

# LESSONS, CAROLS, & COMMUNION

Old South Church *in* Boston

11:00pm ☆ December 24, 2025



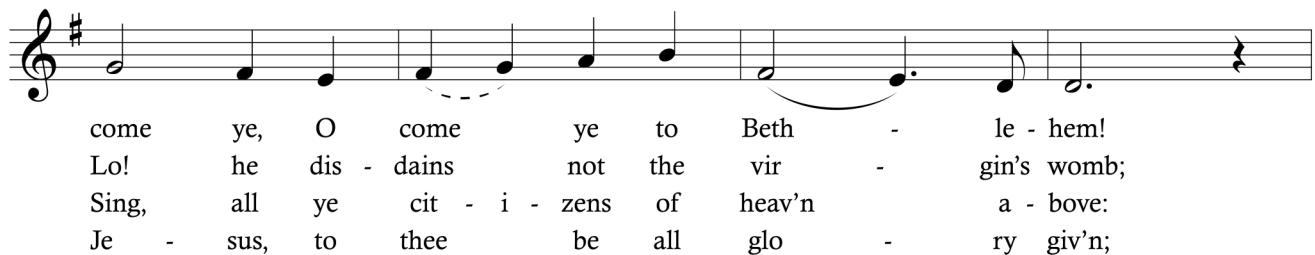
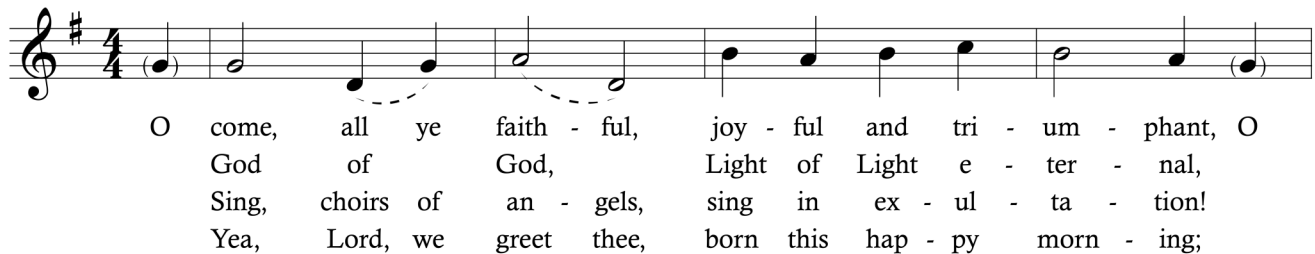
PRELUDE

What Child Is This?  
It Came upon the Midnight Clear

Smith and Hustad, *arrs.*

\*CAROL

## O Come, All Ye Faithful



*Refrain*



Text: John Francis Wade, c. 1743; trans. Frederick Oakeley, 1841, alt.  
Tune: ADESTE FIDELES, John Francis Wade, c. 1743

Holy Jesus, O Son of the Most High, Prince of Peace,  
be born again into our world.

**Wherever there is war in this world,  
wherever there is pain;**

Wherever there is loneliness,  
wherever there is no hope, come.

**Come, O long-expected one,  
with healing in your wings.**

Holy Child, whom the shepherds and kings  
and the wild beasts adored, be born again.

**Wherever there is boredom,  
wherever there is fear of failure;**

Wherever there is temptation too strong to resist,  
wherever there is bitterness of heart;

**Come, O Blessed One,  
with healing in your wings.**

Savior, be born in each of us as we raise our faces to your face,  
not knowing fully who we are or who you are;

**Knowing only that your love is beyond our knowing  
and that no other has the power to make us whole.**

**Come, Lord Jesus, to each who longs for you  
even though we have forgotten your name.**

**Come quickly. Amen.**

## WELCOME

### ANTHEM

The Holly and the Ivy

Rutland Boughton, *arr.*

The holly and the ivy, when they are both full grown,  
of all the trees that are in the wood, the holly bears the crown.

The rising of the sun and the running of the deer,  
the playing of the merry organ, sweet singing in the choir.

The holly bears a blossom as white as the lily flower,  
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ to be our sweet savior.

