



Old South Church

Copley Square, Boston

*A Congregation of the
United Church of Christ*

Gathered 1669

October 18, 2026 ❖ 11:00am

Twenty-First Sunday After Pentecost

*Let us go forth into the city and proclaim the message there also;
for that is what I came out to do. —Mark 1:38*

GATHER

PRELUDE

Arioso in D Major

Daniel Olson

WELCOME

John M. Edgerton

ANTHEM

I See God!

Tom T. Shelton

THE OLD SOUTH CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Jamie Chelel, *director* • Jonathan Reddix, *accompanist*

I see God around me every day. I see God with my friends at play.

I see God on mountain tops. I see God in raindrops.

I see God in the people on the street. I see God in the faces that I greet.

I see God all around me everywhere. I see God!

**Indicates all who are able may stand*

I hear God in the gentle breeze. I hear God in the buzzing bees.
I hear God in my family's voice. I hear God when I rejoice.

I hear God when I sing my favorite song. I hear God in the bells that chime along.
I hear God all around me everywhere. I hear God!

I feel God when I do good deeds. I feel God praying on my knees.
I feel God around me every day. I feel God in my heart to stay.

I feel God when I say my bedtime prayers. I feel God when I show my friends I care.
I feel God all around me everywhere. I feel God! I hear God! I see God!

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

The God who has searched us and knows us,
who is acquainted with all our ways,
that God calls us each by name:

Speak, Holy One, your servants are listening.

The God who liberated slaves from Egypt,
the Lord of the Sabbath who bids us rest,
that God empowers us to make Jesus' life visible in our very bodies:

Speak, Holy One, your servants are listening.

Let us shout for joy to the God of Jacob!

Let us sing aloud to God, our strength!

*HYMN 305

You Servants of God, Your Sovereign Proclaim

HANOVER

CONFESSION

Merciful God,
our world calls for action and immediate response.

We do not know how to slow down and wait patiently.

Silence.

Our world dings, beeps, and rings, demanding constant attention.
We struggle to hear you amidst the noise.

Silence.

Our world is filled with images, reels, and shiny objects that catch our eyes.
We forget to look for you amidst the distractions.

Silence.

Call us to wait;
to surrender;
to pay attention:
**Until our eyes are opened,
and we recognize you have been with us all along.**

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

*PASSING THE PEACE
May the peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

LISTEN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rory Razon

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 62:1-8

*HYMN 410

If You But Trust in God to Guide You

NEUMARK

*During the hymn, children that wish may meet childcare staff
in the back of the sanctuary and proceed to the 3rd floor.*

SCRIPTURE

Mark 6:30-46

Ashley J. Popperson

SERMON

Come Away

*HYMN 502

Dear God, Embracing Humankind
Verses 3-5 only

REST

CENTERING PRAYER

Dimitri Bawole



Be still and know that I am God. Be still and
know that I am. Be still and know. Be still.

The musical notation is for a song in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. It consists of two staves. The first staff begins with a repeat sign and a key signature change to B-flat major. The melody is simple, with lyrics 'Be still and know that I am God. Be still and'. The second staff continues the melody with lyrics 'know that I am. Be still and know. Be still.' and ends with a double bar line.

Text: adapted from Psalm 46:11
Music: Barbara Bridge, 2005, 2006

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

Kyle Pederson, *arr.*

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest;
in me your soul will find its peace, in me you draw each breath."

I came to Jesus as I was, so weary and so worn;
I found him in a resting place, where peace and hope are born.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold, I freely give;
I am the living water, quench your thirst, come drink and live."

I came and drank from the stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul renewed, and now I live in him.

Speak now, spirit, speak...
...speak now spirit, come and speak!

I heard the voice of Jesus say, “I am this dark world’s light;
look unto me and night will fade, and all your mornings rise.”

I come to Jesus, and I find in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I’ll walk till traveling days are done.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“I am life; I am light; I am love;
now come and live.”

