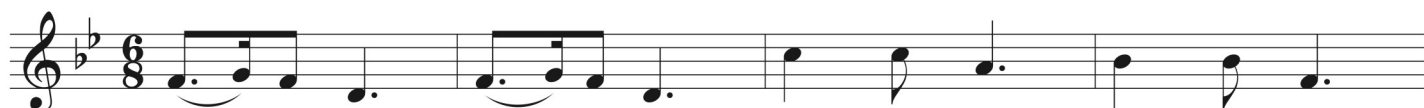




Silent Night! Holy Night!



Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright
Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight;
Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light,



'round yon vir - gin moth - er and child; ho - ly in - fant so ten - der and mild,
glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav'n - ly hosts sing: "Al - le - lu - ia!
ra - diant, beams from thy ho - ly face with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,



sleep in heav - en - ly peace! Sleep in heav - en - ly peace!
Christ the Sav - ior is born! Christ the Sav - ior is born!"
Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth! Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth!

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1816; English trans. John Freeman Young, 1863
Tune: STILLE NACHT, Franz Xaver Gruber, 1818

Lessons, Carols, & Communion

Old South Church *in* Boston

December 24, 2024 | 11pm

Lessons, Carols, & Communion

December 24th, 2024 ★ 11:00 p.m.

PRELUDE

Die Hirten an der Krippe (In dulci jubilo) from “*Weihnachtsbaum*,” S.186

Franz Liszt

*CAROL

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES



O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
God of God, Light of Light e - ter - nal,
Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion!
Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem!
Lo! he dis - dains not the vir - gin's womb;
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove:
Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry giv'n;



Come and be - hold him, born the King of An - gels!
tru - ly our God, be - got - ten, not cre - at - ed:
'Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est!
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing.

Refrain



O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him;



O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

Text: John Francis Wade, c. 1743; trans. Frederick Oakeley, 1841, alt.
Tune: ADESTE FIDELES, John Francis Wade, c. 1743

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION *adapted from Frederick Buechner*

Rachel J. Barton

Holy Jesus, O Son of the Most High, Prince of Peace,
be born again into our world.

**Wherever there is war in this world,
wherever there is pain;**

* *Indicates all who are able may stand*

Wherever there is loneliness,
wherever there is no hope, come.
**Come, O long-expected one,
with healing in your wings.**

Holy Child, whom the shepherds and kings
and beasts adored, be born again.
**Wherever there is boredom,
wherever there is fear of failure;**
Wherever there is temptation too strong to resist,
wherever there is bitterness of heart;
**Come, O Blessed One,
with healing in your wings.**

Savior, be born in each of us as we raise our faces to your face,
not knowing fully who we are or who you are;
**Knowing only that your love is beyond our knowing
and that no other has the power to make us whole.**
**Come, Lord Jesus, to each who longs for you
even though we have forgotten your name.**
Come quickly. Amen.

WELCOME

ANTHEM

I Wonder as I Wander

Calvin Hampton, *arr.*

I wonder as I wander out under the sky,
how Jesus the Savior did come for to die
for poor ordn'ry people like you and like I...
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus 'twas in a cow's stall,
with wise men and farmers and shepherds and all.
But high from God's heaven a star's light did fall,
and the promise of the ages it then did recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
a star in the sky, or a bird on the wing,
or all of God's angels in heaven for to sing,
he surely could have had it, 'cause he was the King.

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

Nancy Lane

*CAROL

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ES IST EIN' ROS



Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath sprung! Of
I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the rose I have in mind; with



Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing, as saints of old have sung. It came, a flow'r - et
Mar - y we be - hold it, the vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a -



bright, a - mid the cold of win - ter, when half-spent was the night.
right, she bore to us a Sav - ior, when half-spent was the night.

Text: German carol; stanzas 1 and 2 trans. Theodore Baker, 1894, alt.
Tune: ES IST EIN' ROS', *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, 1599;
arr. Michael Praetorius, 1609

THE SECOND LESSON

Luke 1:26-35

Richard Ling

*CAROL

The Angel Gabriel

GABRIEL'S MESSAGE



The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
"For known a bless - ed Moth - er you shall be,
Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
Of her, Em - ma - nu - el, the Christ, was born



his wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame;
all gen - er - a - tions praise con - tin - ual - ly,
"To me be as it pleas - es God!" she said.
in Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn;



"All hail," said he, "O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,"
Your son shall be Em - ma - nu - el, by seers fore - told.
"My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly name."
And Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:



"Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy!" Glo - ri - a!

Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)
Tune: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE, Basque traditional (Bordes, 1895; arr. Edgar Pettman [1866-1943])

HOMILY

John M. Edgerton

*CAROL

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

CAROL



It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
 Still through the clo - ven skies they come, with peace - ful wings un - furled,
 Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suf - fered long:
 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
 For lo, the days are has - t'ning on, by proph - et - bards fore - told,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
 and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world:
 be - neath the heav'n - ly hymn have rolled two thou - sand years of wrong,
 who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow,
 when, with the ev - er - cir - cling years, comes 'round the Age of Gold,



"Peace on the earth, good - will to men, from heaven's all - gra - cious King":
 a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov'r - ing wing,
 and we, at war on earth, hear not the tid - ings which they bring:
 look now! for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,



the world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
 and ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds the bless - èd an - gels sing.
 O hush the noise and cease the strife to hear the an - gels sing!
 O rest be - side the wea - ry road, and hear the an - gels sing!
 and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Text: Edmund Hamilton Sears, *Christian Register* [Boston], 1849, alt.
 Tune: CAROL, Richard Storrs Willis, *Church Carols and Choir Studies*, 1850;
 adapt. Uzziah Christopher Burnap (1834-1900)



The first 'No - ël!' the an - gel did say was to cer - tain poor
They look - èd up and saw a star shin - ing in the
This star drew nigh to the north - west: o'er Beth - le -
Then let us all with one ac - cord sing prais - es



shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay
east, be - yond them far; and to the earth it
hem it took its rest; and there it did both
to our heav'n - ly Lord, that hath made heav'n and



keep - ing their sheep on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.
gave great light, and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.
stop and stay, right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.
earth of nought, and with his love our life hath bought.



No - ël, no - ël! No - ël, no - ël! Born is the King of Is - ra - el!

Text: English carol; *Some Ancient Christmas Carols*, 2nd ed., 1823, alt.
Tune: THE FIRST NOWELL, English carol; *Sandy's Christmas Carols*, 1833

THE CHRISTMAS PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER *Unison*

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.

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Ashley J. Popperson



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.

*Personent hodie
voces puerulae,
laudantes iucunde
qui nobis est natus,
summo Deo datus,
et de vir, vir, vir...
et de virgineo ventre procreatus.*

*In mundo nascitur,
pannis involvitur
praesepe ponitur
stabulo brutorum,
rector supernorum.
Perdidit, dit, dit...
perdidit spolia princeps infernorum.*

*Magi tres venerunt,
parvulum inquirunt,
Bethlehem adeunt,
stellulam sequendo,
ipsum adorando,
aurum, thus, thus, thus...
aurum, thus, et myrrham ei offerendo.*

*Omnes clericuli,
pariter pueri,
cantent ut angeli:
advenisti mundo,
laudes tibi fundo.
Ideo, o, o...
ideo gloria in excelsis Deo.*

Let resound today
children's voices,
joyfully praising
he who is born,
given by most high God,
[...]
and conceived in a virgin's womb.

Into the world he was born,
wrapped in swaddling clothes,
laid in a manger
in a stable for animals,
the master of heavens.
[...]
The Prince of Hell has lost his spoils.

Three Magi came,
bearing gifts,
seeking the little one,
following a star,
to worship him,
[...]
offering him gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Let all the junior clerics,
and choristers alike,
sing like angels:
'You have come to the world;
I pour out praises to you.
[...]
Therefore, glory to God in the highest!'



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;
Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of right - eous - ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful all ye na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate de - i - ty,
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - ma - nu - el.
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.
Tune: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1840;
adapt. W. H. Cummings, 1855

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Ashley J. Popperson

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime

Richard Cummins, *arr.*

*RECESSIONAL

John M. Edgerton

*CAROL *see cover*

Silent night! Holy night!

STILLE NACHT

*BENEDICTION

John M. Edgerton

NEW YEAR'S EVE AT OLD SOUTH

SIMPLE NEW YEAR'S SERVICE

Sunday, December 29th, at 10 a.m. in the Chapel

BOSTON FIRST NIGHT: PIPES AND POPS CONCERTS

Tuesday, December 31st at 6:30 and 8 p.m. in the Sanctuary

The best of Boston's brass and percussion artists join organist Mitchell Crawford in a supersonic program of popular classics. Featuring fun and engaging programming for the whole family, this concert includes a seasonal sing of "Auld Lang Syne." Experience Old South's incredible E. M. Skinner organ, with over 7,000 room-shaking pipes! Free and open to the public.

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

WEEKLY WORSHIP

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

FIRST Worship Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

FESTIVAL Worship Sundays at 11:00 a.m.

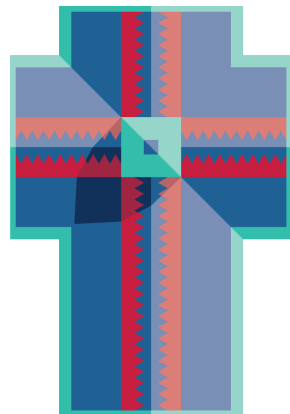
THURSDAY NIGHT CHURCH Thursdays at 6:00 p.m.

HEALING Worship, the second Sunday at 12:30 p.m. via Zoom

Old South Church in Boston thanks you for blessing us with your presence this Christmas Eve two-thousand & twenty-four and a special thanks for the leadership of John Edgerton, Ashley Popperson, Rachel Barton, Don Wells, David Story, Richard Ling, Nancy Lane, Mitchell Crawford, & members of the Old South Choir.

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