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, APRIL 9TH, 2023 HAPPY EASTER!

A Joyous Passover ~ Chag Pesach Sameach!

This morning's pulpit flowers are a gift from a generously and anonymously endowed Easter flower fund.

PRELUDE

Rodger Clinton Vine (Artist in Residence), organ

*Processional Hymn 269

Lo, The Day of Days Is Here...... text: Frederick Hosmer (1840 – 1929) music: Robert Williams (1781 – 1821) arrangement: Mark David Buckles (b. 1980)

Lo, the day of days is here, Alleluia! Festival of hope and cheer! Alleluia! At the south wind's genial breath, Alleluia! Nature wakes from seeming death, Alleluia!

Fields are smiling in the sun, Alleluia! Loosened streamlets seaward run, Alleluia! Tender blade and leaf appear, Alleluia! 'Tis the springtide of the year, Alleluia!

Lo, the Eastertide is here, Alleluia! Music thrills the atmosphere, Alleluia! Join, you people all, and sing, Alleluia! Love and praise and thanksgiving, Alleluia!

WELCOME, CHALICE LIGHTING, AND GREETINGS

Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie, Senior Minister Rev. Beth Robbins, Executive Minister

The flaming chalice is the symbol of our free faith.

At Arlington Street Church, we raise a hand and circle two fingers above our heads to signal joyous affirmation. Alleluia!

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 <u>here</u>. During the service, candles are welcome in the Zoom chat.

AFFIRMATION AND COVENANT

Love is the spirit El amor es el espíritu de nuestra congregación,
And service is our gift. Y el servicio es nuestro regalo.

This is our great covenant: Esto es a lo que nos comprometemos:

To dwell together in peace, Convivir en paz,

To speak our truths in love, Hablar nuestras verdades con amor, And to help one another. Yayudarnos los unos a los otros.

*HYMN 270

O Day of Light and Gladness text: Frederick Lucian Hosmer (1840 – 1929) music: Henry Smart (1813 – 1879)

arrangement: Mark David Buckles (b. 1980)

O day of light and gladness, of prophecy and song What thoughts within us waken, what hallowed mem'ries throng! The soul's horizon widens, past, present, future blend And rises on our vision the life that has no end

Earth feels the season's joyance; from mountain range to sea The tides of life are flowing, fresh, manifold, and free In valley and on upland, by forest pathways dim All nature lifts in chorus the resurrection hymn

O Dawn of life eternal, to thee our hearts up-raise The Easter song of gladness, the Passover of praise Thine are the many mansions, the dead die not to thee Who fillest from thy fullness time and eternity

SERMON

SILENT REFLECTION, MEDITATION, AND PRAYER

ANTHEM

Into the Light music: Jake Runestad (b. 1986)

(please see below for texts and program notes)

OUR SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

Friends, these are extraordinary times that call for extraordinary generosity. Since 1729, the support of our community has allowed Arlington Street to thrive as a beacon of love, service, justice, and peace. This congregation is entirely self-supporting. In addition, we share each Sunday's collection with a partner in our vital mission. 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 transformational generosity. Please consider making a special gift to this morning's Easter offering.

WAYS TO GIVE



- 1. Scan the QR code
 - 2. Visit tinyurl.com/GiveASC
 - 3. Search @ArlingtonStreet on Venmo (Charities)
 - 4. Text the word "GIVE" to (617) 300-0509
 - Mail a check to Arlington Street Church 351 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116

If you're ready to give regularly, you can set up automatic payments at tinyurl.com/GiveASC or by contacting Liz Teixeira at Treasurer@ASCBoston.org. Rev. Kim, Rev. Beth, and many of our most devoted members and friends pledge 5-10% of their income each year. In addition, we 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!

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

EASTER SHARE THE PLATE: ARLINGTON STREET MUSIC PROGRAM

Each Sunday, we share the collection plate with a partner in our mission of love, service, justice, and peace. Since September, we have supported the Eastern Massachusetts Abortion Fund, Best Friends Animal Society, Project Hope (hurricane relief), Only a Child (Guatemala), Motor City Christmas Drive, Everytown for Gun Safety, Friday Night Supper Program, Call Michelle Charity (support for families of those awaiting transplants), Renewal House (shelter from domestic violence), and two Congolese asylees. Each year on Easter Sunday, we celebrate our music program by sharing our gifts with them.