RESPOND

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Rachel J. Barton



*To give online,
scan the QR code*

*If you’re new to Old South
scan the QR code
to tell us more about yourself*



OFFERTORY

The Falconer

Alfred V. Fedak

Rise, my song, and stretch your wings, delight and need to trace.

Rise for those the gospel brings to seek a singing place.

This will be our singing day, word and tune will both be true.

Song, soar up, but not away — the falconer waits for you.

Rise, my song, and have no fear of soaring wide and high.

Christ the falconer is near, wherever you may fly.

See the human world below, showing scars and beauty too.

In a closing circle go, the falconer waits for you.

Soar, my song, with wings wide fanned, delight and need to trace.

Come to Christ’s uplifted hand, and find a resting place.

One day soaring song shall see everything made whole and new.

Day of gladness, come to be! The falconer waits for you.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God, you have given each of us gifts to use as members of the body of Christ. We offer in return the work of our hands, our hearts, and our lives. May they bring transformation and renewal through the ministry of your church, into which all are invited:

You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory. Amen.
—*UCC Statement of Faith, Doxology*

*HYMN 546

Jesus, Lover of My Soul

MARTYN

*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

Ashley J. Popperson

Our help is in the name of the Lord—

The God who made heaven and Earth.

Where is God sending us?

God sends us into her own world.

And what does the Lord require of us?

To do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God.

Micah 6:8

POSTLUDE

Prelude in G Major, BWV 568

Johann Sebastian Bach



Join us for Refreshments & Fellowship
in the Gordon Chapel following the Postlude.

The flowers today are given by Elizabeth and Betty Pitcher,
in loving memory of David Mullen.

Close-Up, a twenty minute tour of the Sanctuary,
begins immediately following worship at the Pulpit.
Led by docent David Story.

WELCOME TO OLD SOUTH CHURCH

Welcome to Old South Church in Boston. We are a progressive Christian church first gathered in 1669. The Church played a significant role in early American history. Today, Old South Church continues to serve as a sanctuary in the city of Boston.

NEW AT OLD SOUTH?

Welcome! We are so glad you're here! Please take a moment to fill out a friendship pad so that we can be in touch with you. If you have any questions or would like to talk to a minister to learn more about the church, contact Associate Minister Ashley Popperson at ashley@oldsouth.org.

Children are welcome in all aspects of worship. We also offer childcare from 8:20am-12:30pm every Sunday and Church School at 10am. For questions about our children and family ministries, email children@oldsouth.org.

For LARGE print bulletins or children's bulletins, please ask an Usher.

An accessible, single-stall restroom is available near Reception. More restrooms are available. Please ask at the reception desk.

HEARING ASSISTANCE

Hearing assist devices are available from Ava Welling, our Director of Audio. Please see Ava for a device and instructions on how to use it. For more information or answers to questions, please contact Ava at ava@oldsouth.org.

GARAGE PARKING VALIDATIONS

We have arrangements for discounted parking with two nearby garages for Old South Church for Sunday worship services only. For more information check out www.oldsouth.org/your-first-visit or see the front desk.

LEARN MORE

Check out the church website www.oldsouth.org for more on the history and ministries of Old South. See www.oldsouth.org/calendar for a calendar of current events.

CCLI #2802138 ❖ CCS #12028 ❖ OneLicense #A-700000

OLD SOUTH CHURCH *in* BOSTON — MINISTERS, OFFICERS, & STAFF

John M. Edgerton, *Senior Minister*

Ashley J. Popperson, *Associate Minister* ❖ Rachel J. Barton, *Associate Minister for Transformation*

Dimitri Bawole, *Taylor Fellow*

Donald A. Wells, *Theologian in Residence* ❖ June R. Cooper, *Theologian in the City*

James Harrison Jr., *Wedding Minister* ❖ Kenneth H. Orth, *Healing Worship Minister*

