



Old South Church

Copley Square, Boston

*A Congregation of the
United Church of Christ*

Gathered 1669

April 21, 2024 ❖ 11:00 a.m.

Care of Creation Sunday

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

GATHER

PRELUDE

Christ ist erstanden, BWV 627

J.S. Bach

*HYMN 556

God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens

HOLY MANNA

*CALL TO WORSHIP

John M. Edgerton

Loving Creator, bless these banners made by children and elders,
by the community of Old South Church.

Together, let us herald the day when water flows: abundant and pure.

Together, let us bring forth a new era of clean air, for all of God's creatures.

O God, kindle the hope that burns in us all,

O God, we commit to fight fossil fuels with faith,

Holy Creator, make us bold, faithful and strong

as we join you in healing the Earth, our sacred home.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Amen!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

**Indicates all who are able may stand*

WELCOME

ANTHEM

Peal Con Brio
THE OLD SOUTH RINGERS
Peter Coulombe, *director*

Karen Thompson

LISTEN

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kate M. Nintcheu

SCRIPTURE

Revelation 21:1-5

Cynthia Curtis

*HYMN 586

Come to Tend God's Garden

KING'S WESTON

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

SERMON

The Home of God is Among Mortals

Ashley J. Popperson

*HYMN 569

Touch the Earth Lightly

TENDERNESS

RESPOND

*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.

PRAYER RESPONSE All Things Bright and Beautiful Sondra Tucker, *arr.*
THE OLD SOUTH RINGERS

CALL TO THE OFFERING John M. Edgerton



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 Roll Down, Justice! Mark A. Miller

There's a voice strong and clear, ringing out far and near,
"Let justice roll down, let justice roll down!"
Like the rush of a stream, comes a powerful dream,
let justice roll down, justice rolls down!

Let the earth be restored, every soul be reformed;
let the healing renew, creation reborn.
Here in this sacred space with the strength of God's grace,
let justice roll down, justice rolls down!

Roll down! Roll down, justice! Roll like an ever flowing stream.

On this glorious day, give us courage, we pray,
 that justice rolls down, let justice roll down!
 Let the vision take flight and God will delight
 as the waters flow down, justice abounds!

Roll down! Roll down, justice! Roll like an ever flowing stream.

*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

*HYMN 563 **We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky** ENDLESS SONG

*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION Ashley J. Popperson

POSTLUDE Processional March, Op. 41, No. 5 Alexandre Guilmant



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

The flowers today are given by David Story
in appreciation of Elias Perez and our Sextons
who keep the building running 7 days a week.

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



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."

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**. For more information, contact Associate Minister Ashley Popperson at asbley@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 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.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



CARE OF CREATION SUNDAY

This Sunday is Care of Creation Sunday, a day for us to reflect on our role as stewards of the Earth. Join us at 9am and 11am for worship featuring a special blessing of our community art project - the colorful climate change banners we painted together. At 10am, join our Community Hour Forum to engage in discussions about personal sustainability practices and deepen our commitment to preserving our home.

THE COMMUNITY HOUR FORUM

Sundays, 10am, 2nd floor Mary Norton Hall,
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, congregation members, and special guests share in leading sessions.

The Logistics of Personal Climate Sustainability

Sunday, April 21

The Climate Task Force Steering Committee invites you to join a Community Hour Forum about what Old South members have done to make their lives more climate-friendly. The discussion can range anywhere from questions about solar panel installation, effectiveness of heat pumps in the Northeast, reducing plastic use, and individual impact on climate change. Members are encouraged to share experiences and tips on various sustainability efforts, from complex tasks like electric vehicle purchase to simpler actions like composting.

FAITH LEADERS FOR HOUSING JUSTICE COALITION MEETING

Wednesday, April 24, 4-5pm on Zoom, Go to tinyurl.com/AprilFLFHJMeeting to register

“After Mass and Cass: Discussing the Ongoing Challenges of Homelessness & Housing in Boston and Beyond.” It seems that we go from crisis to crisis when it comes to housing and homelessness in Boston and the greater Boston area. Join us via Zoom to learn about the current state of things and get connected with those who are engaged in serving affected communities and working to make a difference.

