



FRIDAY, MAY 22ND, 2020



Diners at a Maryland seafood bar use giant inner tubes on wheels to physically distance

Dearly Beloved,

Last Sunday was a feast of miracles! Thank you so, so much for your extravagant generosity. Our Covenant Renewal pledge total for fiscal year 2021 is up to \$233,589! *Holy smoke!*

The Tech Team kept the other miracle from me until after the service: In Sunday morning services across the country, Zoom crashed, shutting thousands of people out of worship. The Covenant Renewal team had worked tirelessly to completely revamp our pledging to a virtual platform; its success was entirely dependent on Zoom, texting, email, and phone calls. I am grateful beyond words that our Zoom room stayed open ... and that you came and pledged your hearts out! Thank you!

For those who haven't pledged, it's not too late! Please pledge by emailing treasurer@ASCBoston.org with the total amount of your annual pledge (plus your name and phone number). A member of the team will follow up to cover all the details and thank you! Thank you!

This weekend, Rev. Beth and I are going to catch our breath and are extremely grateful to Sunday's worship leaders: Rev. Joanna Lubkin, chaplain Ali Jablonsky, director of music Mark David Buckles, fiddler Julie Metcalf, and Arlington Street Choir section leaders Tevan Goldberg, Ann-Marie Iacoviello, and Hana Omori (and her father, Kazuhiro, Zooming in from saka, Japan)!

Rev. Jo's sermon is called Living Now. She says, "The number one priority during this pandemic is survival. The second priority is living. It looks like we're going to be dealing with COVID-19 for a while yet. Let's stop living in 'waiting' mode, like we're (metaphorically) scratching tally marks of days on our walls. This is it; this is our 'one wild and precious life.' What would it look like for each of us to live it fully?"

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Governor Baker's announcement that houses of worship can begin to reopen this week caused quite a stir among us. Here's our new hashtag: #WeAreNotDying-ToReopen. On Tuesday night, I shared with the Prudential Committee, our board of directors, **that none of us is going back until all of us can go back.** When Rev. Beth and I say, "We're all in this together," we mean it!

By my lights, we're all in this together virtually for some time to come. While so much is uncertain, here are a few highlights that have emerged from my conversations with Rev. Beth, Mark David, and several of you (thank you!):

- * Let's plan to gather exclusively on Zoom throughout the summer, and continue to make the very best of it. The Worship team, under the eminently competent leadership of John O'Connor, has assembled a first-string lineup of summer preachers, and Mark David is working with our section leaders to finalize the summer worship schedule.
- * As usual, weekday programming will go on hiatus until after Labor Day, except for Ministers (Iced!) Tea, which will meet in our Zoom room on summertime Wednesday afternoons at 4:00. If you haven't made it to tea, yet, I hope you'll join Rev. Beth and me!
- * When that glorious time comes that the virus has burned itself out, we will gather in a "hybrid" way - simultaneously in person and on Zoom, though some gatherings, including Monday Mett and Poems to Go On, will remain exclusively virtual.
- * This Wednesday's Tea Time prompt is "the bravest thing I've ever done!" For all the upcoming week's events, as always, please go to the homepage at [ASCBoston.org](https://www.ascboston.org).

Finally, two important Zoom notes: First, it is urgent that we all install the update to the Zoom app. If you have any questions about how to update, Zoom Master Jonah Beukman will help! And second, as of Sunday, May 31st, we will be worshipping in the Arlington Street Zoom room, the same Zoom room where I meet you during the week. All the information on updating and Zooming is at [ASCBoston.org](https://www.ascboston.org).

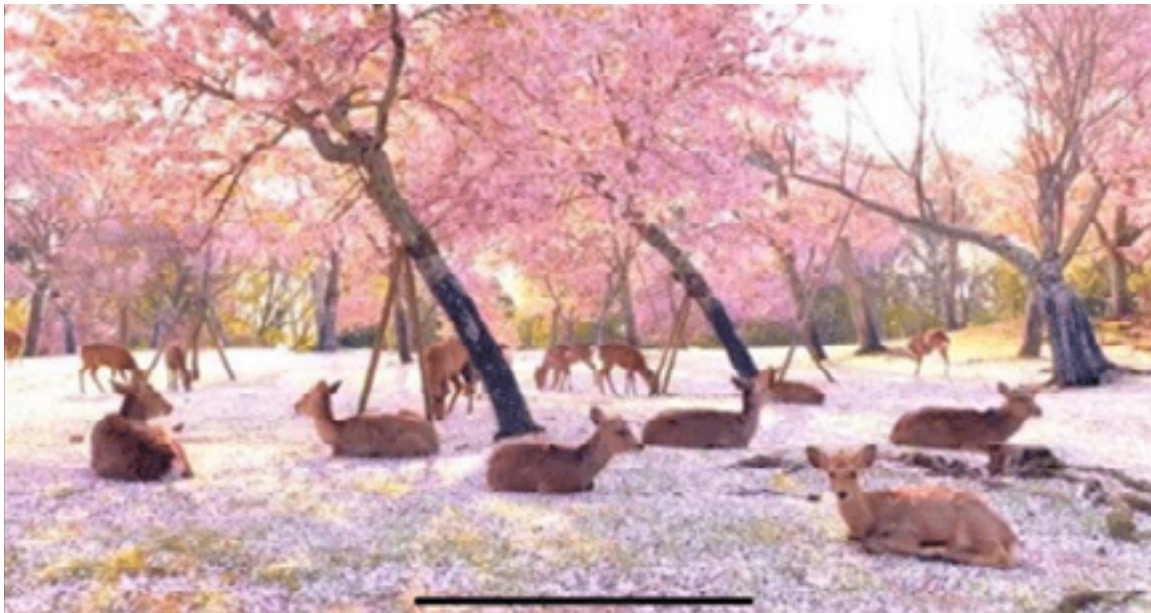
Thank you for your kindness, your devotion, and your generosity to our beloved spiritual community. I'm all yours.

Faithfully yours, with love always,
Kim

p.s. Rev. Fred Small, our Affiliated Community Minister for Climate Justice, has been named the new executive director at Massachusetts Interfaith Power and Light, a statewide network of over 250 congregations! Rev. Fred will lead the effort to organize people of faith in the Commonwealth as “an irresistible force for climate justice!” Congratulations, Rev. Fred!



Pet Parade!



At rest in the cherry blossoms at Nara Park, Japan’s sacred deer sanctuary