

Annual Meeting



Old South Church
in Boston

March 3, 2023 ❖ 10:00 a.m.

Third Sunday in Lent 354th Annual Meeting All-Church Worship

*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

[III.] Andante

Felix Mendelssohn

from the Sonata in D minor, Op. 65, No. 6

INTROIT

FRANCIS

David Hurd

Great God, your love has called us here
as we, by love, for love were made.
Your living likeness still we bear,
though marred, dishonored, disobeyed.
We come, with all our heart and mind
your call to hear, your love to find.

** Indicates all who are able may stand*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rachel J. Barton

One: Now there are many gifts, but the same Spirit;

Many: and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord;

One: To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

Many: To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom,

One: and to another the utterance of knowledge

Many: to another faith

One: to another gifts of healing,

**Many: All these are activated by one and the same Spirit,
who gives to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.**

*HYMN 70

God Is Here! As We Your People Meet

ABBOT'S LEIGH

WELCOME

*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM

Family, Família

Mark Burrows

THE OLD SOUTH CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Aislin Anderson, *director*

In your eyes I see peace,

in your song I hear hope,

in your heart I feel love.

We are more than neighbors: we are family.

En tus ojos paz,

en tu voz esperanza,

en tu corazón amor.

Somos más que vecinos, somos familia

Jesus loves the little children, all the children in the world:

every nation, every race, all are held in his embrace.

Jesus loves the little children in the world.

LISTEN

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kate M. Nintcheu

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 18

David Story

*HYMN 327

Jesus Loves Me

JESUS LOVES ME

*During the hymn, children are invited to meet teachers in the back of the sanctuary
and proceed to their regular church school classes or childcare.*

SERMON

John M. Edgerton

*HYMN 459

Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

NETTLETON

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.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

time of silent confession

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

Almighty Father from *MASS*

Leonard Bernstein

Almighty Father, incline thine ear:
bless us and all those who have gathered here.
Thine angel send us who shall defend us all
and fill with grace all who dwell in this place. Amen.

*(Though often ascribed masculine or feminine pronouns in prose and poetry,
God is unbound by human concepts of gender.)*

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

**Chrissy and Steve Holt
Darin Goulet and Tara Redepenning**

**Adam and Emma Nalchajian
Rich and JoAnn Nelson**

PRESENTATION

Ashley J. Popperson

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

Laurie Stickels, *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

Hear My Prayer [Psalm 55], WoO 15

Felix Mendelssohn

Kate Wood, *soprano*

Hear my prayer, O God, incline thine ear!
Thyself from my petition do not hide.
Take heed to me! Hear how in prayer I mourn to thee.
Without thee all is dark, I have no guide.

The enemy shouteth, the godless come fast!
Iniquity, hatred upon me they cast.
The wicked oppress me; Ah, where shall I fly?
Perplexed and bewildered, O God, hear my cry!

My heart is sorely pained within my breast,
my soul with deathly terror is oppressed,
trembling and fearfulness upon me fall,
with horror overwhelmed, Lord, hear me call!

O for the wings of a dove!
 Far away, far away would I rove.
 In the wilderness build me a nest,
 and remain there forever at rest.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN

Open Wide the Eyes of Wonder

CONSTANTINE

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



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 - pening 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)*

*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

John M. Edgerton

POSTLUDE

[III.] Allegro maestoso
from the Sonata in D major, Op. 65, No. 5

Felix Mendelssohn



Join us for the 354th Annual Meeting of Old South Church
In Mary Norton Hall on the 2nd floor following worship.

The flowers today are given to welcome John Edgerton, and in thanksgiving for the ministries of Ashley Popperson, Rachel Barton, the staff of Old South Church, remembering Elinor Yeo and the many ordained ministers among our membership, who support our ministry, and in grateful memory of Elsbeth Melville Percy (BU’s Dean Melville), who for many years gave flowers in recognition of the ministerial staff on Annual Meeting Sunday



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

HOLY WEEK 2024

Palm Sunday — March 24th | 9AM & 11AM

Maundy Thursday — March 28th | 7PM

Good Friday — March 29th | 7PM

Easter Sunday — March 31st | 9AM & 11AM

MARATHON SUNDAY — April 14th, 2024 | 9AM, 11AM, & 1PM

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 12th, 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 3rd, 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 24th, 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.

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE — December 24th, 2024

Family Service with Impromptu Pageant | 5PM

LESSONS AND CAROLS | 8PM

CAROLS AND COMMUNION | 11PM

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 Associate Minister Ashley Popperson for more info at ashley@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*

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.



OLD
SOUTH
CHURCH
in BOSTON

ANNOUNCEMENTS

354th ANNUAL MEETING OF OLD SOUTH CHURCH

By order of the Church Council, the Annual Meeting of Old South Church in Boston will commence at 11:00 a.m. Sunday, March 3 in Mary Norton Hall following All-Church Worship at 10:00 a.m. Church School will run from 10:20-11 a.m. following dismissal from worship.

Act of Memorial of Members who Have Died
Acceptance of the minutes of the 353rd Annual Meeting
Receipt of the Annual Report
Reports of the Treasurer and Board of Trustees
Report of the Leadership Committee & Elections
Farewell to & Installation of Officers & Leaders
Call of Ashley Popperson as Settled Associate Minister
Any other business as may properly come before the Membership.

