



May 21st, 2023

Seventh Sunday of Easter
Godspeed Helen McCrady

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

"T Ciel Immensi Narrano,"
[Psalm XIX], S. 618

Benedetto Marcello

** Indicates all who are able may stand*

*HYMN

Open Wide the Eyes of Wonder

CONSTANTINE

Commissioned in celebration of the 350th Anniversary of Old South Church in Boston



1. O - pen wide the eyes of won - der: bound-less gal - ax - ies in space,
2. Stretch out wide the arms of kind-ness: nur - ture sheep from man - y folds.
3. Fling out wide the gates of free-dom, to the suf - fering bring re - lief:
4. God of mer - cy, love, and beau - ty, blaz - ing trails to mark our way,



fin - est flecks of whirl-ing mat - ter span the mag - ni - tude of grace.
Wel - come cres - cent, star, and rain - bow, all whose seek - ing God up - holds.
hearts im - pa - tient for de - liv - erance* call for res - cue from their grief.
still trans - plant - ing, still sus - tain - ing, ‡ you have brought us to this day.



Vaults that up - lift our sights to heav - en; mu - sic that leaves us hushed and awed;
Peo - ples and crea - tures, poor and need - ing, hun - ger for mer - cies spread a - broad.
Till hurt - ful walls of bi - as crum - ble, till hate - ful cag - es stand un - barred,
In ev - ery e - ra, you have sought us, draw - ing your prom - ise in - to view.



arts that en - large our lives with beau - ty o - pen a door - way in - to God.✠
Acts of com - pass - ion toward our neigh - bors o - pen a door - way in - to God.
all those who dare to plead for jus - tice † o - pen a door - way in - to God.
Strength - en our will to meet your fu - ture, o - pen - ing new door - ways in - to you.

✠ “Behold, I have set before thee an open door,” — Revelation 3:8, carved into the Old South Church portico.

* “In every human Breast, God has implanted a Principle, which we call Love of Freedom; it is *impatient* of Oppression, and pants for *Deliverance*.” — Phillis Wheatley [*emphasis added*]

† An allusion to Whittier’s famous phrase, “So long as Boston shall Boston be, and her bay-tides rise and fall, Shall freedom stand in the Old South Church and plead for the rights of all!”

‡ A reference to the Latin motto *Qui transtulit sustinet* (carved into Old South’s portico), meaning “The God who transplanted us sustains us still.”

Text: Mary Louise Bringle (2019)

Tune: CONSTANTINE, James Gertmenian (1986)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Richard E. Spalding

One: We have come to worship God, the living God,

Many: Who calls prophets and teachers to bear witness.

One: We have come to praise God, the almighty God,

**Many: Who answers the forces of hatred
and hurt with the power of grace.**

One: We have come to worship God, all-gracious God,

**Many: Who chooses even you and me,
to receive and carry the Word of life and hope.**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

WELCOME

ANTHEM

He is the Way

Calvin Hampton

Connor Vigeant, *tenor* • Sam Ou, *cello*

He is the Way.

Follow Him through the Land of Unlikeness;
You will see rare beasts, and have unique adventures.

He is the Truth.

Seek Him in the Kingdom of Anxiety;
You will come to a great city that has expected your return for years.

He is the Life.

Love Him in the World of the Flesh;
And at your marriage all its occasions shall dance for joy.

LISTEN

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kate M. Nintcheu

SCRIPTURE

Acts 1:6-14

David F. Story

*HYMN 260

Hail the Day That Sees Christ Rise

GWALCHMAI

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

SERMON

The Encouragers

Katherine A. Schofield

*HYMN 530

God Our Author and Creator

JEFFERSON

RESPOND

*CALL TO PRAYER

Ashley J. Popperson

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: May the peace of Christ dwell in your hearts.

