Old South Church
Copley Square, Boston
A Congregation of the
United Church of Christ
Gathered 1669

December 18th, 2022

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Warning! To enter into the life of this people of God is to encounter God’s soul-challenging, life-changing, radicalizing love. Will you join us? Do you dare?

A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

PRELUDE
VENI EMMANUEL Calvin Hampton, arr.

*CONGREGATIONAL CAROL
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

refrain:
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

* Indicates all who are able may stand
O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orders all things mightily:
to us the path of knowledge show; and teach us in her ways to go. (refrain)

O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai’s height
in ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe. (refrain)

O come, thou Root of Jesse, free thine own from Satan’s tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save and give them victory o’er the grave.
(refrain)

O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. (refrain)

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death’s dark shadows put to flight.
(refrain)

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven’s peace.
(refrain)

*LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH: LOVE

Longman-Keene Family

One: One with us, yet born to save, he will show us the way to God.
Many: Lord, bring us today into Christ’s love.

One: We light these candles - the candle of abundant hope,
of proclaimed peace, of deep everlasting joy,
and today of presence that speaks of love -
as a sign that no matter our circumstance, we know we are not alone.

Many: Be not afraid, God’s love is at hand.

*SUNG RESPONSE

Choir:
Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.
WELCOME

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Please greet those around you, wishing them “peace” or “the peace of Christ.”

CAROL

In the Bleak Midwinter

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

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.

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION in unison

Speak to us afresh, O Holy Mystery,
in the cadences of old songs we love
and a story we know by heart.
Grant us the courage to embark again
on the journey of this story –
and make us attentive to the new stories
of burdened travelers we do not know:
warm them by the attention of our prayers.
And as we abide in fields of our lives and labors,
scan the stars for reasons to hope,
and ponder all these things in our hearts,
grant us enough love to follow, enough hope to believe,
enough courage to act –
so that Your ancient song of peace and goodwill on earth
may become, again, our song, our joy, our purpose. Amen.

THE FIRST LESSON
Isaiah 9:2-7 Emma Brewer-Wallin

The prophet speaks of the coming of a redeemer who will bright light and peace.

*CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming

Lo, how a Rose e’er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse’s lineage coming, as saints of old have sung.
It came, a flow’ret bright, amid the cold of winter,
when half-spent was the night.

Isaiah ’twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God’s love aright, she bore to us a Savior,
when half-spent was the night.
READING

Love’s Exquisite Freedom
by Maya Angelou

Diane Young-Spitzer

CAROL

Sing We Now of Christmas
THE OLD SOUTH RINGERS
Kevin McChesney, arr.
Peter Coulombe, director

THE SECOND LESSON

Luke 1:26-38
Marcia Gregg

The angel Gabriel announces to Mary the fullness of time.

*CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

The Angel Gabriel

GABRIEL’S MESSAGE

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
“For known a blessed Mother you shall be,
Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
all generations praise continually,
“To me be as it pleases God!” she said.
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn;

“All hail,” said he, “O lowly maiden Mary,”
Your son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold.
“My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name.”
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:

“Most highly favored lady!” Gloria!

Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould
Tune: GABRIEL’S MESSAGE, Basque carol
When the time is come, the holy birth is revealed first to shepherds.

Methinks I see an heavenly host of angels on the wing;
methinks I hear their cheerful notes, so merrily they sing.

“Let all your fears be banished hence, glad tidings I proclaim;
for there is a Savior born today and Jesus is his name.”

Lay down your crooks and quit your flocks, to Bethlehem repair;
and let your wandering steps be squared by yonder shining star.
Seek not in courts or palaces; nor royal curtains draw;
but search the stable, see your God extended on the straw.

Then learn from hence, ye rural swains, the meekness of your God,
who left the boundless realms of joy to ransom you with blood.
The master of the inn refused a more commodious place;
ungenerous soul of savage mold and destitute of grace.

“Exult ye oxen, low for joy, ye tenants of the stall;
pay your obeisance; on your knees unanimously fall.
The royal Guest you entertain is not of common birth,
but second in the great I Am, the God of heaven and earth.”

Then suddenly a heavenly Host around the shepherds throng,
exulting in the three-fold God, and thus addressed their song.

To God the Father, Christ the Son, and Holy Ghost accord
the first and last, the last and first eternal praise afford.
READING

*A Child of the Snows
by G.K Chesteron

*CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

O Little Town of Bethlehem

During this carol, children who wish to do so may meet childcare staff at the back of the sanctuary and proceed to the 3rd floor.