James W. Crawford, *Senior Minister Emeritus* ❖ Nancy S. Taylor, *Senior Minister Emeritus*

Mitchell Crawford, *Minister of Music*

Jonathan Reddix, *Collaborative Pianist* ❖ Jan Christoph Hadenfeldt, *Visiting Organist*

Tim Harbold, *Director, Gospel Choir* ❖ Peter Coulombe, *Director, Old South Ringers*

Audrey Woodhams, *Creative Director for Thursday Night Church*

Kate Nintcheu, *Director, Children & Family Ministries*

Summer Marsh, *Director, Old South Preschool*

Jamie Chelel, *Children's Choir Director* ❖ Jonathan Reddix, *Children's Choir Accompanist*

Rory Razon, *Youth Group Co-Leader*

Rebecca Pasipanodya, *Director of Operations*

Rémy Hatfield-Gardner, *Administrative Assistant* ❖ Kathleen Steen, *Staff Accountant*

Karen Hand, *Wedding Coordinator*

Jamie G. Sage, *Multimedia Director* ❖ Ava Welling, *Director of Audio*

Rémy Hatfield-Gardner & William Wei, *Livestream Production Assistants*

Elias Perez, *Senior Sexton* ❖ Tahmina Akter, Richard Serebour, MD Rahman, & Isaiah Wilkerson, *Sextons*

Corey Spence, *Weekday Receptionist* ❖ Shirley Bivins, Anna Pratt, Shelia Randolph, & Zach Zang *Evening & Weekend Receptionists*

Maren Batalden, *Moderator* ❖ Rob Gabler, *Clerk* ❖ Donna Matson, *Treasurer*

Debby Kuenstner, *Chair, Board of Trustees* ❖ Kate Silfen, *Historian*

Rebecca Bowen & Laurie Stickels, *Senior Deacons*

A NOTE ON THE INCLUSIVE DIMENSIONS OF GOD'S GRACE

Old South Church in Boston, in the name of its host, Jesus Christ, and in the spirit of Christ's invitation carved into the stone of this church's portico, "Behold I Set Before You an Open Door," welcomes all who seek to know God. Following the One who we believe is Sovereign and Savior, we affirm that each individual is a child of God, and recognize that we are called to be like one body with many members, seeking with others of every race, ethnicity, creed, class, age, gender, marital status, physical or mental ability, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression to journey together toward the promised realm of God. We invite everyone to join in the common life and mission of our reconciling community through participation and leadership in this congregation, and by fully sharing in the worship, rites and sacraments of this church. As we all move forward with the work of this church, we commit ourselves to making justice and inclusivity a reality in this congregation and in the world. On the threshold of Christ's open door, we rely upon the healing, unconditional nature of God's love and grace to be our help and guide.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEET WITH THE SEARCH COMMITTEE

*Sunday, October 18, 12:30PM following Festival Worship
and Sunday, November 1, 10AM during the Community Hour Forum*

The Associate Minister Search Committee invites you to gather at an information session to discuss the search for our next Associate Minister. Everyone is also encouraged to reach out with comments and suggestions to members of the committee individually: Larry Bowers bowlaw@earthlink.net, Erik Brenner eskbre@gmail.com, Frankie Doolittle revdoolittle@gmail.com, Ashton Gregor agregor312@gmail.com, Eliette Hilaire eliette.hilaire@gmail.com, and Charles St. Amant castamant@att.net.

THE ORDINATION OF GRACIE PATERSON

Sunday, October 18, 3pm, Fourth Presbyterian Church, 340 Dorchester Street, Boston
Former Nancy S. Taylor Leadership Fellow Gracie Paterson is getting Ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (USA). Join us to witness this holy and sacred moment in their life and ministry.

CHURCH GARDEN SPRUCE UP

Saturday, Oct. 24 at 10am. RSVP to rebecca@oldsouth.org by 19.

