

Old South Church *in* Boston

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

November 9, 2025 ❖ 11:00am

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

GATHER

PRELUDE

I Love to Tell the Story

Emma Lou Diemer, *arr.*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Ashley J. Popperson

I will extol you, Holy One, for you have drawn me up
and did not let my foes rejoice over me.

Faithful God, I will give thanks to you forever.

Sing praises to the Almighty, O you faithful ones,
and give thanks to her holy name.

Trustworthy God, we will give thanks to you forever.

In prosperity we will not be moved

Nor when we wear sackcloth and ashes

In all seasons, everlasting God,

let your people sing your praise. Alleluia!

*HYMN 70

God is Here! As We Your People Meet

ABBOT'S LEIGH

*INVOCATION

*PASSING THE PEACE

*As a sign of our reconciliation with God and each other,
please greet those around you, saying "peace" or "the peace of Christ."*

**Indicates all who are able may stand*

ANTHEM

Follow Jesus

Dennis Allen, *arr.*

OLD SOUTH CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Aislin Kate Anderson, *director* • Joyce Yuexuan Wang, *accompanist*

Sweetly, Lord, have we heard thee calling, "Come, follow me!"
And we see where thy footprints falling, lead us to thee.
Footprints of Jesus that make the pathway glow;
we will follow the steps of Jesus where'er they go.

O God, you are my God, and I will ever praise you!
I will seek you in the morning and I will learn to walk in your ways;
and step by step you'll lead me, and I will follow you all of my days.

WELCOME

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Alistair John Margeson-Norton

Child of Sydney and Brandon Margeson-Norton
Godchild of Lauren and Thomas Winand

BLESSING THE WATER

John M. Edgerton

PRESENTATION AND INTRODUCTION

LITANY OF BAPTISM

We are gathered to present Alistair John Margeson-Norton to the Church and to dedicate him to God. What can we affirm about him?

He is a child of God, made in God's image.

As Alistair grows and matures, how will he know he is a child of God and how will he learn of the Christian story?

We will tell him about Abraham and Sarah, the parents of our faith; about Moses and Miriam who led our ancestors out of bondage; about Mary and Joseph's openness to mystery; about the Savior, Jesus.

In turn, what will we expect of him?

We look forward to sitting with him at the Lord's Table, sharing with him the costs and joys of discipleship, learning and growing with him in the Christian pilgrimage, and declaring with one voice our faith in God and God's son, Jesus.

Do you, Sydney and Brandon, parents, assume your primary responsibility for fulfilling these expectations by growing with Alistair in the Christian faith, helping him to become a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, and by offering him the nurture and support of the Christian church? And will you, Lauren and Thomas, godparents, agree to guide Alistair into becoming an engaged and complete human being, teaching him about personal sacrifice for a greater good, about grace and reconciliation at times of human weakness, and the power of unconditional love for all people?

Parents/Godparents: We happily and genuinely accept this serious duty.

And Old South Church, do you pledge to maintain a nurturing and challenging Christian environment for Alistair?

We do, for he belongs to us as well.

Then, may God be with us.

God help us. Amen.

BAPTISM

CONGREGATIONAL WELCOME

John Clark, *Baptismal Deacon*

We rejoice in God's empowering love, freely given to each and all. We welcome you, newly baptized, into the circle of love in Christ's Church. We promise to pray for you, to seek the depths of faith with you, to support you, and to love you. We covenant with you to love God with all our hearts, minds, souls, and strength, and our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.

LISTEN

SCRIPTURE

Joel 2:23, 26-28

Harrison Reeder

*HYMN 174

Hear the Voice of God, So Tender

RAQUEL

Verses 1, 2, and 4 only

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

SCRIPTURE

Mark 2:18-22

Rachel J. Barton

SERMON

Neither either nor or

*HYMN 265

Come, O Spirit, with Your Sound

BOUNDLESS MERCY

*CALL TO PRAYER

John M. Edgerton

God be with you.

And also with you.

May the peace of Christ dwell in your hearts.

Christ is our peace, our light, and our hope.

Let us pray. *Please be seated.*

PASTORAL PRAYER

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

Come, Thou Fount

Craig Courtney, *arr.*

Come, thou fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.

Here I raise mine Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

RESPOND

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Ashley J. Popperson



To give via ApplePay, GooglePay,
or Credit Card, scan the QR code.
You can also Text 44-321
and enter OSC to make a gift.

If you're new to Old South,
scan the QR code with your
smartphone camera
to tell us more about yourself.



OFFERTORY

One Faith, One Hope, One Lord

Craig Courtney

One faith, one hope, one Lord, one church for which Christ died.
One voice, one song, we lift in praise to God who was and is
and shall be evermore.

There is one body, one Spirit, as you were called to one hope.
One Lord, baptism and faith, one God and Maker of all,
above all, and through all, who is in you all.

One faith, one hope, one Lord...

Though we be many people, diverse with various gifts,
we are given to each other for the unity of faith,
that we grow in the knowledge of the Son of God,
in the fullness of Christ.