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

*CALL TO PRAYER

One: God be with you.
Many: And also with you.
One: Lift up your hearts.
Many: We lift our hearts to God.
One: Let us pray. Please be seated.
PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER in unison
Sovereign God 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  The Blessed Child in Bethlehem  WEYMOUTH

The blessed child in Bethlehem, we celebrate this night.
Incarnate God — the Word Made Flesh — to this dark world brings light.
Foretold by psalmist, prophet, seer; a harbinger of grace.
O holy Child this Christmas Eve, bind up our wounded race.

O Gracious Savior, Gift Divine, brought forth in manger hay
among the cattle, oxen, sheep, and kings in bright array.
God’s promised new world lies tonight in humble dignity.
O Child suffuse our world with joy, shed peace with equity.
— The Rev. Dr. James W. Crawford, Christmas Eve, 1990

THE FOURTH LESSON  Matthew 2:1-12  Sonja Peetz-Larsen
Sages led by a star encounter the power of evil and the Epiphany of Love.

CALL TO THE OFFERING  Howard Cha-Young Kim
In thanksgiving to God and giving witness to generous hearts,
our financial gifts support ministries of mercy, justice, and beauty.

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

All Is Well

Michael W. Smith
Ronn Huff, arr.

All is well, all is well: angels and men rejoice;
for tonight, darkness fell into the dawn of love’s light.
Sing Alleluia.

All is well, all is well: let there be peace on earth.
Christ has come; go and tell that he is in the manger.
Sing Alleluia.

All is well, all is well: lift up your voice and sing.
Born is now Emmanuel; born is our Lord and Savior.
Sing Alleluia! Sing Alleluia! All is well.

Born is now Emmanuel…

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE FIFTH LESSON

John 1:1-16

Jack Millard

John ponders the mystical convergence of God’s holy time and human time.

CAROL

Jesus Christ the Apple Tree

Elizabeth Poston

The tree of life my soul hath seen,
laden with fruit and always green;
the trees of nature fruitless be,
compared with Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel,
by faith I know but ne’er can tell
the glory which I now can see,
in Jesus Christ the apple tree.
For happiness I long have sought,
and pleasure dearly I have bought;
I missed of all but now I see
‘tis found in Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,
it keeps my dying faith alive;
which makes my soul in haste to be
with Jesus Christ the apple tree.

*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION  Katherine A. Schofield

*CONGREGATIONAL CAROL    Joy to the World!   ANTIOCH

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

POSTLUDE    Organ Flourish on “Joy to the World”    Michael G. Dell

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

Close-Up, a twenty minute tour of the Sanctuary,
begins immediately following worship at the front of the Sanctuary.
Led by docent Liz Morgan.
The large red poinsettia in the basket in front of the pulpit
is given to the glory of God
and in loving memory of Anna Dartley
and Dr. Seth Ephraim Dartley
by Saideh, Anna Nicole and Sara Ann.

In lieu of Christmas flowers gifts have been made
to the Allston Brighton Food Pantry
by many members and friends of Old South Church
See the list in the bulletin insert.

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Old South Church in Boston invites you to its signature services during the coming year.

**MLK Sunday** — January 15th, 2023 | 11AM
Old South Church honors this courageous, modern-day saint, and laments his dream still deferred, in fitting music, preaching, remembrance, and call to action.

**HOLY WEEK 2023**
- **Palm Sunday** — April 2nd, 2023 | 11AM
- **Maundy Thursday** — April 6th, 2023 | 7PM
- **Good Friday** — April 7th, 2023 | 12PM & 7PM
- **Easter Sunday** — April 9th, 2023 | 9AM & 11AM

**Marathon Sunday** — April 16, 2023 | 9AM & 11AM
Each year hundreds of marathoners join us for worship, where we pause to acknowledge the runners, their families, and volunteers in a special “Blessing of the Athletes.”

**Phillis Wheatley Sunday** — May 14th, 2023 | 9AM & 11AM
Old South honors and learns from one of the saints of this church who was stolen from Africa, suffered the Middle Passage, was sold into slavery, and triumphed through her awesome wit and the mighty power of her pen.

**Pride Morning Worship** — Saturday, June 10th, 2023 | 10AM
10:00 a.m. on the 2nd Saturday in June
During Boston's annual LGBTQ+ Pride Week, we fill the Sanctuary with song, prayers, praise, and worship of the God who loves and embraces all.