Are you an avid gardener or are you interested in learning and getting your hands dirty? Come join us as we spruce up our church gardens! We'll be clearing out the old and planting bulbs for next spring. We need your help, whether you know every plant by name or can't tell a weed from a flower. Snacks and drinks will be provided.

OPEN DOOR AWARD TO REV. KENNETH ORTH

October 25th, 2026 at 11am Festival Worship

Next week at Festival Worship we will award the Open Door Award to Rev. Kenneth Orth, in recognition of his thirty-three years of compassionate leadership of Old South's Healing Worship Service. The Open Door Award, established by Old South Church in 2014, symbolizes the church's mission to pry open doors that have been closed to marginalized communities. Rev. Ken's faithful pastoral care for the Healing Worship community, beginning during the AIDS crisis of the 1990s, has made clear to all people that they are beloved children of God, in whom God delights. Join us next week to celebrate and honor Rev. Ken's ministry.

FIFTH THURSDAY OPEN MIC

Thursday, October 29, following Thursday Night Church

After Thursday Night Church, join us for our Fifth Thursdays TNC Open Mic Night. All are welcome to gather (costumes welcome!) after worship for an autumnal edition of our informal sharing of poetry, music, story, and art hosted by our Creative Director, Audrey Woodhams. Contact Audrey at audrey@oldsouth.org to sign up, or just show up and there's a spot for you!

SCARED FOR GOOD ORGAN CONCERT

Saturday, October 31, 7pm, in the Sanctuary

Join a new rendition of the Scared For Good concert! Come, if you dare, to hear the spine-tingling sounds of the season, courtesy of the room-rattling Skinner organ. A suggested donation of \$25 will support young organists with a year of free lessons and resources. Costumes are welcomed!

ALL SAINTS WORSHIP

Sunday, November 1, First and Festival Worship

A Sunday not to be missed as the Festival Choir presents Mozart's *Requiem*, which the composer famously left incomplete at the time of his own death. Please bring in photos of your beloved saints for our collective altar at both First and Festival Worship. Bring a photo before November 1 and leave at the front desk. Questions? Email ashley@oldsouth.org.

COMMUNITY HOUR FORUMS: SUNDAYS AT 10AM

Come early or stay late to connect with and learn other Old Southerners on Sunday mornings at 10am on the 2nd floor. Programs change week to week, and are led by other Old South folks who want to invite you into what fires them up! This is a great way to get to know each other, and to get in on the discussions.

WHAT GUIDES OLD SOUTH'S INVESTMENTS? | October 18

Join members of the Board of Trustees as they share the endowment's exposure to investments that align with Old South's values and seek feedback from members.

BRAINSTORMING ABOUT BELONGING | October 25

***There will be an additional brainstorm session after Thursday Night Church on October 22nd!**

As we work to translate our survey findings into an action plan for the church, the Belong Task Force invites you to join in some community brainstorming! Our recent congregational survey highlighted our need to build deeper relationships in order to foster belonging. It also highlighted significant unfinished business in our journey to racial inclusion. Now we want to hear from you! Is there an idea you've had for creating a small group with a shared interest? Do you long for a chance to get together with others outside of church? Do you know of programs at other churches that strengthen community? Is there a need that exists here that has not been addressed? Please come to talk about opportunities to broaden our experience of belonging at our church. Members, non-members, friends—we welcome your ideas, your opinions, your recommendations! Please join us! Zoom link at tinyurl.com/BELONG-10-25.

SMALL GROUPS AT OLD SOUTH CHURCH

For more information or questions about Small Groups at Old South Church, reach out to Associate Minister for Transformation Rachel Barton at rachel@oldsouth.org.