One faith, one hope, one Lord...

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN 394

In Christ There Is No East or West

MCKEE

*BENEDICTION

Rachel J. Barton

POSTLUDE

A New Name in Glory

Diane Bish, *arr.*



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

These flowers are given in thanks and appreciation
for the faithful ministry of Vicki Newman,
beloved member of the church.

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



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, 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 worship or church business (excluding weddings & concerts). 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*

Kat Woodard, *Taylor Resident for Mission in the City* ❖ Justin Dickerson, *Seminarian*

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

David F. Story, *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*

Audrey Woodhams, *Creative Director for Thursday Night Church*

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

Kate Nintcheu, *Director, Children & Family Ministries*

Summer Marsh, *Director, Old South Preschool*

Aislin Kate Anderson, *Children's Choir Director* ❖ Yuexuan Joyce Wang, *Children's Choir Accompanist*

Rory Razon, *Youth Group Co-Leader*

Amelia Gerrard, *Director of Administration* ❖ Rebecca Pasipanodya, *Director of Operations*

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

Emily Ross, *Archivist* ❖ Karen Hand, *Wedding Coordinator*

Jamie Garuti Sage, *Multimedia Director* ❖ Ava Welling, *Director of Audio*

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

Elias Perez, *Senior Sexton* ❖ Tahmina Akter, Ozo Nwodo, Richard Serebour, & M.D. Rahman, *Sextons*

Corey Spence, *Weekday Receptionist*

Shirley Bivins, Shelia Randolph, & William Wei, *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

THE BUSINESS OF INCARCERATION | THE OLD SOUTH FORUM

This Sunday, November 9, 10am Mary Norton Hall

Dr. James McCarty, the Clinical Assistant Professor of Religion & Conflict Transformation and the Director of Tom Porter Religion & Conflict Transformation Program at the Boston University School of Theology will be joining us to speak about his recently published book *The Business of Incarceration*. Please join us for a discussion of the theology and complexities of pursuing justice and mercy within the prison-industrial complex.

GODLY PLAY FOR FAMILIES

This Sunday November 9 and December 7, 10am, in the Green Room

Families are invited to gather in the regular childcare room on the 3rd floor to hear a Godly Play story together, to wonder a bit about the story, and then to have some work time to play around with the ideas and stories we heard. This is a great way for families who have not yet become regulars at church school to begin hearing the stories and practicing together. Families of any age are welcome - though this is geared towards preschool age 3 and under.

THE FIGHT AHEAD: FROM CEASEFIRE TO A JUST PEACE

Sunday, November 9 from 2-4 pm at First Parish Cambridge

Join Standing Together leaders Sally Abed and Alon Lee Green in Boston to hear their reflections on the last two years, the grassroots success to achieve a ceasefire, and the steps the movement will be taking going forward to end the occupation and build peace. Standing Together is a movement in Israel with leaders who are both Jewish and Palestinian who organize for justice and whose work is currently focused on building a lasting peace and solidarity with Palestinians.

SEEKING ADVENT DEVOTIONAL SUBMISSIONS

Submission deadline: November 10

Looking for hope in these mean days? You're not alone! Hope is something that we create together. This Advent, we will create a devotional filled with entries from Old Southerners and community partners about what is giving them hope. Hope always arises amidst trouble and we know that trouble abounds, and so we know that hope does too. We're seeking submissions for stories, prayers, art, and poetry that answers the questions: What is giving you hope today? How are you finding God amidst the struggles of our times? Please see the guidelines and submit your entry at tinyurl.com/OSCAAdventDevotions2025. Questions? email ashley@oldsouth.org.

REFLECTING AND REIMAGINING: AN EVENING OF STORYTELLING, STORY-LISTENING & CULTIVATING OUR PROPHETIC IMAGINATION

Saturday, November 15 from 6-8pm at Emmanuel Episcopal Church

Boston Faith and Justice Network is hosting a dinner and program around housing justice and exploring how our faith calls us to deeper pursuit of justice for our unhoused siblings. Old South has graciously offered to sponsor two tables (16 seats) at this event that includes dinner/dessert/program. If interested in attending please email Amy Coe at amyecoe@gmail.com.

NEW AROUND HERE?

November 16 and every 3rd Sunday, in Rev. Ashley's office, meet in Elevator Lobby at 10:05am

Join Pastor Ashley and church members for informal conversation and coffee. If you've been coming for one week, or a dozen, or just exploring online, join us to get to know more about the church and to make a friend or two! Questions? Email ashley@oldsouth.org.

RETIRED AND READY NOVEMBER EVENT

Tuesday, November 18, 10am,

travel, parking, and more info at www.nps.gov/places/dillaway-thomas-house.htm

Retired and Ready's November event will be to tour the Dillaway Thomas House in Roxbury followed by lunch and shopping in Nubian Square. We will meet at 10am on November 18 at the Dillaway Thomas House. Parking is available in a small lot or on the street nearby. There are multiple ways available to reach this National Historical Park via public transportation. Members of Union Combined Parish are welcomed at this event. Please contact Charlotte Simpson at char.r.simpson@gmail.com to confirm your participation for the tour and lunch.