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

One: Let us pray. *Please be seated.*

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Loving Creator, 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

Jubilation

Mary Kay Parrish

THE OLD SOUTH RINGERS

Peter Coulombe, *director*

CALL TO THE OFFERING

June R. Cooper



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 Heavens Are Telling
from *The Creation, Hob. XXI:2*

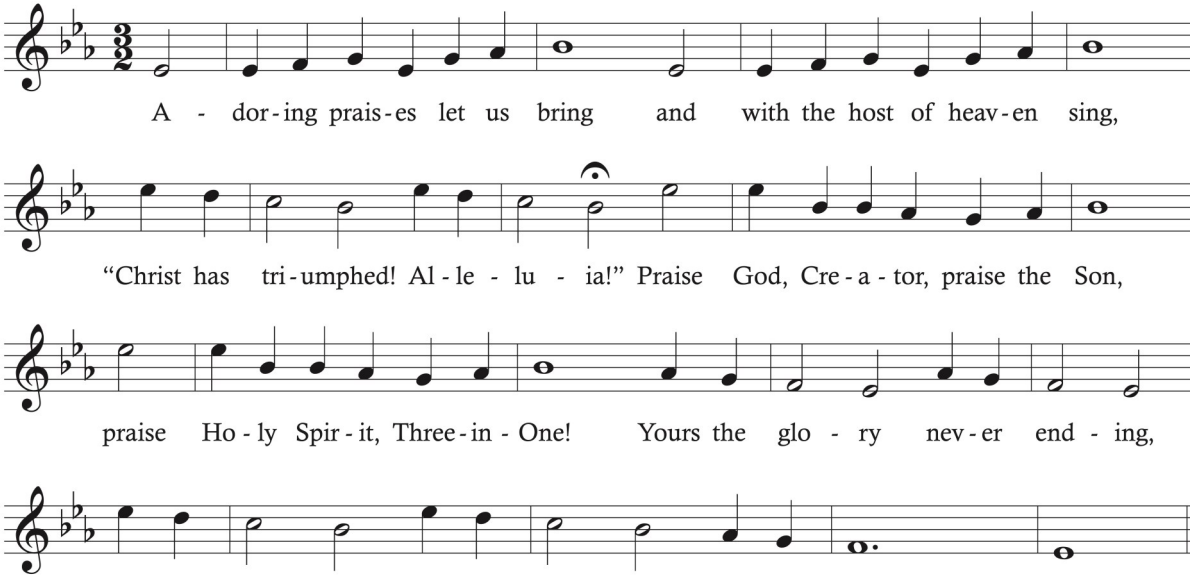
Joseph Haydn

*The heavens are telling the glory of God,
the wonder of his works displays the firmament.*

To day that is coming speaks it the day,
the night that is gone to following night.

In all the lands resounds the word:
never unperceived, ever understood.

*DOXOLOGY



A - dor-ing prais-es let us bring and with the host of heav-en sing,
“Christ has tri-umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!” Praise God, Cre - a - tor, praise the Son,
praise Ho - ly Spir - it, Three-in - One! Yours the glo - ry nev - er end - ing,
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Composite (P. Z. Strodach; W. H. Draper [after Assisi]), alt.
Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, 1623, alt.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

GODSPEED TO HELEN MCCRADY

*HYMN 382 **Come, We Who Love God's Name** MARCHING TO ZION

*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Trumpet Tune in A David N. Johnson



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

The flowers today are given by Betsy Roberts
in honor of Helen McCrady.

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



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!

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*
Ashley J. Popperson, *Associate Minister* ❖ Katherine A. Schofield, *Interim Associate Minister*
Donald A. Wells, *Theologian in Residence* ❖ June R. Cooper, *Theologian in the City*
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*
Rémy Hatfield-Gardner and William Wei, *Livestream Production Assistants*
Karen Hand, *Wedding Coordinator*

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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ANNOUNCEMENTS



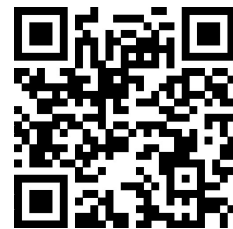
GODSPEED HELEN MCCRADY

This Sunday, May 21st

This week we arrive at the bittersweet moment to mark a milestone in the story of Old South, as we celebrate Helen McCrady's 23 years as Church Administrator and wish her Godspeed as she embarks on retirement. There will be tributes & accolades, prayers & blessings, laughter & tears, & gratitude, & commissionings at both First and Festival Worship, with a festive celebration at Fellowship Hour following the Festival Worship service, (beginning about Noon in Mary Norton Hall on the 2nd floor).

