

Old South Church

Copley Square, Boston

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Gathered 1669

November 8, 2026 ❖ 11:00am

Twenty-fourth Sunday After Pentecost

Take heart: it is not too late to build a better world.

GATHER

PRELUDE *Ich ruf' zu Dir, Herr Jesu Christ*, BVW 639 Johann Sebastian Bach

WELCOME John M. Edgerton

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We have come to worship the living God—
who knit us together when we were yet unnamed,
and welcomes us with a parent's embrace.
We have come to worship the almighty God—
who searches us and knows our hearts,
and still loves us completely.
We have come to worship the eternal God—
who seeks us wherever we are,
and shepherds us with a guiding hand.
Let our worship be a testament to the living, almighty, eternal God!

** Indicates all who are able may stand*

*HYMN 21 **God Reigns o'er All the Earth** TERRA BEATA

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy One,
we have set our minds on wrong things—
on selfish gain, not generous service;
on pursuits that distract, not inspire;
on tasks that diminish, rather than give, life.

We long to set our minds on eternal things—
on your way of mercy and compassion;
on paths that lead to justice and peace;
on living as people of hope.

Spirit of God, dwell in us.
Give us grace when we fall short,
transform our hearts and renew our minds,
and set us free to follow you faithfully.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

*PASSING THE PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

LISTEN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Ashton Gregor

SCRIPTURE Mark 5:1-13

*HYMN 176 **"Silence! Frenzied, Unclean Spirit"** AUTHORITY

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

SCRIPTURE Ephesians 6:10-13 Ashley J. Popperson

SERMON For We are Many

*HYMN 439 **A Mighty Fortress Is Our God** EIN' FESTE BURG

CENTERING PRAYER John M. Edgerton



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 Love the Lord Richard Smallwood; Cliff Duren, *arr.*

I love the Lord, who heard my cry and pitied every groan.
Long as I live and troubles rise, I'll hasten to God's throne.

(Though often ascribed masculine or feminine pronouns in prose and poetry,
God is unbound by human concepts of gender.)

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 — Great Things He Has Done — Mark Hayes, *arr.*

To God be the glory; great things he has done!
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life — an atonement for sin —
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory: great things he has done!

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
not wanting, not wasting, but ruling in might;
your justice like mountains high soaring above,
your clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

Great things he has taught us; great things he has done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
but purer and higher and greater will be
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

(Though often ascribed masculine or feminine pronouns in prose and poetry,
God is unbound by human concepts of gender.)

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.

— UCC Statement of Faith, Doxology

*HYMN 573 **Lead On Eternal Sovereign** LANCASHIRE

*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 Wer nur den lieben Gott lässt walten Johann Sebastian Bach

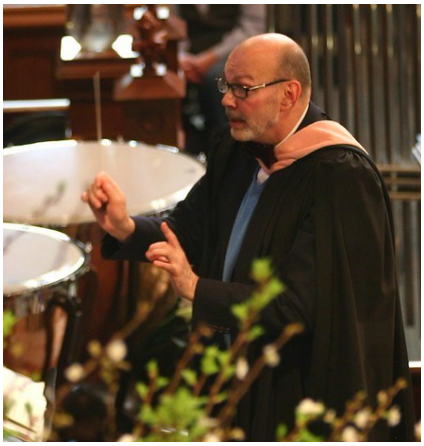
Chorale and Chorale Variations, BWV 690 & BWV 642

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

The flowers today are given by the
Music Ministries of Old South Church
in loving memory of Harry Huff
on the anniversary of his death: November 3, 2016

Close-Up, a twenty minute tour of the Sanctuary*,*
begins immediately following worship
at the front of the Sanctuary. by docent Liz Morgan.



UPCOMING SPECIAL SERVICES AND EVENTS

Meeting House Sunday

Sunday, November 22 | 11AM

With special music commemorating the role the Old South congregation and Meeting House played in the seminal events of 1776, this year's worship service honors 250 years of American independence and nationhood. Join us at Washington & Milk Streets as we give thanks for God's abundant blessings and the rich history of our faith.

