



Old South Church

Copley Square, Boston

*A Congregation of the
United Church of Christ*

Gathered 1669

December 10th, 2023

Second 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

Pastorale on FOREST GREEN

Richard Purvis

*HYMN 101

Comfort, Comfort O My People

PSALM 42

*LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH: PEACE

The Gregg Family

One: Let the heavens be glad, let the earth rejoice before the God of all peoples.

Many: Both mighty and tender, you come.

Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you.

One: A voice cries out and declares the Promise of Peace.

Many: The kingdom of heaven has come near! Prepare the way of the Lord!

One: We light these candles, the candle of abundant hope and the candle of proclaimed peace, in part to remind ourselves that we are a people rising toward God's promise. But we also light them as a sign to the world, an announcement there are some who hold on to hope and there are some who work in the ways of peace. We stand as a sign that Emmanuel is still our fervent prayer.

Many: Be not afraid, God's peace is at hand.

** Indicates all who are able may stand*

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

*SUNG RESPONSE

He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace. 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

ANTHEMS

A Great Big Star

G. Boddy and R. Kincaid

There's a great big star in the sky tonight, shining, shining bright!
There's a great big star in the sky tonight so the kings can follow its light:

*to the stable, in Bethlehem,
to Jesus the newborn King,
to the stable, in Bethlehem,
so that they can worship him.*

When the kings look up they can see the star shining, shining bright!
When the kings look up they can see the star and it guides them ever so far...



On a Starlit Night

Jill Gallina, *arr.*

On a starlit night, 'neath a sky so bright,
the angels sing carols of love,
of a baby asleep in a manger bed,
sent from heaven above.
Sleep, O tiny precious one.
Sleep, God's chosen Son.

Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright.
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

LISTEN

SCRIPTURE

Mark 8:22-26

Rory Razon

*HYMN 168

O Radiant Christ, Incarnate Word

DICKENSON COLLEGE

SERMON

John M. Edgerton

*HYMN 474

I'm So Glad, Jesus Lifted Me

I'M SO GLAD

RESPOND

*CALL TO PRAYER

Madison T. Chau

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

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

PRAYER RESPONSE The God of Love My Shepherd Is Tim Harbold, *arr*
This morning's performance marks the debut of this new composition
by Tim Harbold, Director of the Old South Gospel Choir.

O God of Love, you shepherd me,
your goodness fails me never,
I nothing lack, you're all I need,
and I am yours forever.

Where streams of living water flow,
my ransomed soul you're leading,
and where the verdant pastures grow
with food celestial feeding.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill
with you, dear God, beside me.
Your rod and staff my comfort still,
your cross before to guide me.

You spread a table in my sight,
your anointing grace bestowing,
and oh, what transport of delight
from your pure chalice flowing.

And so through all the length of days
your goodness fails me never,
Good Shepherd may I sing your praise
within your house forever.

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

Serinah Kingsley

Matthew Sobiesk

PRESENTATION

LITANY OF INTENT

One: Friends in Christ, we are all received into the church through the sacrament of baptism. These people have found nurture and support in the midst of the family of Christ. They have been led by the Spirit to affirm their baptism and to claim in our presence their covenantal relationship with Christ and the members of the Christian church.

Many: They are here, as we are here, to endeavor to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind, and our neighbors as ourselves. God help us.

One: Friends who are joining, we rejoice in your pilgrimage of faith which has brought you to this time and place. We give thanks for every community of faith which has been your spiritual home, and we celebrate your presence in this household of faith. Do you promise, by the grace of God, to continue in your pilgrimage of faith, to be Christ's disciple, to resist oppression and evil, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

Those joining: We promise, with the help of God.

One: Do you promise to walk with us in faithfulness and in Christian love? And do you promise that, so far as able, you will participate in the life of this church, by worshiping God with us, and offering your time, talent and means for the ministry of this church and for the larger church of which this is a part?

Those joining: We promise, with the help of God.

One: Friends, we then welcome you as partners in the common life of this church and we rise as we are able and share our covenant of mission with you.

***Many: We pledge to give ourselves to the one whom Jesus called “Abba, Father,” as the God in whose love we are grounded, and to Jesus Christ, God incarnate, who rules our lives. We give ourselves to God the Holy Spirit, the One who sustains, recreates and guides us. We promise to walk in covenant with one another, with the wider church, and with the Old South Church, secure in God’s grace, and prepared in gratitude to live by the promise and serve in the hope of the Gospel.**

THE RIGHT HAND OF CHRISTIAN FRIENDSHIP

George Delianides, *Deacon*

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Rachel J. Barton



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

People, Look East

Henry Lebedinsky, *arr.*

People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there:
give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the rose, is on the way.