FAITH LEADERS FOR HOUSING JUSTICE STORY TELLING & STORY LISTENING FOR SOCIAL IMPACT AND CHANGE TRAINING

Friday, April 26, OR Saturday, April 27, 9am-4pm

Space is limited sign up now, go to tinyurl.com/AprilFLFHJStory to sign-up/select a date

A full day workshop to develop storytelling and story listening skills with Lani Peterson, Psy.D., psychologist and story coach. We will focus on the power of stories to change and heal, learn how to tell a personal story for impact, and most importantly, learn how to support others with lived experience to find and tell their stories in a safe way that leads to personal growth and social change.

LOVE IS IN BLOOM

Christina Gregg and Kevin Fitzgerald invite their Old South family to attend their wedding on Friday, April 26 and share in their special day. The ceremony will begin at 4pm in the sanctuary.

EXPERIENCE A RESTORATIVE JUSTICE CIRCLE

Monday, April 29, 2024, 6 to 7pm, followed by Q&A, registration at <https://bit.ly/MockCircle>

Contact Charlotte Simpson at char.r.simpson@gmail.com for more info



Circle Process can be used to build community and resolve conflicts in neighborhoods, schools, faith communities, and workplaces. The Peacemaking Circle creates a container strong enough to hold anger, fear, joy, and pain. **Mock Circle Scenario:** A church council has decided that the best way to balance the budget is to cut the music budget in half. How does the church move through the conflict that has become painful, build trust, and move forward in a positive direction? **Circle Keeper:** Rev. Mark Seifried - Haydenville Congregational church, MA

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMON CATHEDRAL LUNCH

*Sunday, May 19, 8:30am — 2:30 stay as long as you can
For more info or to commit to any part of the day,
email Carolyn Clark at carolyneclark@comcast.net*



The Christian Service and Outreach Committee is assembling a team of volunteers to help prepare lunches in the Old South Church kitchen and serve them to the common cathedral homeless congregation on the Boston Common. The prep work for making 120+ sandwich lunches will begin at 8:30am, transported to the Boston Common by 12:00 noon, and served to guests at 12:30pm. The outdoor Common Cathedral service begins at 1:00pm and lasts until around 2:30pm. See commoncathedral.org for more about this organization's important work. Common Cathedral is one of Old South's annual grantees.

DONATE FLOWERS FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP

Go to tinyurl.com/2024FlowersOSC to sign up for a Sunday, dates are filling quickly



Every week, the church has beautiful flowers in front of the pulpit. Would you like to give the flowers one Sunday - in memory or in honor of a special person or event? It is quite meaningful every Sunday to read the flower message. The price is \$100. Please send your message along with your payment. You can drop it off, send a check, or [click here](#) and make your gift online.

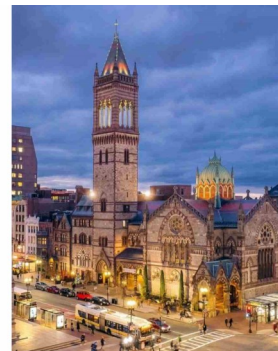
JOIN OUR USHER TEAM

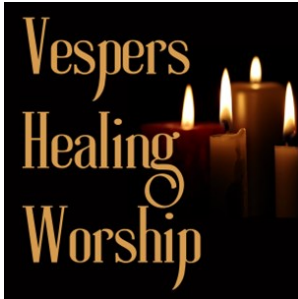
Go to oldsouth.org/hospitality to sign up

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. Email hospitality@oldsouth.org for info.

**become
an
usher
at
Old
South
Church**

help make our welcomes
wider and our doors more
open





VESPERS HEALING WORSHIP:

*Next service Sunday, May 12, 5 p.m. on Zoom,
tinyurl.com/OSCHealing 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.

TWILIGHT WORSHIP

REACH OUT YOUR HAND: BECOMING THE EARLY CHURCH

Thursdays, 6pm, in the Gordon Chapel

When Jesus appeared to his astounded disciples, he told Thomas to reach out his hand and touch his side. Join us in Eastertide for a series focused on folks who did just that: reached out their hands in faith to build something creative, diverse, and new together. We'll learn from Thomas, Phoebe, Lydia and other people and teams who reached out - to God, to others, and to the world - so that all might encounter the living God who is love. Email Rachel Barton with any questions.

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