Candlelight Christmas Eve

Thursday, December 24

Family Service with Impromptu Pageant | 5PM
Lessons and Carols | 8PM
Carols and Communion | 11PM

Boston First Night at Old South Church

Thursday, December 31 | All events free and open to the public

Organist David Preston | 1pm

A concert of American organ music in celebration of America 250. The program features variations on the National Anthem and "My Country 'Tis of Thee," colonial-era repertoire, and Samuel Barber's Adagio for Strings.

Castle of Our Skins + Old South Church | 4pm

Old South partner organization Castle of Our Skins presents a First Night concert for the first time in the organization's history. A Black arts institution that centers Black arts, culture, and history within each of its curated events, Castle of Our Skins was recently honored by the City of Boston with a new performance venue and workspace at the edge of the South End.

Pipes and Pops | 6:30pm and 8pm

The best of Boston's brass and percussion artists join organist Mitchell Crawford in a supersonic program of popular classics. Featuring fun and engaging programming for the whole family, come experience Old South's incredible E. M. Skinner organ, with over 7,000 room-shaking pipes!

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, *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.

OLD SOUTH CHURCH *in* BOSTON

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Old South Church *in* Boston | Week of Thursday, November 5 and Sunday, November 8, 2026

SPEAKING OF BELONGING:
What Holds You Back from Deeper Relationships at Church?
Sunday, November 15, in person and Zoom ***tinyurl.com/Nov15BELONG***
You are also invited to join the discussion on Sunday, December 6, 7:30pm at the Online Small Group meeting at ***tinyurl.com/2025OSCOnlineSmallGroup***
Join us in examining ways our institutional practices influence our personal sense of belonging, including social culture, worship, communication, leadership, resource allocation, community partnerships and organizational norms. We gather in a spirit of truth telling that will help us be better.

A MONTH IN MARK
Sunday, November 15,10:00 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***

METROPLITAN BOSTON ASSOCIATION FALL MEETING
Sunday, November 15, 2-4pm
Go to ***tinyurl.com/MBAMeetingFall2026*** *or email* ***rachel@oldsouth.org*** *for info.*
Join the wider church at the Metropolitan Boston Association's Fall Meeting. We'll gather from 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm for a time of worship and collaboration, including a workshop on church collaboration led by our colleagues Rev. Chris Mereschuk and Rev. Julia Khan at the SNUECC's Continuing Covenant Collaborative. Following our formal meeting, we'll retire to an Association Social at Joe's on Newbury.

COAT BOSTON
Join Old South as we support Coat Boston's annual coat drive. From now through November 8, please donate coats and winter accessories, sizes infant—4XL via Amazon Wishlish at ***tinyurl.com/2026CoatBostonWishes***. For more information see ***www.coatboston.org***

MUSIC FOR PEACE: 32 STRINGS!
Friday, November 20, 7:30pm, Old South Sanctuary
Get tickets at ***tinyurl.com/2026MusicforPeace***
Join our very own Sam Ou for a lovely string concert featuring the harmonies of the Mendelssohn and Enescu Octets, written by teenage composers, and the sound of 8 talented musicians. This concert benefits Massachusetts Peace Action. Admission free; Requested donation $25 for Mass. Peace Action members; $10 for students and low-income.

CORO ALLEGRO PRESENTS ANDREW YEE'S TRANS REQUIEM

Sunday, November 22, 3pm, Church of the Covenant, 67 Newbury Street, Boston
*Tickets available at **tinyurl.com/11-22Concert**,*
Use the code REQUIEM for $5 off any ticket.

Coro Allegro, Boston's LGBTQ+ and allied classical chorus, presents the Boston premiere of Andrew Yee's Trans Requiem. Featuring two-time GRAMMY Award-winning cellist and composer Andrew Yee, soprano Breanna Sinclairé, and tenor Sam Crosby-Schmidt, this moving work celebrates the beauty, resilience, and diversity of the trans experience. The program also features Ola Gjeilo's gorgeous Sunrise Mass.

