



Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2024 v11:00 a.m.

Take heart: it is not too late to build a better world.

GATHER

PRELUDE

Noël [Grand Jeu et duo]

Louis-Claude Daquin

INVOCATION

John M. Edgerton

*HYMN *see insert*

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

*CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Merciful God, always with us,
We confess that we do not know how to prepare the way.
We have forgotten how to hope for a better world,
We have ignored the promise of your Kingdom,
We have been distracted by despair.

**Indicates all who are able may stand*

Forgive the smallness of our imaginations,
Forgive the cowardice of our hearts,
Forgive our collective failure to answer your call for justice.

Heal us.
Infuse us with your spirit of courage and your clarity of vision.
Ready us for the coming of Christ.
Let us bring our silent confessions before a listening God.

Silence is kept.

...Let us commit our lives to Christ's way of hope.
Thanks be to God who sets us free to love and to serve.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

*SUNG RESPONSE *see insert* **Peace of God Be with You**

WELCOME

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Students of the Niijima Gakuen Junior College
Takasaki, Gunma, Japan

LISTEN

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kate M. Nintcheu

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 40:1-5

Pam Roberts

*HYMN 108

Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old

JUDAS AND MARY

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

SCRIPTURE

John 1:19-29

SERMON

Rachel J. Barton

*HYMN 115

The Baptist Shouts on Jordan's Shore

WINCHESTER NEW

RESPOND

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Rory Razon, Abby Smith, Laura Cook,
Nancy Kukulian, Carly Kinney, and Stephanie LaShoto-Westfield

INTRODUCTORY SENTENCES

This second week of Advent, we light the candle of peace...

...Beloved, though fighting and war abound, the peace of Christ reigns forever.

RESPONSIVE READING *Isaiah 11, selected verses*

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

**The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.**

His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

The wolf shall live with the lamb;

the leopard shall lie down with the kid;

**the calf and the lion will feed together,
and a little child shall lead them.**

The cow and the bear shall graze;

their young shall lie down together;

and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den
They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

LIGHTING OF CANDLES AND PRAYER

O Prince of Peace, we turn to you in prayer...

...Kindle a flame within each of us that we might be people of peace. **Amen.**

SUNG RESPONSE *See insert* **Come Now, O Prince of Peace**

*CALL TO PRAYER

Ashley J. Popperson

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift our hearts to God.

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; 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

People, Look East
THE OLD SOUTH RINGERS
Peter Coulombe, *director*

Tammy Waldrop, *arr.*

CALL TO THE OFFERING

John M. Edgerton



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

Drop Down, Ye Heavens

George Emlen

Drop down, ye, heavens, from above!
And let the skies pour down righteousness.,
Let the earth open, and let them bring forth salvation,
And let righteousness spring up together!

Mercy and truth are met together,
Righteousness and peace have kissed each other,
Truth shall spring out of the earth.
Drop down, ye heavens, from above!

And righteousness shall look down from Heaven!

Isaiah 45:8 and Psalm 85:10-11

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN 122

Come, O Long-Expected Jesus

STUTTGART

*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

Rachel J. Barton

POSTLUDE

Sortie [pour le temps de Noël]
FW 41, No. 56

César Franck



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

The flowers today are given
by the Old South Church Staff
In honor of Corey Spence's
15th work anniversary.

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





THE ARC OF SALVATION

Just about every Christmas service ends with a rousing rendition of Joy to the World. My favorite line in that hymn is “Let every heart prepare Christ room”. If there is a neater summary of the purpose of Advent than that, I haven’t seen it! This year for Advent, we are exploring the story of humanity’s redemption, which arcs from disaster to recovery, from rejection to embrace. We encourage you to come each Sunday to experience them all together. If you miss a Sunday (life happens!) you can always catch up on our services on our Youtube channel. We will begin with the story of Noah—the quintessential and timeless story of disaster as new beginning. We’ll continue into the tradition of the prophets which hold God’s ever-repeated call for progress. The third week will take up human partnership with God’s actions, achieved in the highest heights by Mary the mother of Jesus. In the fourth Sunday, we will take up the beautiful opening words of the Gospel of John: “In the beginning was the Word”. This will gather up the threads of what has come before and highlight the beauty and heartbreak of God’s plan of redemption. Or, as the hymn says it, we’re going to let every heart prepare Christ room.

—John M. Edgerton, *Senior Minister*

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

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE — December 24, 2024

FAMILY SERVICE WITH IMPROMPTU PAGEANT | 5PM

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE | 8PM

LESSONS, CAROLS, AND COMMUNION | 11PM

HOLY WEEK 2025

PALM SUNDAY — April 13 | 9AM & 11AM

MAUNDY THURSDAY — April 17 | 7PM

GOOD FRIDAY — April 18 | 7PM

EASTER & MARATHON SUNDAY —

April 20, 2025 | 9AM, 11AM, & 1PM

The triumph of the Christian story of resurrection informs a service of worship that is characterized by joyous celebration. Our celebration continues with hundreds of marathoners joining us for worship, where we will pause to acknowledge the runners, their families, and volunteers in a special “Blessing of the Athletes.”