Slate Recommended by the Leadership Committee:

Officers:
Maren Batalden Moderator, 2024
Bill Bulkeley, Treasurer, 2024
Rob Gabler, Clerk, 2024
Kate Silfen, Historian, 2024

Deacons:
Rebecca Bowen, 2025
Jer Jurma, 2026
Jennifer Keenan, 2026
Yoo-Kyung Kim, 2026
Richard Ling, 2026
Rory Razon, 2026
Ted Wade, 2026

Trustees:
Priscilla Geigis, 2026
Tom Grant, 2026

Council At Large:
Connie Lehman, 2026
Dawn Patterson, 2026

Leadership Committee
Randy Billings, 2026

Standing Committee Chairs:
David Becker, Leadership, 2026
Cathryn Griffith, Planned Giving, 2026
Ralph Watson, (G)RACE Speaks, 2026

Following Annual Meeting you are invited to board a bus and head to the:

GREATER BOSTON INTERFAITH ORGANIZATION (GBIO) HOUSING JUSTICE CAMPAIGN

Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center, 100 Malcolm X Blvd, Roxbury

Sign up to take action on Sunday, March 3 at 3pm at bit.ly/gbiomarch3

Housing in Boston and beyond is too often unaffordable, unattainable, and undignified. Join us to take action with 1700 of our neighbors. Questions? Connect with Old South co-liaisons Harrison Reeder, reeder.h@gmail.com & Christina Gregg, clg3792@gmail.com.

THE COMMUNITY HOUR FORUM

Sundays, 10 a.m., 2nd floor Mary Norton Hall and online,
go to 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.

OLD SOUTH AT THE OSCARS

March 10 - Killers of the Flower Moon



Join us as we explore an Oscar-nominated film through the lens of Christian faith. Come, having seen the movies, and channel your inner Siskel (or Ebert) ... or just be prepared for spoilers!

YOUNG ADULT DINNER AFTER TWILIGHT WORSHIP

Thursday, March 7, 7 p.m., Crawford Library

Join us next Thursday for our monthly gathering for folks in their 20s and 30s. Lent is a great time for taking stock of what you'd like to leave behind, and this month we're laying those things down together. We'll be meeting for dinner as usual, and then Abby Smith will lead us through a ritual of letting go. Bring your sweet self and a willingness to try something new, and together we'll share food, stories and solidarity.

VESPERS HEALING WORSHIP:

Next service Sunday, March 10, 5 p.m. on Zoom, tinyurl.com/OSCH Healing to join

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.

VOLUNTEER TO READ SCRIPTURE

Go to tinyurl.com/OSCScriptureReaders to sign up

Reading the Bible in community is an essential Christian spiritual practice. Each week at Festival Worship a volunteer reads scripture before the sermon. People of all ages are encouraged to volunteer! Questions? Email ashley@oldsouth.org.

JOIN OUR USHER TEAM

Looking to meet more people at Old South? Wondering how you can contribute to our wide open door? Think about serving as an usher! Ushering is an easy way to get more involved at Old South. Everyone is welcome, and you only need to be friendly and willing to help. Interested, or even just a little curious? Join us Sunday, March 17 in the rear of the Sanctuary from 12:30 – 1:15pm to learn about serving at 11am worship. Potential, new, and returning ushers are encouraged to attend- we could all use a refresher, and it will be wonderful to get to know each other! Questions? Email hospitality@oldsouth.org.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE: LEGACY LIVES ON

Sunday, March 17, 12:15pm



Do you struggle with offering (or wanting) forgiveness? On Sunday March 17 following Festival Worship, we will be led by Legacy Lives On. This OSC grantee organization is founded by women who have experienced the loss of loved ones to violence. Join Clarissa Turner, Janet Connors, and Mahogany Payne in hearing and telling stories of needing or offering forgiveness. During this season of Lent, as we struggle with our individual and corporate sins, this event will offer a deep look at the work of restorative and transformative justice. Learn more about Legacy Lives On at legacyliveson.org. Questions? Email Charlotte Simpson at char.r.simpson@gmail.com.

TWILIGHT WORSHIP: COURAGEOUS ENDURANCE

Thursdays, 6pm, in the Gordon Chapel

Join us every Thursday in Lent for a Twilight Worship Series on Courageous Endurance. In tender and whole-hearted worship, we'll be exploring stories of people who've taken creative action for justice when stuck in systems that don't support flourishing life. We hope these brave folks can be companions to you on the journey as we walk together towards the cross. Email [Rachel Barton](mailto:Rachel.Barton@oldsouth.org) with any questions.

EASTER FLOWER DONATIONS *requested contribution \$20*

Go to tinyurl.com/2024OSCFlowers and choose "Easter Flowers" to make your gift or fill out a card in the back of the Sanctuary and give it to the front desk. Messages 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. Contact remy@oldsouth.org with questions.

GREEN TIP: March is Zero Waste Kitchen Month

Start composting your food scraps! Got to tinyurl.com/WhatcanIcompost2024 to find out what you can compost around the house. Also, you can go to tinyurl.com/aptcompost2024 to learn about composting in your apartment, or your backyard at tinyurl.com/backyardcompost2024. Learn more at goingzerowaste.com.

HOLY WEEK 2024

Palm Sunday — March 24th | 9AM & 11AM

Maundy Thursday — March 28th | 7PM

Good Friday — March 29th | 7PM

Easter Sunday — March 31st | 9AM & 11AM



FAMILY GAMES NIGHT

Friday, March 15, 6pm - 8pm, 2nd floor Mary Norton Hall
Grab your board games and join Old South families for a night of games & pizza. Sponsored by Christian Formation, this relaxed kick off to the weekend is geared towards families, but we welcome any child-at-heart who wants to come. Please RSVP to Hillary Mull hillary78@gmail.com if you can - so we know how much pizza to order. *Donations accepted to offset cost of pizza*

WEEKLY WORSHIP

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

TWILIGHT Worship, 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 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