



## Old South Church

*Copley Square, Boston*

*A Congregation of the  
United Church of Christ*

*Gathered 1669*

December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

## First 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?*

## GATHER

PRELUDE

Meditation on PICARDY

Leo Sowerby

\*HYMN 104

**We Hail You God's Anointed**

ELLACOMBE

\*LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH: HOPE

Connie Lehman & Paul Nofer

One: The beauty of night heralds the glory of dawn.

**Many: The close and holy darkness gently fades into the brightness of day.**

One: O God, you who have made both darkness and light, bless us!

**Many: O God, you who are with us in times of joy and trouble, bless us!**

One: We light this candle, the candle of hope, to remember that even if a flame is by itself it still has great power to grow. Even if hope seems but small, it still has great power.

**Many: Be not dismayed, God's hope is ours to hold.**

*\* Indicates all who are able may stand*

\*SUNG RESPONSE

He came down that we may have hope; he came down that we may have hope;  
he came down that we may have hope. Hal-le - lu - jah for-ev - er - more.

Text: *Cameroon song*  
Tune: *HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon song;*  
*transcr. and arr. John L. Bell (1986)*

WELCOME

Ashley J. Popperson

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

## LISTEN

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Kate M. Nintcheu

SCRIPTURE

John 1:1-14

\*HYMN 111

**O Loving Founder of the Stars**

CONDITOR ALME

SERMON

John M. Edgerton

\*HYMN 152

**Born in the Night, Mary’s Child**

MARY’S CHILD

## RESPOND

### \*CALL TO PRAYER

Donald A. Wells

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

### PRAYER RESPONSE

Advent Fantasy  
THE OLD SOUTH RINGERS  
Peter Coulombe, *director*

Judy Phillips, *arr.*

### CALL TO THE OFFERING

Ashley J. Popperson



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

The Word Was God

Rosephanye Powell

In the beginning was the Word,  
and the Word was with God,  
and the Word was God.

The same was in the beginning with God.

All things [that have been made] were made by him;  
nothing was made he has not made.

\*DOXOLOGY

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

**Let the highest heavens ring out with angelic melody.  
All who have the pow'r to praise God, sing, wherever you may be.  
Let no mortal tongue keep silent; voices, blend in harmony,  
evermore and evermore.**

Text: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius;  
Carl P. Daw, Jr., trans., ©2019 Hope Publishing Co.

## THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**  
Therefore with all creation we sing your praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory!**

SANCTUS 791

*You may find this music in the rear portion of New Century Hymnal at number 791.*

Thank you, O God, for sending us your Son...  
...giving ourselves to you to live for him in joy and praise.

Great is the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us...  
...all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

**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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

#### BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The gifts of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### COMMUNION

*Our communion table is open to all. Communion is served by intinction.*

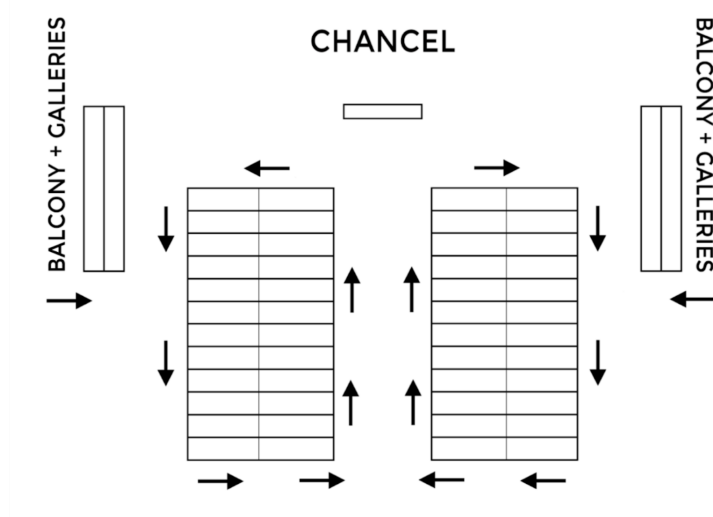
*Please come forward at the direction of the ushers to receive a piece of bread.*

*Dip the bread into the cup and partake. The cups contain non-alcoholic grape juice.*

*Gluten-free crackers are available at a separate station.*

*If you are unable to come forward, please signal  
an usher and the elements will be brought to you.*

*When leaving your pew at the direction of the ushers,  
please approach the chancel by the center aisle from wherever you are sitting,  
walking a FULL CIRCLE to return to your pew.*



Love Bade Me Welcome from “Five Mystical Songs”  
Paul Soper, baritone

Ralph Vaughan Williams

Love bade me welcome: yet my soul drew back,  
guilty of dust and sin.  
But quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack  
from my first entrance in,  
drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning,  
if I lacked anything.

A guest, I answered, worthy to be here:  
Love said, you shall be he.  
I the unkind, ungrateful? Ah, my dear,  
I cannot look on thee.  
Love took my hand, and smiling did reply,  
who made the eyes but I?