Under the inspired leadership of our Director of Music, Mark David Buckles, our operating budget supports vibrant music at Arlington Street, including our soloists Hannah Shanefield, Bek Zehr, Sam LaGrego, and Andrew Stack; our violinist Julie Metcalf; our collaborative pianist Hyunju Jung; and the Arlington Street Church Choir. Today, let's show the music program our gratitude and love.

To make your gift, please scan the QR code above; visit <u>tinyurl.com/GiveASC</u>; or text the amount you want to give and the word SHARE (ex. \$50 SHARE) to (617) 300-0509. *Thank you for your generosity!*

OFFERTORY

Easter Parade text & music: *Irving Berlin* (1888 – 1989)

Joe Della Penna (Jazz Artist in Residence), piano and vocals

Never saw you look quite so pretty before Never saw you dressed quite so lovely, what's more I can hardly wait to keep our date this lovely Easter morning And my heart beat fast as I came to the door, for

In your Easter bonnet, with all the frills upon it You'll be the grandest lady in the Easter parade I'll be all in clover, and when they look you over I'll be the proudest fellow in the Easter parade

On the Avenue, Fifth Avenue, the photographers will snap us And you'll find that you're in the rotogravure I could write a sonnet about your Easter bonnet And of the girl I'm taking to the Easter parade

PARISH HIGHLIGHTS

COVENANT RENEWAL 2023 ~ #ASCNATION

In this season of Covenant Renewal, we renew our covenant of love and service and make pledges of financial gifts to support Arlington Street and our work in the world. Thank you to everyone who's already given! There's still time to make your pledge at tinyurl.com/ASCNation.

*Hymn 61 or 268

Lo, The Earth Awakes Again text: Samuel Longfellow (1819 – 1892) music: Lyra Davidica Collection (1708)

Lo, the earth awakes again, Alleluia! From the winter's bond and pain, Alleluia! Bring we leaf and flower and spray, Alleluia! To adorn this happy day, Alleluia!

Once again the word comes true, Alleluia! All the earth shall be made new, Alleluia! Now the dark, cold days are o'er, Alleluia! Spring and gladness are before, Alleluia!

Change, then, mourning into praise, Alleluia! And, for dirges, anthems raise, Alleluia! How our spirits soar and sing, Alleluia! How our hearts leap with the spring! Alleluia!

OR

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today text: Charles Wesley (1707 – 1788), alt.

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia! Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia! Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia! Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia! Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia! Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia! Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia! Living out the words he said, Alleluia! Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia! Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

BENEDICTION AND EXTINGUISHING THE CHALICE

RECESSIONAL

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 my people Your people are my people Your divine, my divine

POSTLUDE

Toccata, from *Dix Pieces pour Orgue* *Eugène Gigout* (1844 – 1925) Rodger Clinton Vine, organ



Staff Directory

Parish Ministers

Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie (she/her), Senior Minister Rev. Beth Robbins (she/her), Executive Minister

 $\textbf{Rev. George G. Whitehouse} \ (\textit{he/him}), \textit{Minister at Large}$

Community Ministers

Rev. John Gibbons (he/him) Minister for Good Trouble

Rev. Dr. Kelly Murphy Mason (she/her) Minister for Spiritual Direction

Rev. Fred Small (he/him)
Minister for Climate Justice

Rev. Ali Jablonsky (she/her) Chaplain, Tufts Medical Center

Dr. Arthur Judge (he/him) Hospital Chaplain, retired

Rev. Erica Rose Long (she/her) Chaplain, Massachusetts General Hospital

Rev. Joanna Lubkin (she/her) Interim Minister, Theodore Parker Church

Rev. Vera O'Brien (she/her) Chaplain, HopeHealth Hospice

Music

Mark David Buckles (he/him), Director of Music Hyunju Jung (she/her), Collaborative Pianist Rodger Clinton Vine (he/him), Artist in Residence