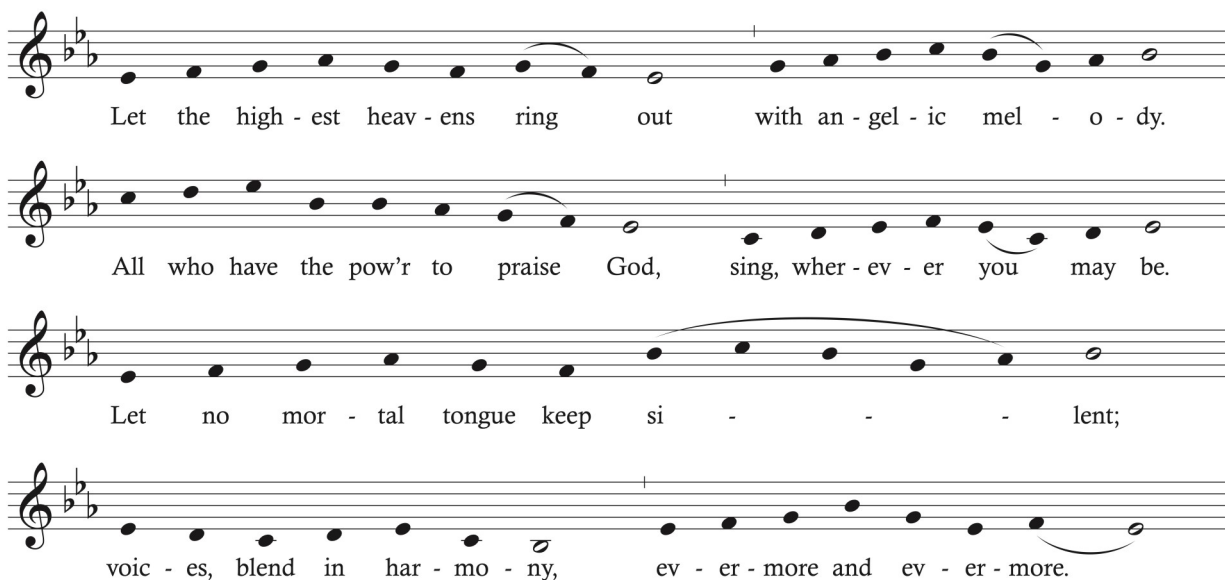
Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are frozen God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the bird, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim,
 shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.
 People, look east and sing today: Love, the star, is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth.
 Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.
 People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

*DOXOLOGY

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM



Let the high - est heav - ens ring out with an - gel - ic mel - o - dy.

All who have the pow'r to praise God, sing, wher - ev - er you may be.

Let no mor - tal tongue keep si - - - lent;

voic - es, blend in har - mo - ny, ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

Text: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 5th cent.; trans. Carl P. Daw, Jr., © 2019 Hope Publishing Co.
 Tune: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, Plainsong, Mode V. Public Domain.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN 110

Now Bless the God of Israel

FOREST GREEN

*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

John M. Edgerton

POSTLUDE

Paeon on DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

John Cook



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 Morgan Spaulding.



JOINING OLD SOUTH TODAY

Serinah Kingsley

Serinah is Massachusetts born and raised, grew up on Cape Cod before moving to Boston after finishing college. When she isn't busy grooming dogs down the street she spends her time reading, gaming, cooking and cuddling her cats. She has always attended churches but bouncing around a bit and is looking forward to being able to settle and really become a member of a church family.

Matthew Sobiesk

Matthew grew up in West Point, NY, and originally came to Boston for grad school in 2016. However, he fell in love with the area and is planning to stay long term, and so is excited to officially join a new church home. Matthew works as a data scientist at a mid-size pharmaceutical company called Ipsen, and in his free time enjoys listening to podcasts, playing video games, and practicing gymnastics.

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

John M. Edgerton, *Senior Minister*

Ashley J. Popperson, *Associate Minister*

Rachel Barton, *Assistant Minister and Nancy S. Taylor Fellow*

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

David Story, *Wedding Minister* ❖ Ken Orth, *Healing Worship Minister*
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.



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