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***.

FAITH, LIFE, AND PRAYER

Monday nights 7:00 pm-9:00 pm, in person, Jamaica Plain

Join this group for fun, friendship and great conversations about God and the meanings of life! This group shares life, prays together, and discusses the sermon scripture from Sunday morning. Every other gathering we'll share a meal and more time for prayer. Delicious homemade popcorn everytime. Hosted by Val Snekvik and Jim Jumper.

THEOLOGICAL BOOK GROUP

Monday nights 6:00 pm-7:00 pm on zoom

This intrepid band of brainy, curious readers does not shy away from big ideas or provocative issues. If you ever felt like church was a place you had to "check your brain" at the door, then this group of daring thinkers is for you. Hosted by Rev. Dr. Donald Wells.

WELCOME TO THE TABLE

Wednesdays and one Saturday a month, 4:00 pm-6:00 pm, in person,
Allston Brighton Food Pantry, 404 Washington St, Brighton

Join a group of Old South members and friends who put their faith into action by helping to feed the hungry at the Allston-Brighton Food Pantry. On either a designated Wednesday afternoon or Saturday morning, volunteers can help serve food or support clean-up of food service stations. Afterwards, the group will go to a restaurant to share a meal and conversation. Hosted by Esther Seguin.

COMMUNITY HOUR FORUMS: SUNDAYS AT 10AM

Come early or stay late to connect with and learn other Old Southers 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.

YOUTH GROUP PANCAKE BREAKFAST, *November 8*
Join the Youth Group as they serve a delicious breakfast to raise funds and supplies for the Allston-Brighton Community Fridge. Bring a donation of $5 OR a shelf stable item for the pantry:

- canned goods (with pop top lids)
- cereals, grains and pasta
- soup, beans, and canned meat
- flour, cooking oils, and spice
- body care items
- infant formula and diapers

SPEAKING OF BELONGING:
What Holds You Back from Deeper Relationships at Church? *See article on page 1*
November 15, in person and Zoom ***tinyurl.com/Nov15BELONG***

SAVE THE DATE:
OLD SOUTH AND ISBCC—Exploring Christian and Islamic Views on Jesus
December 14th, 6pm, Old South Sanctuary
Old South with host our friends from the Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center. We will share a light meal and deep conversation about the role of Jesus in both Christianity and Islam.

HEARD IT AT COUNCIL
Read the full report at ***oldsouth.org/news/heard-it-council-october-2026***
Church Historian Kate Silfen reports on October's Council meeting which included discussions about budget, human resources, and the Associate Minister Search Committee.

THANKSGIVING GREEN TIP: Plan Ahead and Save Food
Learn more at ***kab.org/7-ideas-to-keep-your-thanksgiving-eco-friendly/***
While everyone loves leftovers, too much extra food often ends up in the trash. Spend a little time planning your menu and coordinating dishes with guests so you don't double up. Encourage everyone to bring reusable containers for leftovers—it's a simple way to reduce waste and share the feast. You can also get creative with ingredients. Use recipes that complement one another so nothing goes to waste. If one dish calls for 1½ cups of broth, find another that uses the remaining ½ cup. Small changes add up to a big difference.

THE WEEKLY PUSHBACK: NEW ENGLAND CENTER AND HOME FOR VETERANS

To learn more and to donate ***nechv.org/***

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

New England Center and Home for Veterans (NECHV) provides housing and serves Veterans who are at-risk or experiencing homelessness. Located in Boston and offering service throughout the region, NECHV supports Veterans with needed service to enable meaningful employment and dignified independent living. Services and support include case management, behavioral health care, housing search support, employment assistance and medical care. Old South Church is proud to support NECHV by offering a $1000 Weekly Pushback grant.

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

To give online, Scan the QR code

If You're new to Old South, scan the QR code 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.