Choir Section Leaders

Hannah Shanefield(she/her), Soprano Bek Zehr (they/them), Mezzo Soprano Samuel LaGrego (he/him), Tenor Andrew Stack (he/him), Baritone

Administration

Jess Acosta (she/they), Congregational Administrator Laurinda O'Connor (she/her), Publications

Arlington Street Church

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 10 am - 6 pm Phone: (617) 536-7050 Email: office@ASCBoston.org

Web: www.ASCBoston.org



INTO THE LIGHT BY JAKE RUNESTAD

Mark David Buckles, conductor

Orchestra

Mona Rashad, violin
Aleksandra Labinska, violin
Vanessa Fitzgerald, viola
Valerie Thompson, violoncello
John DeMartino, double bass
Ben Fox, oboe
Elizabeth Jones, horn
Ryan Ramey, horn
Sam Schmetterer, percussion
Hyunju Jung, piano

Arlington Street Church Choir

Sopranos
Angela Yam
Eve Lauria
Gaby Whitehouse
*Hannah Shanefield
Zoe Arguello

Altos Barbara Seidl *Bek Zehr Betsy Shearer Natalia St Jean Rebecca Reid

Tenors
Daniel Rosensweig
*Sam LaGrego

Basses
*Andrew Stack
Daniel Simpson
George Whitehouse
Richard Marshall
Stephen Wylie-Sears

*Section Leader

PROGRAM NOTES

Into the Light is a cantata for choir and chamber orchestra (strings, oboe, 2 horns, percussion, and piano) by composer Jake Runestad. I had originally programmed it for Easter 2020... and then the world shut down. Coming back to this piece, at last, has felt restorative, and the words and music have seemed even more relevant.

The work was composed in 2017, originally in honor of the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation (1517-2017). It was commissioned by Valparaiso University, a Lutheran University in Indiana. Modern Unitarianism, too, traces its roots back to 16th century Europe.

Composer Jake Runestad writes: "Rather than create a museum piece for the Reformation, I asked myself what reforming means in our world today: What are the major issues plaguing our world and what is their cause? Who has addressed these issues through their work and their words (in the vein of Martin Luther)? How can I address these issues through a musical work for chorus and orchestra in a meaningful way?

"To find the right texts, I scoured through hundreds of writings by individuals whom I consider reformers — those who have worked to improve their community, their country, and/or the world. Along the way, I also discovered the book *The Witness of Religion in an Age of Fear* by Michael Kinnamon. Kinnamon addresses fear and how it has infiltrated our culture and causes many of the issues we face including institutional racism, xenophobia, cultural divisions, and fear of 'the other.' Many of the writings that I collected also speak to this negative power of fear and how we must work to move beyond it.

"It is my hope that this new work, *Into the Light*, allows us to be immersed in the wisdom of some of the most important and influential reformers in history, and challenges us to consider how we can move beyond fear and onto a path of love, compassion, and kindness."

The cantata is composed in five continuous movements, with the texts (below) woven together throughout.

Movement 1, "The Universe of Light," begins with a shimmering celebration. While the strings and piano sparkle with quickly oscillating notes, the choir (doubled by the horns) sings a unison fanfare: "Come out, come out into the universe of light!" At the word "light," the choir splits into an 8-part, closely packed cluster chord. This dense yet glittering sound is one of the compositional underpinnings of the entire piece. The movement concludes with a pensive stillness: "You are a product of your thoughts. What you think, you become."

As the words fade to a hum, "The Lightless Dark" begins, and we hear a plaintive oboe melody high above. The choir emerges with a chorale set to words by author and activist Helen Keller, made even more potent by Keller's disabilities: "The only lightless dark is the night of ignorance. We differ from one another, not in our senses, but in the use we make of them."

This chorale gives way to polyphony that is a nod to Renaissance points of imitation. The harmony becomes abstruse, and the rhythms jumble and overlap; we hear the chaos and pain of the "night of ignorance" Keller describes. The movement closes with the return of the oboe, this time completely unaccompanied, a sole wandering voice in the darkness.

