



Our Church Glowed

Our church was warm, they always said that,
 in the marrow, in the rows of creaking pews —
 “her” place;
 or where Tom sits, in the front on the side near
 the door less used
 because of the restless kids.

Our church glowed
 with Christmas candles
 and the happy friction of meeting bodies and
 passing prayers.

Our church hummed
 with the memory of the bell which cannot be
 unrung;
 from the wood which itself strummed with the
 energy of an ancient sun
 fallen over two hundred summers ago;
 and the bell’s pulse and the timber echo were
 home and history to us,
 the drone our singing stood upon.

The wood remembered the lonesome pacer,
 praying after midnight,
 let in by the open secret, the skeleton key.
 The wood crackled to the rafters with the
 laughter of the damaged
 — that’s us —
 laughter played well here.
 Our church was warm in our hearts.
 Our hearts were warm in our church.

The old church burned
 Fire rose up out of darkness
 And heat ate the cold one winter morning.

The church rose with the fire and hovered over
 the foundation
 We had rebuilt, really, in a crawl space, literally
 face down
 Under the complaining floor.

The old church rose with the fire
 Orange and transfigured,
 Even to those who knew her best,
 And — God help us and guilt be damned
 — beautiful.

The old church rose with the flame
 And then it fell.
 Even the brave bell,
 Tolled for burials
 And rung savage and amazed after midnight
 when the Sox finally won it all,
 The bell that alarmed the village back in the day,
 in the night,
 For fire or flood,
 Even the bell fell, broke and melted.
 The hill ran with water

That the firefighters poured, poured, poured.
 The water ran down the hill with our tears
 and froze
 The water finally worked and then the steam,
 it rose,
 The night the old church rose and burst.

Our church did not burn, it glows.

Stephen Philbrick

DECEMBER

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|----------|----------------|-----------|----------------|----------|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| | | | | | PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY | |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| HANUKKAH | | | | | | |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| | | | | | | FIRST DAY OF WINTER |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | 31 | | | | | |
| | NEW YEAR'S EVE | CHRISTMAS | KWANZAA BEGINS | | | |