The holly bears a berry as red as any blood,  
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ for to do us sinners good.

The holly bears a prickly as sharp as any thorn,  
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ on Christmas day in the morn.

The holly bears a bark as bitter as any gall,  
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ for to redeem us all.

### THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

David Story

\* *Indicates all who are able may stand.*

\*CAROL

# Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath sprung! Of  
I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the rose I have in mind; with

Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing, as saints of old have sung. It came, a flow'r - et  
Mar - y we be - hold it, the vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a -

bright, a - mid the cold of win - ter, when half-spent was the night.  
right, she bore to us a Sav - ior, when half-spent was the night.

Text: German carol; stanzas 1 and 2 trans. Theodore Baker, 1894, alt.

Tune: ES IST EIN' ROS', *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, 1599;  
arr. Michael Praetorius, 1609

## THE SECOND LESSON

Luke 1:26-35

Nancy Lane

\*CAROL

# The Angel Gabriel

The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,  
"For known a bless - ed Moth - er you shall be,  
Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;  
Of her, Em - ma - nu - el, the Christ, was born

his wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame;  
all gen - er - a - tions praise con - tin - ual - ly,  
"To me be as it pleas - es God!" she said.  
in Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn;

"All hail," said he, "O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,"  
Your son shall be Em - ma - nu - el, by seers fore - told.  
"My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly name."  
And Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:

"Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy!" Glo - - - ri - a!

Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)

Tune: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE, Basque traditional (Bordes, 1895; arr. Edgar Pettman [1866-1943])

\*CAROL

## It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,  
Still through the clo - ven skies they come, with peace - ful wings un - furled,  
Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suf - fered long:  
And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,  
For lo, the days are has - t'ning on, by proph - et - bards fore - told,

from an - gels bend - ing near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:  
and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world:  
be - neath the heav'n - ly hymn have rolled two thou - sand years of wrong,  
who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow,  
when, with the ev - er - cir - cling years, comes 'round the Age of Gold,

"Peace on the earth, good - will to men, from heaven's all - gra - cious King":  
a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov'r - ing wing,  
and we, at war on earth, hear not the tid - ings which they bring:  
look now! for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;  
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,

the world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.  
and ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.  
O hush the noise and cease the strife to hear the an - gels sing!  
O rest be - side the wea - ry road, and hear the an - gels sing!  
and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Text: Edmund Hamilton Sears, *Christian Register* [Boston], 1849, alt.

Tune: CAROL, Richard Storrs Willis, *Church Carols and Choir Studies*, 1850;  
adapt. Uzziah Christopher Burnap (1834–1900)

\*CAROL

## The First Noël

The first 'No - ël!' the an - gel did say was to cer - tain poor  
They look - èd up and saw a star shin - ing in the  
This star drew nigh to the north - west: o'er Beth - le -  
Then let us all with one ac - cord sing prais - es  
shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay  
east, be - yond them far; and to the earth it  
hem it took its rest; and there it did both  
to our heav'n - ly Lord, that hath made heav'n and  
keep - ing their sheep on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.  
gave great light, and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.  
stop and stay, right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.  
earth of nought, and with his love our life hath bought.  
*Refrain*  
No - ël, no - ël! No - ël, no - ël! Born is the King of Is - ra - el!

Text: English carol; *Some Ancient Christmas Carols*, 2nd ed., 1823, alt.

Tune: THE FIRST NOWELL, English carol; *Sandy's Christmas Carols*, 1833

## THE CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Donald Wells

### 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.**

## CALL TO THE OFFERING

Kat Woodard



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

In the Bleak Midwinter

Harold Darke

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan;  
 earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
 snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
 in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Enough for him whom cherubim worship night and day,  
 a breastful of milk and a mangerful of hay;  
 enough for him whom angels fall down before,  
 the ox and ass and camel which adore.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;  
 heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:  
 in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed  
 the Lord God Almighty— Jesus Christ.

What can I give him, poor as I am?  
 If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
 if I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
 yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

## THE FIFTH LESSON

John 1:1-14

Donald Wells

## \*CAROL

**Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;  
 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of right - eous - ness!