HELEN'S RETIREMENT PURSE

There's still time to contribute to the purse we've been gathering for Helen-to enable her and John to celebrate retirement in style - and at their discretion! If you prefer electronic donation, scan the QR code or go to <https://oldsouth.org/donate> and add your contribution. Or you can simply write a good old-fashioned check with "Helen's retirement" on the memo line (made out to Old South) and mail it to the church (attention: Alex Pickering) or drop it in the offering plate. Alex, our Administrative Assistant, will ensure that gift amounts are not disclosed, and that gifts will be accounted as contributions to the church for tax purposes. Thanks for making sure your purse contribution is in by Wednesday, May 31st.



KUDOS TO HELEN!!

Go to tinyurl.com/OSCHelenKudos to leave a memory or tribute. Candace Kosturko and the celebration planners - Christine del Favero, Karen Hand, Kathy Wade, Ralph Watson and Stephanie LaShoto-Westfield - have created a special vessel for tributes, remembrances, well-wishes on a user-friendly website called KUDOBOARD. You can add photos (and video!), tributes and memories at will.

END OF THE PROGRAM YEAR CELEBRATION BRUNCH

Sunday June 4th, 10 a.m., 2nd floor

We will mark the end of our church school and program year with an All-Church Potluck Brunch. Bring a dish to share - or just come hungry! We will gather to thank the teachers and volunteers who make Community Hour and Church School so excellent.



OLD SOUTH FORUM: Theological Deep Dives

Sundays, 10 a.m., 2nd Floor Mary Norton Hall, and on Zoom, password: Community

This casual, no-commitment, come-when-you-can forum hosts series on a variety of topics. Clergy, congregation members, and special guests share in leading sessions. We'll wrap up the Forum program year with a word from our clergy leaders about those areas of theology that get them most excited. How does theology shape their ministry work, and what growing edges are they exploring in these areas?

May 21st - Rick Spalding leads a conversation about following the tenets of progressive Christian theology away from exclusive religious claims and toward respectful engagement with theologies of the world's other venerable spiritual traditions.

May 28th - Ashley Popperson leads a discussion about Theopoetics: Bring a favorite poem to share.



THE FORMOSA DUO:

Chi-Chen Wu, *piano* & Sam Ou, *cello*

Saturday, June 10th, 7 p.m., at Kaji Aso Studio, 40 St Stephen St. Boston

Sunday, June 11th, 3 p.m., Gordon Chapel at Old South, free admission

Enjoy music by Boulanger, Liszt, Schumann, and Rachmaninoff.

MONUMENTAL ONE-DAY RETREAT @OSC

June 17th, 8:45am - 4pm (lunch provided), All Ages Welcome, Free (donations accepted)

Go to tinyurl.com/2023OSCOneDay to register by June 11th

What are monuments for? Whose stories do they hold up for celebration? Whose stories do they erase or bury?

- In our first workshop of the day, led by Wee The People Boston's Francie LaTour, we explore statues and monuments (famous and not so famous), question what they mean, and reimagine how they can celebrate values of community, equity, and justice. Hands-on making for all ages!
- Our day continues with a second workshop for adults focusing on monuments and representation at Old South, led by Old South pastors and leaders, along with our guest. Children will have their own afternoon activities with Children's Ministries staff.

