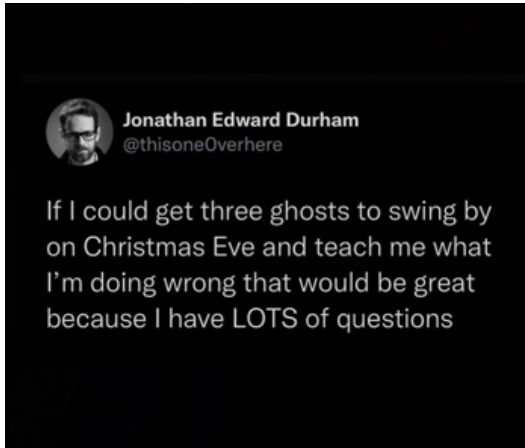




FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30TH, 2022



Dearly Beloved,

Our first hybrid Christmas Eve services were an unqualified success! How can I even begin to thank the dozens of you who “decked the hall,” helped “every heart prepare,” and then came out in the bitter cold to serve at our first in-person-since-2019 Christmas Eve services? How to thank those of you who attended on Zoom and helped to welcome our guests from around the world (the kindness of the chat made me weep)? I am so, so grateful. And I loved it! *Thank you!*

And now ... *Happy New Year!*

This Sunday, we welcome to Arlington Street’s high pulpit Rev. Vera O’Brien. Vera is a chaplain at South Shore Hospital and one of our community ministers. Our worship coordinator is Rev. Ali Jablonsky, a chaplain at Tufts Medical Center and also one of our community ministers. Both Vera and Ali served at the height of the COVID pandemic and continue to bring deep comfort and great joy on the front lines. We are so proud of them and so grateful for this opportunity to be in the warmth and light of their healing presence

Sunday’s musicians are our collaborative pianist Hyunju Jung and soprano Eve Lauria. Among several pieces, Hyunju will play Philip Paul Bliss’ *When Peace, Like a River, Attendeth My Way*. Eve will sing Benjamin Britten’s *A New Year Carol* and Stephen Sondheim’s *Our Time* (from *Merrily We Roll Along*). Rev. Vera’s sermon is called *Time*.

As many of you know, our own John O'Connor is serving as the intern minister at our church in Belmont this year. John and his mentor, Chris Jablonski (also an Arlington Street guy!), have pulled together an initiative called the Community Collaborative, producing hybrid courses in Unitarian Universalist adult religious exploration. I'm thrilled to be a part of it! You can learn more [here](#). *All are welcome!*

Finally, I've been advised to tell you that, should you receive an email from "me" requesting gift cards or promising you a Caribbean vacation if you'll just give me your social security number, you can be positive it isn't from me. If, despite this assurance, you're still worried that I'm "stranded in New York City with my sick father" [my father is not living], please call the church office. I'm endlessly amused by the email addresses our hapless hackers invent for me and by their salutations, such as the most recent, "Greetings, Brothers in Christ!"

Let's give Rilke the last word:

And now let us believe in the new year,
New, untouched,
Full of things that have never been.

*Faithfully yours, with love,
Kim*

p.s. A week from Sunday, following the service on January 8th, it's time to take down the holiday decorations and pack them away. If you'll be there in person, please plan to stay after the service to help with Taking Out the Greens! *Thank you!*