A MONTH IN MARK

October 18 and 25, November 1 and 15 at 10:00 am, Crawford Library

Join Rev. Rachel for a four-week long community Bible study on the Gospel of Mark. We'll be looking at the weekly sermon text together, asking questions, interpreting the stories and parables and applying the Bible to our lives. Got questions? Email Rachel at rachel@oldsouth.org

OLD SOUTH'S CHRISTIAN CENTURY COMMUNITY READING CIRCLE

Monthly, on Zoom

for schedule, link, or questions email Steve: smh00a@gmail.com or Jim: jamesjumper80@gmail.com

Want to build community with other Old Southerners, think theologically, and put your faith in action? You're invited to join Steve Holt and Jim Jumper for a small, monthly reading group they are co-facilitating reflecting on select theology- and social justice-themed articles from Christian Century magazine, connecting faith to everyday life, and exploring ways we all can take thoughtful, faithful action in our communities. As part of the virtual reading circle, all participants will receive a fully subsidized magazine subscription for the year and our group will be fully supported with discussion guides and opportunities to share ideas with participating congregations nationwide. This is a great opportunity for Old Southerners with a heart for rooting their progressive social action in solid theology. We hope you'll stop by!

MEN'S LUNCH GROUP

Wednesdays, 1:00 pm-2:00 pm on zoom

This is a small group of men, some retired and others still in careers. We are a social group, with an aim to build relationships. Discussions center around social justice themes, misogyny, racial and gender current issues, and patriarchal biases. Hosted by Rev. David Story.

WOMEN'S THURSDAY GROUP

Thursdays, 1:00 pm-2:00 pm on zoom

An inter-generational group of women who meet each week for reflecting together on faith and life, and enjoying spiritual friendships. Welcoming all women, including trans women and nonbinary people who feel at home in a woman's space. Discussions sometimes revolve around books the group reads. We often follow special Advent and Lent devotionals for those two periods. Hosted by Pam Roberts and Gail Holman.

SUPPORT THE ALLSTON BRIGHTON FOOD PANTRY

YOUR GENEROSITY HAS ALREADY BROUGHT IN \$20,000!

The Allston Brighton Food Pantry needs our help. Winter storms in January and February 2026 forced this vital community resource to close for months while funds were raised and building repairs were completed. Thanks to many generous hearts and helping hands, the pantry is open again—but its future remains vulnerable. As SNAP benefits are reduced and grocery costs continue to rise, more neighbors are relying on the pantry for essential food support. Let's come together as a congregation to help the ABFP rebuild its financial foundation and prepare for future emergencies. Our goal is to raise \$30,000 from the Old South congregation. Please scan the QR code below to give generously! Your gift ensures that local families can count on the pantry when they need it most. Questions? contact Esther Seguin, esther.seguin@verizon.net.



THE WEEKLY PUSHBACK: SAINT FRANCIS HOUSE

To learn more and to donate stfrancishouse.org/

Have other weekly pushback ideas? Email outreach@oldsouth.org

In support of the Global focus on homelessness this weekend, Old South Church is pleased to support St. Francis house with a \$1000 Weekly Pushback grant. Located in the heart of Downtown Boston, St. Francis House is the largest day shelter in New England welcoming up to 500 residents experiencing homeless each day. Their services include a medical clinic, mental health counseling, substance use recovery support, workforce development, connections to subsidized housing opportunities, and a day shelter offering food, showers, clean clothing, computer access as well as mail and ID services.

WEEKLY WORSHIP

Join us in person, on Facebook, and YouTube

Thursday Night Church, Thursdays at 6:00 pm

FIRST Worship Sundays at 9:00 am

FESTIVAL Worship Sundays at 11:00 am

VESPERS HEALING Worship, Second Sundays at 5:00 pm via Zoom



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Scan the QR code*

*If You're new to Old South,
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to tell us more about yourself.*



NOTICES 1) Worship services and events at Old South Church are sometimes photographed and videotaped to document the vibrant life of our church. If you do not wish to be included in these recordings, please notify an usher. 2) Please do not leave bags unattended in the building, including the Sanctuary, for any length of time.

Old South Church in Boston ❖ 645 Boylston Street, Boston 02116 ❖ www.oldsouth.org