

Old South Church *in* Boston ❖ July 13, 2025 ❖ 11:00 a.m.

## Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

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

### GATHER

PRELUDE                      Aria from the Concerto Grosso No. 12                      G. F. Händel

\*HYMN 12                      **I Sing the Mighty Power of God**                      ELLACOMBE

\*CALL TO WORSHIP *adapted from Henry Emerson Fosdick*                      Kate M. Nintcheu

O God, come to us, we pray thee  
with the resources of thy power,  
that we may be strong within.

**We ask not for easy lives,  
but for adequacy.**

We ask not to be freed from storms,  
but to build our house on rock that will not fall.

**We pray not for a smooth sea, but for a stout ship,  
a good compass, and a strong heart;**

In the name of him who faced enmity and death  
without flinching,


**Thy Son, Jesus Christ our Savior. 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*

## SUNG RESPONSE



Two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The first staff contains the lyrics "Come, bring your bur-dens to God; come, bring your bur-dens to God;" and the second staff contains "come, bring your bur-dens to God, for God will al-ways be there." The melody is simple and repetitive, using quarter and eighth notes.

Come, bring your bur-dens to God; come, bring your bur-dens to God;

come, bring your bur-dens to God, for God will al-ways be there.

Text: *South African; English trans. Barbara Clark, Mairi Munro, and Martine Stemerick, 2008*

Tune: WOZA NOMTHWALO WAKHO,  
*South African melody; arr. Welile Sigobi, 2008*

## WELCOME

### ANTHEM

Down by the Riverside

Lon Beery &  
Pamela Perc Lee, *arrs.*

Gonna lay down my sword and shield,  
down by the riverside,  
down by the riverside,  
down by the riverside;  
Gonna lay down my sword and shield,  
down by the riverside,  
and study war no more.

*I ain't gonna study war no more,  
I ain't gonna study war no more,  
I ain't gonna study war no more.*

Gonna join hands with everyone...

Gonna ring out a song of joy...

## ATTEND

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kate M. Nintcheu

SCRIPTURE

Luke 5:1-11

Jim O'Donnell

*Following the reading, children who wish to may meet childcare staff  
by the ushers and proceed to the 3rd floor.*

SERMON

Into the Deep

Ashley J. Popperson

\*HYMN 173

**Tú Has Venido a la Orilla**  
(You have Come Down to the Lakeshore)

PESCADOR DE HOMBRES

## RESPOND

\*CALL TO PRAYER

Donald A. Wells

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

May the Spirit of the Living God fall afresh on us.

**The Holy Spirit guides our way and ignites 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

For the trou - bles and the suf - ferings of the world,  
Lend an ear to the ris - ing cry for help

God, we call up - on your mer - cy: the whole cre - a - tion's  
from op - pressed and hope - less peo - ple: come, has - ten your sal -

la - bor - ing in pain! love! We pray for  
va - tion, heal - ing

peace, the bless - ed peace that comes from mak - ing jus - tice.

Un - til your King - dom come, have mer - cy on us, God.

Text: Rodolfo Gaede Neto, 1998; trans. Simeio Monteiro, et al., alt.  
Tune: PELAS DORES DESTE MUNDO, Rodolfo Gaede Neto, 1998

## CALL TO THE OFFERING

Donald A. Wells



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

Wade in the Water

Dan Davison, *arr.*

*Wade in the water,  
wade in the water, children.  
Wade in the water,  
God's a-gonna trouble the water.*

River Jordan is chilly and cold,  
chills the body but not the soul.  
If you get there before I do,  
tell all my friends I'm coming, too!

The devil is a liar and a cheater, too.  
You better watch out, 'cause he's coming for you!  
Well, if I could I surely would  
stand on the ground where Moses stood.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*HYMN 575

**O For a World**

AZMON

\*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

Ashley J. Popperson

## SUNG RESPONSE

*(Introduction)*

Go now in peace, ne-ver be a - fraid;  
God will go with you each hour of ev-'ry day. Go now in faith,  
stead-fast, strong and true, know God will guide you in all you  
do. A - men, a - men, a - men.

Text: Don Besig and Nancy Price, 1988  
Tune: Don Besig, 1988; adapt. Mitchell Crawford, 2022

## POSTLUDE

March from the "Occasional Oratorio"

G. F. Händel



Join us for Refreshments & Fellowship at Café Perez  
under the Portico following the Postlude.

The Flowers today are given in loving memory  
of David Scott Palmer by Diane Palmer.

Close-Up, a twenty minute tour of the Sanctuary,  
begins following Worship at the front of the Sanctuary.  
Led by docent Stephanie LaShoto-Westfield.