Truth, Lord, but I have marred them: let my shame  
go where it doth deserve.  
And know you not, says Love, who bore the blame?  
My dear, then I will serve.  
You must sit down, says Love, and taste my meat:  
so I did sit and eat.

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Bless the Lord, O my soul;

**and all that is within me,**

**bless God’s holy name.**

Bless the Lord, O my soul;

**and forget not all God’s benefits.**

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

## SENDING

\*HYMN 345

**Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence**

PICARDY

\*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Fanfare on ANTIOCH

Gerre Hancock



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

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.

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



Old South Church *in* Boston invites you  
to its *Signature Services* during the coming year.

**CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE — December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**FAMILY SERVICE WITH IMPROMPTU PAGEANT | 5PM**

**LESSONS AND CAROLS | 8PM**

**CAROLS AND COMMUNION | 11PM**

**HOLY WEEK 2024**

*Palm Sunday* — March 24<sup>th</sup> | 9AM & 11AM

*Maundy Thursday* — March 28<sup>th</sup> | 7PM

*Good Friday* — March 29<sup>th</sup> | 12PM & 7PM

*Easter Sunday* — March 31<sup>st</sup> | 9AM & 11AM

**MARATHON SUNDAY — April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024 | 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 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024 | 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.

**ALL SAINTS SUNDAY — November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 | 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 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024 | 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto: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](http://www.oldsouth.org/your-first-visit) or see the front desk.

## LEARN MORE

Check out the church website at [www.oldsouth.org/calendar](http://www.oldsouth.org/calendar) for a calendar of events, and the general website [www.oldsouth.org](http://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

John M. Edgerton, *Senior Minister*  
Ashley J. Popperson, *Associate Minister*

Donald A. Wells, *Theologian in Residence* ❖ June R. Cooper, *Theologian in the City*  
David Story, *Wedding Minister* ❖ Ken Orth, *Healing Worship Minister*  
Rachel Barton, *Nancy S. Taylor Fellow and Youth & Young Adult Leader*  
Madison Chau, *Seminary Fellow*

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

Mitchell Crawford, *Minister of Music*  
George Sargeant, *Associate Organist & Choirmaster*  
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*

Amelia Gerrard, *Church Administrator* ❖ John Braught, *Director of Operations*  
Rémy Hatfield-Gardner, *Administrative Assistant* ❖ Kathleen Steen, *Staff Accountant*  
Emily Ross, *Archivist* ❖ Karen Hand, *Wedding Coordinator*

Jamie Garuti Sage, *Multimedia Director*  
Rémy Hatfield-Gardner and William Wei, *Livestream Production Assistants* ❖ Ava Welling, *Sound Technician*

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*  
Debby Kuenstner, *Chair, Board of Trustees* ❖ Kate Silfen, *Historian*  
Christine Del Favero and Tony Rich, *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.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## THE COMMUNITY HOUR FORUM

Sundays, 10 a.m., 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Mary Norton Hall and online,  
go to [tinyurl.com/OSCForums](https://tinyurl.com/OSCForums) for Zoom link, 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.

### Advent Poetry Fest

December 3<sup>rd</sup>

Do you have a favorite poem or short prose selection that is meaningful to you or have you written a poem, prayer, or brief meditation that sheds light on the Christmas story? Then come and share your humorous, serious or thought provoking selection that reflects some aspect of the season. To join in, email Don Wells the title of your selection. Come and listen even if you don't share a poem.

### "How Does a Weary World Rejoice?" Art Exhibit

December 10<sup>th</sup> and December 17<sup>th</sup>

With the Advent Season upon us, you may be feeling stressed, overwhelmed, or weary. This time of year is full, and for all of us, frequent news of wars makes all our hearts especially heavy. Take a quiet moment in Mary Norton Hall on the second floor to peruse this beautiful exhibit of visual representations of Advent, a reminder that even in a weary world, joy is for you too.



## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. First Worship

The kids of Old South have been hard at work rehearsing for the annual Christmas Pageant, and you don't want to miss it! Join us in the Gordon Chapel for this spectacular, funny, heartwarming event. This year we will reprise the pageant written by Old South students and then-director Amy Budka in 2017.

## CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS (IN LIEU OF FLOWERS)

*Donations due by Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>*

Since 2020 our Christmas Memorials have gone to Allston Brighton Food Pantry. Originally this was because no poinsettias decked our chancel. Now that we have beautiful permanent poinsettias on the chancel, we can continue to fulfill the needs of the Food Pantry. So we will continue to direct the memorial gifts to them. The requested contribution is still \$20. Go to [tinyurl.com/oldsouthgiving](https://tinyurl.com/oldsouthgiving) and choose "Christmas Memorial" to make your gift. Your message in honor or memory of loved ones, or special occasions, can be entered on the second page of the donation screen or you can give anonymously. Questions? Contact [remy@oldsouth.org](mailto:remy@oldsouth.org).