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY — November 2, 2025 | 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 23, 2025 | 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

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! Please take a moment to fill out a friendship pad so that we can be in touch with you. 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.

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.

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.

GARAGE PARKING VALIDATIONS

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

LEARN MORE

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

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 J. Barton, *Assistant Minister*
Gracie Paterson, *Nancy S. Taylor Leadership Fellow* ❖ Kat Woodard, *Seminarian*

Donald A. Wells, *Theologian in Residence* ❖ June R. Cooper, *Theologian in the City*
David F. Story, *Wedding Minister* ❖ Kenneth H. Orth, *Healing Worship Minister*

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

Mitchell Crawford, *Minister of Music*

Audrey Woodhams, *Creative Director for Twilight Worship*

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* ❖ Juniper Mai, *Children's Choir Accompanist*

Amelia Gerrard, *Director of Administration* ❖ Rebecca Pasipanodya, *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 & William Wei, *Livestream Production Assistants* ❖ Ava Welling, *Sound Technician*

Elias Perez, *Senior Sexton* ❖ Ozo Nwodo, Richard Serebour, & David Brode, *Sextons*

Corey Spence, *Weekday Receptionist*

Shirley Bivins, Shelia Randolph, & William Wei, *Evening & Weekend Receptionists*

Maren Batalden, *Moderator* ❖ Rob Gabler, *Clerk* ❖ Bill Bulkeley, *Treasurer*

Debby Kuenstner, *Chair, Board of Trustees* ❖ Kate Silfen, *Historian*

Christine Del Favero & Laurie Stickels, *Senior Deacons*

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

MUSIC INSERT

HYMN

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Em - ma - nu - el and ran - som cap - tive
O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen wide our
O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind all peo - ples in one

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that leads on high,
heart and mind; bid en - vy, strife, and dis - cord cease;

un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
and close the path to mis - er - y. Re - joice! Re - joice!
fill the whole world with heav - en's peace.

Em - ma - nu - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

Text: Latin prose, pre-9th cent.; trans. composite

Tune: VENI EMMANUEL, Plainsong

SUNG RESPONSE

Peace of God Be With You

Peace of God be with you. Peace of God be with you. Sa -
As - sa - laa - mu la - kum. As - sa - laa - mu la - kum. Sa -
laam, sa - laam. Peace of God be with you.
laam, sa - laam. As - sa - laa - mu la - kum.

TEXT: Arabic greeting

MUSIC: Richard Bruxvoort Colligan, 2004

Music © 2004 Local Church Ministries, United Church of Christ (admin. The Pilgrim Press)

AS-SALAAMU LAKUM

6.6.4.6

SUNG RESPONSE

Come Now, O Prince of Peace

Choir:

Come now, O Prince of Peace; make us one body.

Come, O Lord Jesus; reconcile all people.

Come, hope of u - ni - ty; make us one bod - y.
Come, O Lord Je - sus; rec-on-cile all peo - ple.

Text: Geonyong Lee (1998); English trans. Marion Pope (c. 1990)

Music: O-SO-SO, Geonyong Lee (1988)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME STUDENTS FROM NIIJIMA GAKUEN JUNIOR COLLEGE

This Sunday, we welcome 36 students from Niijima Gakuen, a junior college of Doshisha -partner schools, who will share "Joy to the World" in Japanese at the beginning of the 11AM Festival Worship service. Doshisha University and its Partner Schools were founded by Rev. Niijima Jo. Samurai-born in 1843 at age twenty-one, Rev. Niijima Jo stowed away on a ship to Boston. Taken in by an Old South Church family, he was educated at Phillips Academy, Amherst College, and Andover Theological Seminary. He was the first Japanese person to be ordained as a Christian minister. The students of Niijima Gakuen are visiting Old South Church as a part of their pilgrimage through the United States, where they are visiting sites are important to Rev. Niijima's life.

LAST SUNDAY TO GIVE!

THE TRUE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS: OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE

As we prepare our hearts for Christmas, Old South has several opportunities to give to the wider community. Each ornament on the narthex tree will have instructions for a particular gift for one of the gift drives listed below. You can select an ornament from the tree or you can go participate by going to oldsouth.org/true-spirit-Christmas.

14th ANNUAL ADVENT POETRY FEST

Sunday, December 8, 10am, in Mary Norton Hall

Join as host Don Wells leads a wonderful hour of Advent poetry selected or written by members and friends of Old South. There will be poetry to pull on your heartstrings, engage your mind, and bring laughter to your soul. It is an occasion not to miss. Even if you are not reading, come and enjoy the spirit of the season through poetry!