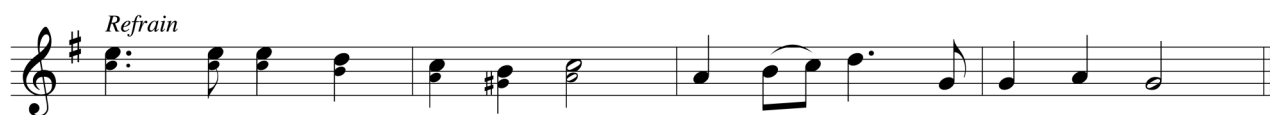
Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
 Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful all ye na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate de - i - ty,  
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
 pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - ma - nu - el.  
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.

Tune: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1840;  
 adapt. W. H. Cummings, 1855

## ANTHEM

## Lullay My Liking, Op. 34, No. 2

Gustav Holst

*Lullay my liking, my dear son, my sweeting;  
lullay my dear heart, mine own dear darling.*

I saw a fair maiden sitten and sing:  
she lulléd a little child, a sweeté lording.

That eternal lord is he that made allé thing;  
of allé lordés he is Lord; of allé kinges King.

There was mickle melody at that childés birth:  
though the songsters were heavenly they madé mickle mirth.

Angels bright they sang that night and saiden to that child,  
“Blessed be thou and so be she that is both meek and mild.”

Pray we now to that child, and to his mother dear,  
God grant them all his blessing that now maken cheer.

## \*PASSING THE LIGHT

John M. Edgerton

## \*CAROL

**Silent night! Holy night!**


Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright  
Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight;  
Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light,  
'round yon vir - gin moth - er and child; ho - ly in - fant so ten - der and mild,  
glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav'n - ly hosts sing: "Al - le - lu - ia!  
ra - diant, beams from thy ho - ly face with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,  
sleep in heav - en - ly peace! Sleep in heav - en - ly peace!  
Christ the Sav - ior is born! Christ the Sav - ior is born!"  
Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth! Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth!

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1816; English trans. John Freeman Young, 1863  
Tune: STILLE NACHT, Franz Xaver Gruber, 1818

\*BENEDICTION

John M. Edgerton

POSTLUDE

A Joyous Christmas

John Leavitt, *arr.*

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## NEW YEAR'S AT OLD SOUTH

### BOSTON FIRST NIGHT: PIPES AND POPS CONCERTS

*Wednesday, December 31, 6:30 and 8 pm, Old South Church in Boston*

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, this concert includes a seasonal sing of "Let There Be Peace on Earth." Experience Old South's incredible E. M. Skinner organ, with over 7,000 room-shaking pipes! Free and open to the public.

### PAJAMA CHURCH

*Sunday December 28, Single Worship Service at 10am*

Come for a relaxed celebration of Christmastide as we worship God who is with us, Emmanuel. Come in your pajamas or coziest of clothes, bring a loved one and settle in with us to experience the love of God coming into our world.



## **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! 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](mailto: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's and family ministries, email [children@oldsouth.org](mailto: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**

Our hearing loop works directly with devices equipped with a "T-Coil." The sound is best if you sit further inside the pews, away from the aisles. The loop does not work in the upper galleries. If you would like to borrow a device paired with our system, please ask an usher.

### **LEARN MORE**

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

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## WEEKLY WORSHIP

Join us in person, on Facebook, and YouTube

**FIRST Worship** Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

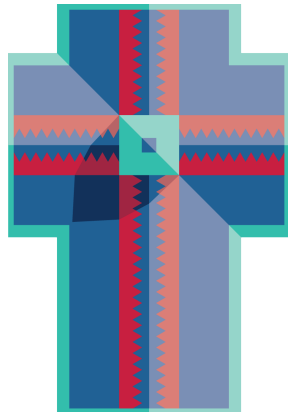
**FESTIVAL Worship** Sundays at 11:00 a.m.

**THURSDAY NIGHT CHURCH** Thursdays at 6:00 p.m.

**HEALING Worship**, the second Sunday at 5 p.m. via Zoom

### 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