**All Saints Sunday** — November 5th, 2023 | 11AM
In a solemn service of sacred music, we gather to name and remember our own beloved dead who now rest from their labors in the arms of God.

**Meeting House Sunday** — November 19th, 2023 | 11AM
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.
WELCOME TO OLD SOUTH CHURCH
For LARGE print bulletins or children’s bulletins, please ask an Usher.
Restrooms are available. Just ask!
An accessible, single-use restroom is available near Reception.

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 outfit itself for mission and ministry in the 21st century as a thriving church in the heart of Boston.

If you are interested in deepening your participation, or if you just love Old South, it’s time to think about membership. Contact Interim Associate Minister Katherine Schofield at katherine@oldsouth.org

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.

GARAGE PARKING VALIDATIONS
We have arrangements for discounted parking with two nearby garages for Old South Church worship or church business (excluding weddings and concerts). For more information check out www.oldsouth.org/your-first-visit or see the front desk.

LEARN MORE
Check out the church website at www.oldsouth.org/calendar for a calendar of events, and the general website www.oldsouth.org for more on the history and other information about this storied ship of faith!

CCLI #2802138  CCS #12028  OneLicense #A-700000
OLD SOUTH CHURCH in BOSTON — MINISTERS, OFFICERS, & STAFF

Richard E. Spalding, Interim Senior Minister
James W. Crawford, Senior Minister Emeritus  ❖  Nancy S. Taylor, Senior Minister Emeritus
Katherine A. Schofield, Interim Associate Minister
Donald A. Wells, Theologian in Residence  ❖  June R. Cooper, Theologian in the City
Howard Cha-Young Kim, Pastoral Resident
David Story, Wedding Minister  ❖  Ken Orth, Healing Worship Minister

Mitchell Crawford, Minister of Music
George Sargeant, Associate Organist & Choirmaster
Tim Harbold, Director, Gospel Choir  ❖  Peter Coulombe, Director, Old South Ringers
Willie Sordillo, Director, Jazz Worship Music

Kate Nintcheu, Director, Children & Family Ministries
Summer Marsh, Director, Old South Preschool

Helen McCrady, Senior Church Administrator  ❖  John Braught, Director of Operations
Jamie Garuti, Multimedia Director  ❖  Linda Van Praet, Accounting & Human Resources
Alex Pickering, Administrative Assistant  ❖  Emily Ross, Archivist  ❖  Dee Kovrlija, Bookkeeper
Ralph Watson, Snowden Partnership Coordinator  ❖  Karen Hand, Wedding Coordinator
Rémy Hatfield-Gardner and William Wei, Livestream Production Assistants

Elias Perez, Senior Sexton  ❖  Ozo Nwodo, Richard Serebour, and David Brode, Sextons
Corey Spence, Weekday Receptionist
Shirley Bivins, Shelia Randolph, and George Sargeant, Evening & Weekend Receptionists

Phil Stern, Moderator  ❖  Rob Gabler, Clerk  ❖  Bill Bulkeley, Treasurer
Kristi Geary, Chair, Board of Trustees  ❖  Kate Silfen, Historian
Paul Brouillette & Susan Navia, Senior Deacons  ❖  Vicki Newman, Pledge Secretary

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.
SERVICES OF LESSONS AND CAROLS
*Sunday, December 18th, 9 a.m. First Worship and 11 a.m. Festival Worship*
Join us the Sunday before Christmas for these festive worship services featuring your favorite carols.

OLD SOUTH FORUM
*Sundays, 10 a.m., 2nd Floor and online, go to tinyurl.com/OSCForums, password Community*
This casual, no-commitment, come-when-you-can forum hosts series on a variety of topics. Clergy, lay, and special guests share in leading sessions.

**Maya Angelou and The Freedom Poetry of Advent**
*December 18th*
Maya Angelou is an Advent poet extraordinaire, in the sense that she often stands in the shadows and writes of the light. She boldly insists on blessedness and freedom, even as she confronts - with both candor and wit - the pain and injustice of the world. This month we will let scripture and Angelou's poems be our guide, together pointing towards weekly practices that can help deepen and enrich our experience of the season.

