Monday Mettā (Zoom)

4:00 pm ~ Poems to Go On (Zoom)

*Please note that the church office will be closed between Christmas and New Year's, giving our staff a well-deserved holiday break. Also, some of the regular Arlington Street programming will be on hiatus during the holidays. Please check the updated schedule at [ASCBoston.org](http://ASCBoston.org) for the next gathering of your favorite event.*

**For details and Zoom links for these events and more,  
please visit [ASCBoston.org](http://ASCBoston.org).**



## Arlington Street Prudential Committee

The Prudential Committee is Arlington Street's elected, governing board. "The Pru" is joined by Stephen Anable (Clerk) and Liz Teixeira (Treasurer) in conducting the business of the church.

Alan Kemp, Chair	Rachel Corey	Art Nava
Sandy Dixon, Co-Chair	Cathy DeMatto	Laura Pattison
Kelly Anne Weaver, Co-Chair	Hala Hazar	Bob Sessions

The leadership welcomes your questions and suggestions at [Pru\\_Chair@ASCBoston.org](mailto:Pru_Chair@ASCBoston.org).

## Arlington Street Staff Directory

### Parish Ministers

Rev. Parisa Parsa (she/her) • Senior Minister ([SeniorMinister@ASCBoston.org](mailto:SeniorMinister@ASCBoston.org))

Rev. Beth Robbins (she/her) • Executive Minister ([BRobbins@ASCBoston.org](mailto:BRobbins@ASCBoston.org))

### Music

Mark David Buckles (he/him) • Director of Music ([MBuckles@ASCBoston.org](mailto:MBuckles@ASCBoston.org))

### Administration

Jeff Fogleman (he/him) • Congregational Administrator  
([Office@ASCBoston.org](mailto:Office@ASCBoston.org))

Office Hours: Monday–Friday 10:00 am–6:00 pm  
(617) 536-7050 • [www.ASCBoston.org](http://www.ASCBoston.org) • [Office@ASCBoston.org](mailto:Office@ASCBoston.org)



[WWW.ASCBOSTON.ORG/CHRISTMAS](http://WWW.ASCBOSTON.ORG/CHRISTMAS)



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