INTERESTED IN JOINING OLD SOUTH AS A MEMBER?

If you're new to Old South or have been coming for a long time and are ready to make it official, now is your chance! New Members will be joining Old South on November 13th and 16th. Email Ashley Popperson if you're interested in joining by November 10th.

ABRAHAM AND ISAAC: INTERFAITH PERFORMANCE AND DISCUSSION

Saturday, November 22, 6 pm, Mary Norton Hall, free, more at tinyurl.com/DelCaseEvent2025

Longtime friend of Old South Church, Delvyn Case, presents his dramatic new solo cantata based on the sacrifice of Isaac, followed by an interfaith panel discussion. This provocative piece explores this challenging Biblical story by highlighting how the thread of sacrificial violence tragically binds together God, Abraham, and Isaac.

MEETING HOUSE SUNDAY

Sunday, November 23, at 11am, at the Old South Meeting House

Join us as we return to our ancestral home, the Old South Meeting House at Washington & Milk Streets, to give thanks for God's many blessings and the rich history of our faith. The service features special music for choir, bells, and brass.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY HOUR FORUMS

Sundays, 10am, Mary Norton Hall

- **This Historic Building: Celebrating the architecture of our building** | *November 16*
In anticipation of 150 years at our Boylston St. location, church historian Kate Silfen will talk about why our forebears decided to vacate our longtime home at the Old South Meeting House on Washington Street. Learn about the remarkable architects who designed our Boylston Street house of worship and the Italian Gothic style that inspired them. Kate will offer an overview of the key events that have made our building what it is today, and there will be an opportunity to reflect on the relationship between architecture and spirituality.
- **No Forum November 23—See you at the Meeting House**
- **Precedented Times: Talk Back with John Edgerton** | *November 30*
- **Annual Advent and Christmas Poetry Fest** | *December 7*
Do you have a favorite seasonal poem or short prose selection? Have you written a poem, prayer or brief meditation that sheds light in the Christmas story? We invite you to come and share it! Selections can be humorous, serious or thought provoking.....but all reflecting some aspect of the season. Readers will have up to 3 minutes to introduce and share their offering. Sign up to read by contacting Don Wells at granwell@comcast.net by Wednesday, December 3, along with the title of your selection. We can accommodate 15 or so readers. If you choose not to read, please come and join us to listen and enjoy! It will be a wonderful occasion!

CELEBRATING 150 YEARS AT BOYLSTON STREET

*Save the date: Saturday, December 6 at 7pm, **RSVP at tinyurl.com/150yearsatBoylston***

It's been 150 years since Old South Church moved into our historic building at 645 Boylston Street. Join us for a celebration of the church's storied legacy with a special concert program, *If These Walls Could Talk: A Celebration of Sanctuary in the Heart of Boston*, followed by a fun reception in the Chapel.

WHERE'D THE PEW CUSHIONS GO?

Because the Sanctuary is a fairly "dead" space in terms of acoustics, sound doesn't carry well. We're exploring ways to add more sound-reflective surfaces to the space. We appreciate your flexibility as we explore how to make worship a more immersive sonic experience for everyone! Questions? AvaWellingava@oldsouth.org.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE AND OUTREACH

THE WEEKLY PUSHBACK - PRISON BOOK PROGRAM

Learn more about their work prisonbookprogram.org

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

To get involved or ask questions email Rachel Barton at Rachel@oldsouth.org

Calvin Arey, a longtime Boston resident and retired real estate professional, is the only surviving lead plaintiff from *Landman v. Royster*, the landmark case that desegregated Virginia's prisons and established basic due process rights for incarcerated people. Drawing on his own experience of incarceration in the 1960s and 1970s, Calvin began sending books to prisoners in Virginia in 2022, eventually founding the Albert Woodfox Memorial Mini-Freedom Libraries. Through his nonprofit, he has mailed more than 3,000 books to prisoners in 16 Virginia prisons and recently expanded to three Massachusetts prisons. Living on Social Security, Calvin funds this work almost entirely through personal donations. Old South is proud to offer a \$1,000 grant to purchase additional books for Massachusetts prisoners.

EMERGENCY DONATIONS TO BOSTON HEALTHCARE FOR THE HOMELESS

Please consider donating at tinyurl.com/Homelesshealthcarehelp
to support local families affected by SNAP cuts.

WEEKLY WORSHIP

Join us in person, on Facebook, and YouTube

Thursday Night Church, Thursdays at 6:00 p.m.

FIRST Worship Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

FESTIVAL Worship Sundays at 11:00 a.m.

VESPERS HEALING Worship, Second Sundays at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom



To give via ApplePay, GooglePay, or Credit Card, scan the QR code. You can also Text 44-321 and enter OSC to make a gift.

If you're new to Old South, scan the QR code with your smartphone camera 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