CAROLS, TRIVIA, AND POTLUCK LUNCHEON
*Sunday, December 18th, at 12:30 p.m., go to tinyurl.com/OSCAventPotluck to RSVP*
This Advent we are transforming our annual luncheon to include a full Christmas Trivia game, complete with prizes! Gather over potluck appetizers and small plates (brought by YOU) as we compete over several rounds of Christmas Trivia. We’ll break up the rounds with some Christmas favorites like Frosty and of course, the 12 Days of Christmas. Plan on joining in the relaxed good times! Questions? Kate Nintcheu children@oldsouth.org

OLD SOUTH RINGERS: THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR
*Sunday, December 18th, 4 p.m., Livestreamed at https://vimeo.com/event/2687608*
Come celebrate the most wonderful time of the year with the Old South Ringers at our annual Christmas Concert! Enjoy familiar Christmas carols and songs played on our historic handbells and chimes. There’s no better way to ensure your holiday season hits all the right notes! Free admission and family friendly.
BLUE CHRISTMAS JAZZ WORSHIP
Thursday, December 22nd, 6 p.m.
While we’re bombarded with words lauding the wonders of the season, many people find the holidays anything but joyful. Blue Christmas provides an opportunity to step away & let go into music and readings that acknowledge your feelings without trying to talk you out of them. Even if you love the holidays, you may find comfort in this special service.

STEWARDSHIP: AN EPIPHANY!
January is Stewardship month at Old South Church: the season when we all pledge our financial resources to fuel the work of Mercy, Justice & Beauty for 2023 - a threshold year for a new season of our ministry! We think of it as following in the footsteps of the Magi, bearing our own gifts for the Christ child as we explore what Faithful Belonging means - to God, and to each other. Watch the stars for more information.

GREEN GIVING:
DONATE TO CHARITIES THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO THE PLANET
When it comes to advancing environmental causes, every donation makes a counts. But your contributions, gifts and activities can better honor the earth if you know where to start. Go to tinyurl.com/10bestcharities to find the 10 best environmental charities will put your dollar to work; they stand behind their missions, have the clout to get big things done, and offer transparency in their financial accounting.

COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE
Wednesday, January 10th, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., 2nd floor Mary Norton Hall
The Red Cross continues to experience a severe blood shortage. Want to help out? All blood types needed! Donate blood to help end the critical shortage. Go to https://tinyurl.com/BloodDriveOldSouth or call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) for an appointment.
CHRISTMAS EVE
Saturday, December 24th
We offer three unique candlelit services - the first two of which will also be viewable via live stream. We hope you can join us!

5 p.m. Candlelight Family Service
Children are invited to participate in an impromptu Christmas pageant, with simple costumes provided. We sing carols to tell the Christmas story together. Childcare provided.

8 p.m. Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols
An elegant telling of the Christmas story in carols and readings with music for choir and organ, culminating in the singing of “Silent Night” in our candle-lit sanctuary. Childcare provided.

11 p.m. Candlelight Communion
A warmly traditional service with festive carol singing, traditional lessons, and communion in our garland-bedecked chapel. We greet the birth of Christ by singing “Silent Night” outdoors by candlelight just after midnight.

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP
Sunday, December 25th, 10 a.m.
June Cooper, Rick Spalding and Mitchell Crawford will lead a festive and joyful celebration of the Nativity - full of beloved carols, with a special Christmas story and prayers of new hope for the world now illuminated again by the Light of Christ.
FIRST NIGHT AT OLD SOUTH

KING OF INSTRUMENTS DEMONSTRATION  
Saturday, December 31st, 3 p.m.  
Experience the “Sensurround” magnificence of Old South Church’s mighty 1921 E. M. Skinner pipe organ in repertoire designed to showcase its myriad colors, Minister of Music Mitchell Crawford offers a diverse program the whole family is sure to enjoy. Free and open to the public.

FIRST NIGHT PIPES AND POPS CONCERTS  
Saturday, December 31st, 6:30 p.m. and 8 p.m.  
The best of Boston’s brass and percussion artists join Minister of Music Mitchell Crawford in a supersonic program, presenting fun and engaging arrangements of popular classics, as well as a seasonal sing of “Auld Lang Syne.” Free and open to the public. The 6:30 p.m. concert will be live streamed—visit livestream.com/oldsouth

WEEKLY WORSHIP  
Join us in person, on Vimeo, Facebook, and YouTube  
JAZZ Worship, Thursdays at 6:00 p.m.  
FIRST Worship Sundays at 9:00 a.m.  
FESTIVAL Worship Sundays at 11:00 a.m.  
HEALING Worship, the second Sunday at 12:30 p.m. via Zoom

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

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