GREEN TIP: Honor Helen and Ditch the Single-Use Plastics

Our global plastic addiction is having a devastating impact on our oceans, our wildlife, and our health. Helen is not only an eco-role-model, but has worked diligently to eliminate single-use plastics from OSC wherever possible. Not sure where to start? Carrying reusable bags and bottles is one great way to avoid single-use plastics in our day-to-day lives.



JOIN THE MARY NORTON SOCIETY

Every one of us, no matter our age or financial circumstances, needs a plan for what will happen to our resources after we pass on. Many members and friends of Old South have included the church in their estate plans - "a way to support Old South from heaven." Here's how Larry Soper-Mynatt explains his own plan: *"I've chosen to remember Old South Church with a bequest to continue the legacy that began over 350 years ago. This church was critical in the abolitionist movement during the times of slavery - and has been at the forefront of so many other social issues: racism, women's suffrage, LGBTQ+ rights, the needs of immigrants, the homeless and the un-housed. Every time I enter the doors of Old South I'm humbled by*

those who have preceded me - many of whom were nationally historical figures. Our current beautiful building, in service since 1875, has been thoughtfully maintained all these years. I hope my bequest can help all of this to continue." Those who provide for Old South in their estate plans become members of the Mary Norton Society. Won't you join them, as a way of insuring that the things that have mattered most to you will be here for coming generations? Contact cathryngriffith@mac.com for more information.

GET YOUR PRIDE SHIRT!

Go to tinyurl.com/OSC2023prideshirt, shirts are made to order

Our brand new 2023 Old South Pride T-Shirts are NOW AVAILABLE! They come in a large variety of styles, colors and sizes, including Youth T's, sweatshirts, and tanks. We encourage you to order yours NOW so that they will arrive in time for Pride!



HEARD IT AT COUNCIL

Go to to read the latest update from Church Historian Kate Silfen. The Council meeting included discussions of the treasury, Christian Service and Outreach Grants, and Senior Minister Search updates.

SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR

2023 CHRISTIAN SERVICE AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE GRANTEES

Submit recommendations at tinyurl.com/2023CSOCNominations by Friday, May 26th

The Christian Service & Outreach Committee (CSOC) continues Old South's history of service by supporting the work of local non-profits through grant giving and by connecting our grantees with the vast human capital our congregation has to offer. We will be making one new grant award in 2023 and are soliciting recommendations from the congregation for organizations to consider. Grant awards are typically \$20,000 per year for a maximum of three years. We are particularly interested in learning about Boston-based non-profits that serve the local Boston community, with a focus on organizations led by people with lived experience on the issues they are addressing.

VOLUNTEER WITH OUR PARTNERS: MATTAPAN FOOD AND FITNESS COALITION



Go to tinyurl.com/2023MattapanFarmersMarket to sign up

Mattapan Food and Fitness Coalition is one of our Christian Service and Outreach Grantees. In addition to their amazing work advocating for community health, they operate the Mattapan Square Farmer's Market. Helping with the Farmer's Market is one of the ways that Old Southerners can volunteer and make a difference in partnership with this great organization. The market runs on Saturdays from July to October and typically sees 200-400 shoppers per week. It is not only a place to purchase healthy food, but also serves as a place to bring residents together and as a resource for health education and other social issues. The market's 17th season starts July 8th and ends October 28th. There are lots of ways to help.



SEEKING STAFF ACCOUNTANT

Full announcement at oldsouth.org/news/now-hiring-staff-accountant

Old South Church in Boston is seeking a full-time Staff Accountant to execute the day-to-day duties of the business office including paying invoices, completing payroll bi-weekly, basic HR duties, making bank deposits, data entry, and maintaining and monitoring financial records.

WEEKLY WORSHIP

Join us in person, on Vimeo,
Facebook, and YouTube

First Worship *informal & vibrant* Sundays at 9 a.m. with communion

Festival Worship *grand & expressive* Sundays at 11 a.m.

Jazz Worship *with sax & soul* Thursdays at 6 p.m. with communion

Vespers Healing Worship *gentle & tender* 2nd Sundays at 5 p.m.



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