

Old South Church in Boston presents

MARATHON SUNDAY

**with Blessing
of the Athletes**

*Sunday, April 14th
at 9 am & 11 am*



THE CHURCH OF THE FINISH LINE

Marathon Sunday

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

GATHER

PRELUDE

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Calvin Hampton, *arr.*

*HYMN

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

HYMN TO JOY



Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore you, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
All your works with joy sur - round you: earth and heaven re - flect your rays;
You are giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blessed,
Mor - tals, join the might - y cho - rus which the morn - ing stars be - gan;



hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore you, o - pening to the sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round you, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean depth of hap - py rest!
bound - less love is reign - ing o'er us, rec - on - cil - ing race and clan.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive our fear and doubt a - way;
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, bloom - ing mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
Lov - ing Spir - it, Fa - ther, Moth - er— all who love be - long to you;
Ev - er sing - ing, move we for - ward, faith - ful in the midst of strife.



giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain teach us what our praise should be.
teach us how to love each oth - er, by that love our joy re - new.
Joy - ful mu - sic leads us on - ward in the tri - umph song of life.

**Indicates all who are able may stand*

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1907; alt.

Tune: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824;
adapt. Edward Hodges, 1842; alt.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Ashley J. Popperson

Let us be at peace among ourselves.

Let us urge on the idlers, and encourage the faint-hearted.

Let us help the weak, and be patient with all people.

See that no one repays evil for evil,

but always seek to do good to one another and to all.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances;

for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for all of us.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

WORDS OF WELCOME

ANTHEM

Jambo Kila Bwana Asifiwe

[Welcome everyone, sing!]

D. Farrell and
Shelley J. Smith

Unto the one above the skies,
lift up your voice, our songs arise.

He gives us life, he gives us peace,
and our songs will never cease.

Come and sing and clap your hands,
everyone, in every land.

ATTEND

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Kate M. Nintcheu

SCRIPTURE

1 Thessalonians 5

Julia M. (9 a.m.)
Madison T. Chau (11 a.m.)

*HYMN

Golden Breaks the Dawn

LE P'ING

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



Gold - en breaks the dawn; comes the east - ern sun
Ho - ly, liv - ing God, keep me safe to - day;
Give me dai - ly bread, while I do my part,



like a rid - er strong, set the course to run.
though I wea - ry plod, make me kind, I pray.
bright skies o - ver - head, glad - ness in my heart.



Birds a - bove me fly; flow - ers bloom be - low;
Let me guide our youth, hon - or weak and old;
Sim - ple wants pro - vide; e - vil let me shun,



through the earth and sky God's great mer - cies flow.
let me serve with truth, and God's love un - fold.
Je - sus at my side, till the day is done.

Text: Tzu-chen Chao, 1931; para. Frank W. Price, 1953
Tune: LE P'ING, Te-ngai Hu, 1934; arr. Bliss Wiant, 1934

SERMON

Endurance

John M. Edgerton

*HYMN

Guide My Feet

GUIDE MY FEET

Guide my feet while I run this race;
Hold my hand while I run this race;
Stand by me while I run this race;
I'm your child while I run this race;

guide my feet while I run this race;
hold my hand while I run this race;
stand by me while I run this race;
I'm your child while I run this race;

guide my feet while I run this race,
hold my hand while I run this race,
stand by me while I run this race,
I'm your child while I run this race,

for I don't want to run this race in vain!

Text: African American spiritual
Tune: GUIDE MY FEET, African American spiritual;
harm. Wendell P. Whalum, c. 1984

*CALL TO PRAYER

Rachel J. Barton

God be with you.

And also with you.

May the peace of Christ dwell in your hearts.

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

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.

ANTHEM

The Runner

Joshua Rist

The ground fits her foot perfectly as she runs,
each breath fits her lungs.
The earth pushes back with its slow spin.
While she crosses the golden field of barley,
it seems, to her, her body will burst into song.

RESPOND

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Ashley J. Popperson



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

In His Care-O

William Dawson, *arr.*

One day as I was a-walkin' down the lonesome road,
well the spirit spoke unto me and it filled my heart with joy!
I thank the Lord, I'm in his care-o.

Now, let me tell you now,
once I'm in his care — hallelujah, Lord! — a-in a-my Savior's care,
now, let me tell you now,
once I'm in his care — sing it over, Lord! — a-in a-my Savior's care,
Oh! Jesus got his arms all around me,
no evil thoughts can harm me,
for I am in his care-o.

I would not live a sinner, Lord, I'll tell the reason why:
well, I'm 'fraid my Lord might call me, and I wouldn't be ready to die.
I thank the Lord, I'm in his care-o.

Oh, well, Daniel, he was a good man, Lord, he prayed three times a day,
well the angels hist* their windows just to hear what Daniel had to say.
I thank the Lord, I'm in his care-o.

**raised*

BLESSING OF THE ATHLETES

GREETING AND INTRODUCTION

John M. Edgerton

PRAYER OF BLESSING

Strong and faithful God, we ask your blessing on these athletes
who have come to race and compete.
Keep them safe from injury and harm.
Instill in them respect for each other.
Give them the endurance to compete well.
Reward them for their discipline and perseverance.

**May you mount up with wings like eagles;
may you run and not grow weary;
may you walk and not faint. *Isaiah 40:31***

May God touch you with a wind that keeps you strong, for all the days to come.
God bless you. God be with you. Amen.

PROCESSION

Highland Cathedral
David Methven, *bagpipe*

Michael Korb
and Ulrich Roever

*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Fanfare

Alec Wyton



You may exit the Church at either the front or back of the Sanctuary.

Leading worship in the Chapel is Theologian in Residence Donald A. Wells.

Our processional banner bearers are Phil Dearing and Madison Chau (9am)
and Phil Stern and Abby Smith (11am).

The flowers today are given by Tom Ralston,
in remembrance of the tragic events of April 15th, 2013,
and with wishes for peace to all those affected by them—
which was Everyone!



INFORMATION ABOUT OLD SOUTH

Visit oldsouth.org/Sundays for all things Sunday;
oldsouth.org/Calendar for a calendar of events;
and the general website oldsouth.org for historical and other information
about this storied ship of faith!

CCLI #2802138 ❖ CCS #12028 ❖ OneLicense #A-700000

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

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

HOLY WEEK 2025

Palm Sunday — April 13 | 9AM & 11AM

Maundy Thursday — April 17 | 7PM

Good Friday — April 18 | 7PM

EASTER & MARATHON SUNDAY —

April 20th, 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.”

OLD SOUTH CHURCH *in* BOSTON — MINISTERS, OFFICERS, & STAFF

John M. Edgerton, *Senior Minister*

Ashley J. Popperson, *Associate Minister*

Rachel J. Barton, *Assistant Minister* & Nancy S. Taylor *Fellow*

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

David F. Story, *Wedding Minister* ❖ Kenneth H. Orth, *Healing Worship Minister*

Madison T. 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* ❖ Tim Clafin, *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, & George Sargeant, *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* ❖ 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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