CHURCH VISION & STRATEGY GATHERING

December 8, 12:30 pm, Mary Norton Hall

Our Boards and Clergy have been dreaming together about strategic next steps for Old South Church in Boston. Please join us for a collaborative session where we'll share the big picture of this exciting and transformative vision, focused on three key pillars:

1. Growing the Church – Expanding our reach and impact.
2. Deepening Relationships – Strengthening our community and connections.
3. Doing Justice – Acting with compassion and advocating for change.

This is the first of many opportunities to hear about our strategic plans and provide your feedback. Everyone is welcome to help us shape the next chapter at OSC.

VESPERS HEALING WORSHIP

Next service Sunday, December 8 at 5 p.m. on Zoom at tinyurl.com/OSCHealing

Please join us to take a moment for rest and renewal in the presence of God and other spiritual companions gathering by Zoom. All are welcome to share this quiet space and lift up our concerns, our losses, our hurts, and our celebrations in the Healing Presence of God and one another.

OLD SOUTH VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENT

Sunday, December 15, 12:15pm, Mary Norton Hall

As a token of gratitude to our wonderful volunteers, we will be hosting a small Christmas volunteer appreciation event. Come for a hot chocolate bar, goodies, and connection with other community members! Stuff an envelope for a Christmas mailing if you want to do something with your hands! Or just come to chat and be in community with other volunteers. Amelia Gerrard (Director of Admin) is leading the event and would love to see you and thank you. Email amelia@oldsouth.org with any questions.

YOGA & MEDITATION - RETURNS DECEMBER 15

Sundays at 10am in the basement Club Room

Old South is a gentle space to nourish our spiritual body, but sometimes it's the physical body crying out or subtly seeking our attention. You are invited to join a weekly yoga and meditation small group during the 10 o'clock hour (between the 9 and 11am services) in the Club Room. Questions? Email Amy Coe at amyecoe@gmail.com.

GODLY PLAY FOR FAMILIES

December 22, 10am

This year we're going to practice Godly Play in a new way -- offering a gathering for families of preschoolers, infants, and toddlers once a month during the 10am hour on Sundays. Families will gather in the regular childcare room on the 3rd floor to hear a story together, to wonder a bit about the story, and then to have some work time to play around with the ideas and stories we heard. This is a great way for families who have not yet become regulars at church school to begin hearing the stories and practicing together. Families of any age are welcome - though this is geared towards preschool age 4 and under. In addition -- parents are not required to attend, but we suspect most will want to.

JOIN OUR USHER TEAM

Click [here](#) to sign up

Whether you're looking to meet more people at Old South or wondering how you can contribute to our wide open door, this may be just the thing! Serving as an usher, welcomer, or coffee hour host is an easy way to get more involved at Old South. Everyone is welcome, training is provided, and you only need to be friendly and willing to help. Questions? Email hospitality@oldsouth.org for info.

CHRISTMAS EVE USHERS AND WELCOMERS STILL NEEDED

Click [here](#) to sign up, scrolling down to 12/24

Mary and Joseph needed lots of help along the way to that Inn in Bethlehem. Likewise, we need your help to welcome our neighbors to Old South on Christmas Eve. You can sign up to usher at the 5pm, 8pm, or 11pm. Questions? Email hospitality@oldsouth.org for info.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT OLD SOUTH

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Sunday, December 15, 9am, 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! This year's script is an homage to former OSC Sr. Minister Frederick M. Meek and his 1972 book "The Bethlehem Inn, and other Christmas Stories". Join us in the Gordon Chapel for this spectacular, funny, heartwarming event.

BLUE CHRISTMAS: THURSDAY NIGHT CHURCH EDITION

Thursday, December 19, 6pm in the Chapel and via live stream

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

Tuesday, December 24, 5pm, 8pm, and 11pm

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!

5pm 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

8pm 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 upon request - email children@oldsouth.org.

11pm 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.

THURSDAY NIGHT CHURCH

Thursdays, 6 p.m.

Thursday Night Church is here! After a year of dreaming, planning and working, we're excited to introduce our redesigned Thursday service. Thursday Night Church is a worship service where the music is contemporary, the space is open-hearted and in-the-round, and the preaching is focused on how we can be the church together in the world.

THURSDAY NIGHT SUPPER CLUB

After worship, join us for Thursday Night Supper Club. Each week, folks can gather after worship for dinner and an informal small group hosted by some of our friendly and hospitable lay leaders.

GREEN TIP: Think Before You Click

Whoops! With one click, you've just bought something, and the process barely required thought. But as with any skill or habit, you can train your brain to ask questions before you buy: Do I already have it? Does a family member or friend need it for a present? Can it be fixed if it breaks? Buy gifts for friends and family that can be reused or are green already when you buy them. Learn more from the Sierra Club at tinyurl.com/SierraClubReduceBlog.

WEEKLY WORSHIP

Join us in person, on Facebook, and YouTube

Thursday night church, Thursdays at 6:00 p.m.

FIRST Worship Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

FESTIVAL Worship Sundays at 11:00 a.m.

VESPERS HEALING Worship, the second Sunday at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom



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.



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