## YOUNG ADULT AFTER-JAZZ DINNER AND COOKIE DECORATING



*December 7<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m., Following Jazz Worship*

Join us for a casual hangout with other 20s and 30s Old Southerners. This month we will be decorating cookies and enjoying dinner together. Dinner will be provided. We'll meet in the chapel after Jazz worship at 7:00 pm on Thursday December 7. Email [rachel@oldsouth.org](mailto:rachel@oldsouth.org) with any questions.

## WINTER COAT DRIVE

*Drop-off boxes available in Gordon Chapel coat room until December 10<sup>th</sup>*

*RSVP at [tinyurl.com/2022OSCAgentClothing](https://tinyurl.com/2022OSCAgentClothing)*

Old South Church, in collaboration with Hancock Church in Lexington, is helping to keep Boston students warm this winter by collecting your gifts of new and unused coats, scarves, gloves, and mittens. Donations will go to schools that serve Boston's youth, from newborns to 18-year-olds. Help make the holidays special this year! Coats can also be contributed through the Coat Boston Amazon Wish List: [tinyurl.com/CoatBoston](https://tinyurl.com/CoatBoston). Questions? Contact Rachel Barton [rachel@oldsouth.org](mailto:rachel@oldsouth.org), Paul Brouillette [brouillettepaul@gmail.com](mailto:brouillettepaul@gmail.com), or Kathy Hassinger [kathyhassinger@gmail.com](mailto:kathyhassinger@gmail.com).

## CHRISTMAS GIFT DRIVE FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

*Sign up at [tinyurl.com/DCFgiftdrive](https://tinyurl.com/DCFgiftdrive) by December 15<sup>th</sup>*

Connect with a child in foster care to help make their holiday bright. Old South is partnering with the Department of Children and Families to provide gifts for 75 or more children in foster care. We need your help! All OSC members who choose to participate will be matched with a specific child and given a wish list. You will shop online and ship the items directly to our DCF partner. The estimated cost is \$50+ per child. For questions, please email the Gift Drive team, David Story and Laura Walker Dunn, at [oscgiftdrive@gmail.com](mailto:oscgiftdrive@gmail.com).



## SUPPORT THE PALESTINE CHILDREN'S RELIEF FUND

Go to [oldsouth.org/donate](https://oldsouth.org/donate) to make a gift online

or donate by check with Palestinian Children's Relief on the memo line.

In Gaza, half of all residents are children. As the war in Gaza continues to rage, civilians are trapped in an unacceptable humanitarian catastrophe. One way that we can help is by financially supporting Palestine Children's Relief Fund, a longstanding, well regarded organization providing medical care in Gaza.



### JAZZ WORSHIP UPDATE

When Willie Sordillo retired, Zoe Krohne stepped into the role of Music Director on a temporary basis. Zoe has discerned that her time leading music at Jazz has come to a close. For ten beautiful years, she has brought powerful spiritual leadership to Jazz Worship and we are grateful. We will honor her leadership after the Blue Christmas Service on December 21st. For more information, go to [tinyurl.com/JazzNews12-2023](https://tinyurl.com/JazzNews12-2023).

## HOSPITALITY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Visit [oldsouth.org/hospitality](https://oldsouth.org/hospitality) to sign up

Winter is almost upon us! Our church's open door is a big part of who we are, and we are looking for Ushers, Welcomers and Coffee Hour Volunteers to swing it open wide. Thank you in advance for signing up to assist with hospitality at one or more Sunday or Thursday services! We are looking forward to seeing you this winter! Christine Del Favero and Tony Rich, Co-Senior Deacons.

## CHRISTMAS GREEN TIP: Minimize Packaging and Waste

Here's a scenario: You've bought a beautiful potted flower, wrapped in an abundance of cellophane, tied with a shiny, colorful bow, and it's topped off by a silvery mylar balloon. A green gift, right? The gift itself is green, but all that plastic packaging is decidedly not. None of the packaging — which used precious natural resources to create — can be repurposed or even recycled. The recipient of your gift will enjoy the "glam" of the gift for a few seconds before tossing it all in the trash. The bottom line: Reduce, reduce, reduce the use of extraneous non-renewable filler, packaging, or decorative items to minimize waste. Go to [greenthatlife.com/eco-friendly-gift-giving-guide/](https://greenthatlife.com/eco-friendly-gift-giving-guide/) for more ideas.

## SAVE THE DATE: Consecration Week Lunch

Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup>

Join us to celebrate Old South Church's stewardship campaign generosity for food, fellowship, and fun in Mary Norton Hall after Festival Worship.



## **BLUE CHRISTMAS JAZZ WORSHIP**

*Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 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.

## **CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**

*Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m., 8 p.m., and 11 p.m.*

We offer three unique candlelit services on Christmas Eve, 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.

## **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 5:00 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.*

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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.

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Old South Church in Boston ❖ 645 Boylston Street, Boston 02116 ❖ [www.oldsouth.org](http://www.oldsouth.org)