



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2020



Dearly beloved,

As the ravaging virus runs roughshod over our Thanksgiving plans, let's do what we've done so well over these many long months: pivot, and plan something entirely different. One of my favorite daydreams is of all the celebrating we'll do when we can be back together again. Meanwhile, let's not waste these days in longing for them to be different. Remember when Rev. Beth invited us to reflect on what our pandemic story will be? Let's make this Thanksgiving a story we'll want to tell!

For my part, I'd like to see you on Thanksgiving. Normally, I'd spend these days leading up to the holiday cooking and baking in vast quantities and either cramming an extraordinary number of family members and their significant others into our small faculty apartment at Concord Academy or Kem would be stuffing our van to the gills with food packed in all manner of improvised ways to keep it hot or cold and driving hours north to my sister's house in Maine. This year, we're neither hosting nor driving; our little pod — Rev. Beth, Kem, and I — would like to open the Arlington Street Zoom room for an hour at 11:00 a.m. and see your beautiful faces, say hello, and maybe share stories of our favorite Thanksgiving dishes, which ones we wouldn't eat at any other time, and perhaps some epic cooking disasters! I hope you'll join us!

The coming week is full of activities; you can access all of them at ASCBoston.org. Please note that Trisha Zembruski is hosting Arlington Street Writes on Monday instead of Thursday this week. The Ministers Tea Party prompt is, *I am grateful for...* And thanks to Betsy Shearer, Gaby Whitehouse, and Sharon Gentges, Arlington Street Church Social is hosting a Friendsgiving starting at 5:30 on Friday evening — a day-after-Thanksgiving gathering to relax and chat, share stories, play games, and get to know one another better. As always, all are welcome!

On Sunday morning, Yulia Yun (piano) opens our Thanksgiving service with Mozart. Director of Music Mark David Buckles (guitar), Julie Metcalf (violin), and our entire music staff will sing and play arrangements of songs we love, including Daniel Rosensweig (tenor) on *My Favorite Things* and Hana Omori (soprano) and her father, Kazuhiro (piano) on *What a Wonderful World*. My sermon is called Practicing Thanksgiving. Rev. Beth joins me in the pulpit. The service closes with Yulia on organ accompanying Ann-Marie Iacoviello (soprano), Daniel, Hana, and Tevan Goldberg (baritone) leading us in *We Sing Now Together*. Could the composer have ever imagined that We Gather Together ... virtually?!

Also on Sunday, we're invited to make this year's final Share the Plate offerings to Only a Child, Arlington Street's George Leger's extraordinary mission to street children in Guatemala City. You can read more here and donate by texting (in this order) the amount you want to give (just the number; no dollar sign) and the word CHILD to (617) 300-0509. If you want to give \$10 to Only a Child, please put 10 CHILD into a text!

And finally, at long last, we'll be launching All Souls ~ *A Capital Campaign for the Preservation of Arlington Street Church!* The goal of this very brief campaign — lasting just until the end of the year — is 100% participation. Our gifts (in any amount) will position us for grants and contributions from beyond the congregation to restore the brownstone on the front of the church, rebuild the Boylston Street steps, and build a beautiful, newly-designed ramp on the Arlington Street side. Again, please visit ASCBoston.org to learn all about it! Thank you!

Happy Thanksgiving, dear ones. I am so grateful for you.

Faithfully Yours, with love always,
Kim