"The Warm Fogs of Fear" portrays the contrasts between fear and love, setting texts by Frederick Douglass, Martin Luther King Jr., and John the Evangelist. It begins with a tango, a dance shaped by the ceremonies of enslaved peoples in Argentina and Uruguay. As we hear the words of abolitionist Frederick Douglass, the tango takes on a deeper resonance than that which popular culture ascribes it today.

At the close of the section, the choir crescendos a progressively agitated "ah" (recalling the cluster chord of "you are a product of your thoughts"). This leads into a driving 6/8 section with cascading string melodies. A rising counter-melody, "we are driven by love or by fear," alternates through the voice parts. This culminates in a cacophonous low piano cluster and a full-voiced cry, "I fear you for I do not know you." And, as if the admonition of this source of our pain causes it to abate, the voices calm and then collapse to a simple unaccompanied unison melody: "There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear."

Movement 4, "Flower into Kindness" begins with the first truly a cappella homophony of the piece. The words come to us from 13th century Christian mystic Mechthild von Magdeburg. I appreciate that love is lauded herein not just for its beauty, but for its wisdom and its strength.

A single voice sings a simple and beautiful melody to begin the next section (sung today by our soprano section leader, Hannah Shanefield). The words are those of Rabindranath Tagore, the Bengali poet, writer, playwright, composer, philosopher, social reformer, and painter (and the first non-European to win the Nobel Prize in Literature). "I shed my words on the earth as the tree sheds its leaves. Let my thoughts unspoken flower into kindness." After the first voice finishes, another begins, and then another. Gradually the whole choir is singing in an overlapping seven-part canon, the thoughts interweaving, the flowers breathing, and burgeoning, and blooming.

After all settles, it's as if the ground starts to rumble: the strings begin an animated 5/8 dance, and we hear the 500 year-old words of Martin Luther: "We are not yet what we shall be, but we are growing toward it." This launches the recapitulation of the opening of the piece: "Come out, come out into the universe of light!" The music reaches even more resplendent heights. We are called again and again not to give in to the seduction of despair, but to hope, to love, and to work together to change our world.

~Mark David Buckles, Director of Music

TEXT

I. THE UNIVERSE OF LIGHT

Come out into the universe of light. Everything in the universe is yours, stretch out your arms and embrace it with love. Swami Vivekananda (1863 – 1902)

You are a product of your thoughts. What you think, you become. *Mahatma Gandh*i (1869 – 1948)

II. THE LIGHTLESS DARK

The only lightless dark is the night of ignorance. We differ from one another, not in our senses, but in the use we make of them.

Helen Keller (1880 – 1968)

III. THE WARM FOGS OF FEAR

The ice under us is very thin, and is made weak by the warm fogs of fear. Frederick Douglass (c. 1817 – 1895)

We are driven by love or by fear. I fear you, for I do not know you. Martin Luther King Jr. (1929 – 1968)

There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear. *John the Evangelist* (c. 6 – c. 100)

IV. FLOWER INTO KINDNESS

The soul is made of love and must ever return to love. There is nothing so wise, nor so beautiful, nor so strong as love.

Mechthild von Magdeburg (c. 1207 – c. 1294)

Above all, love.

Peter the Apostle (c. 1 - c. 64)

I shed my words on the earth as the tree sheds its leaves.
Let my thoughts unspoken flower into kindness.

Rabindranath Tagore (1861 – 1941) adapted Jake Runestad (b. 1986)

V. INTO THE LIGHT

We are not yet what we shall be, but we are growing toward it. *Martin Luther* (1483 – 1546)

Come out into the universe of light. Everything in the universe is yours, stretch out your arms and embrace it with love. Swami Vivekananda (1863 – 1902)



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, bring your own (a minimum of two dozen flowers is perfect for our huge space), or a member of the staff will purchase them (~\$50). Please email our congregational administrator, Jess (<u>JAcosta@ASCBoston.org</u>), to claim your date! *Thank you!*