## **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.oldsouth.org/your-first-visit) or see the front desk.

## **LEARN MORE**

Check out the church website [www.oldsouth.org](http://www.oldsouth.org) for more on the history and ministries of Old South. See [www.oldsouth.org/calendar](http://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, *Associate Minister for Transformation*  
Kat Woodard, *Nancy S. Taylor Leadership 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*

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

Mitchell Crawford, *Minister of Music*  
Audrey Woodhams, *Creative Director for Thursday Night Church*  
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* ❖ Yuexuan Joyce Wang, *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* ❖ Ava Welling, *Director of Audio*  
Rémy Hatfield-Gardner & William Wei, *Livestream Production Assistants* ❖ Quinn Grant, *Communications Intern*

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* ❖ Donna Matson, *Treasurer*  
Debby Kuenstner, *Chair, Board of Trustees* ❖ Kate Silfen, *Historian*  
Rebecca Bowen & Laurie Stickels, *Senior Deacons*

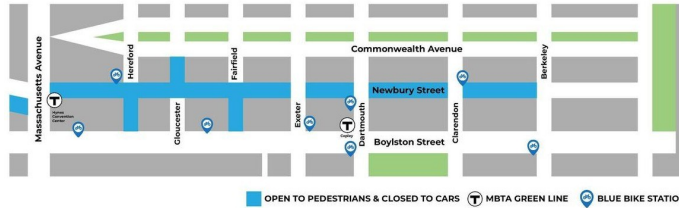
### A NOTE ON THE INCLUSIVE DIMENSIONS OF GOD'S GRACE

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.





# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## NEWBURY STREET CLOSED ON SUNDAYS

10am—8pm, through September 21, see above map to help you plan, [tinyurl.com/OpenNewbury2025](https://tinyurl.com/OpenNewbury2025) for more info

Whether you're shopping, dining out, or just going for a walk, pedestrian-only days on Newbury Street are a Boston summer staple. Newbury Street is a mile-long, eight block stretch of shops, salons, galleries and restaurants. This famous Boston street becomes a pedestrian-only walkway on Sundays in the summer. The street is closed to vehicles to allow pedestrians the opportunity to use the full width of the street, from Berkeley Street to Massachusetts Avenue.

## SPECIAL SANCTUARY TOUR

Sundays July 13 and August 24, 10am, meet Kathleen in the Sanctuary

Come explore Old South's sanctuary with member Kathleen Simone on this interactive tour. Learn about the history of the building's art and architecture (what does Gothic Revival mean, anyway?) and how to "read" historic spaces and art (did you know that stained glass artists were story tellers?).

## MONDAY NIGHT SMALL GROUP READS *THE BOOK OF JOY*

Meet in person one day only July 28, 7pm, Crawford Library

Join The Monday Night Small Group for a summer read of *The Book of Joy*. We will discuss the Book of Joy, with a subtitle of Lasting Happiness in a Changing World. It is a discussion with and between His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Emeritus of Southern Africa Desmond Tutu, with Douglas Abrams. These two incredible figures from very different worlds, share what they have learned and witnessed in their long lives. Every day is a new opportunity to begin again. Every day is your birthday. May this book be a blessing for all sentient beings, and for all of God's children—including you. This is written as a conversation and reads quickly. If you would like to join us, email Jennifer Keenan at

## UCC GENERAL SYNOD

Every two years, General Synod brings together faithful members of the United Church of Christ for worship, fellowship, public witness, and engaging with the business of the church. From July 11-15, thousands of UCCers from across the country are gathering for General Synod 35 in Kansas City, Missouri. Among them are members of Old South's clergy, lay leaders, and youth group. Please pray for them as they gather. For more information see [generalsynod.org/](https://generalsynod.org/)

## CHRISTIAN SERVICE AND OUTREACH

### **THE WEEKLY PUSHBACK - *Supporting Healthcare through Fenway Health***

Go to [www.fenwayhealth.org](http://www.fenwayhealth.org) to learn more about their mission, history, and services

Have other weekly action ideas? Email [outreach@oldsouth.org](mailto:outreach@oldsouth.org).

Bad news comes fast and furious these days--for trans folks, for immigrants, for the disabled. But all across the country, people of goodwill are pushing back. Every week, Old South's Christian Service and Outreach Committee will be giving to an organization or individual who is serving the gospel in a world of bad news. Fenway Health was a pioneer in providing testing and care for individuals facing HIV in the 1980s. To this day, they have been on the cutting edge of research and care for the LGBTQ community across the world. Unfortunately, they have been targeted as a result. They have lost over \$3M in federal funding since the beginning of the year and major research initiatives have had to close. As they grapple with challenges and next steps, Old South is donating \$1,000 in solidarity with their continued good work.

### **THEOLOGICAL BOOK GROUP SUMMER READ**

*There is no sign up! Just get a copy of Liz Walker's book*

*"No One Left Alone: A Story of How Community Helps Us Heal" and read.*

*In September, there will be a one time hybrid session (date TBD) for a discussion of the book.*

*Questions? Contact Don Wells [granwell@comcast.net](mailto:granwell@comcast.net).*

Old South's Theological Book Group is having a 'Summer Read', and it is open to all! The book: Liz Walker's *No One Left Alone: A Story of How Community Helps Us Heal*. Many will remember her as Boston's first woman and first Black news anchor. After 19 years in broadcasting she went to seminary and became a Presbyterian Minister. Her book is a story of helping her congregation develop 'soft spaces' for people to gather for prayer and a renewed sense of community. This was especially important for those who had experienced grief and loss within the Black community. As those spaces were created, she helps distinguish between just 'hearing' and really 'listening'. She invites her readers to consider where those 'soft spaces' are in the context of their own lives. It is a book worth reading!

### **GREEN TIPS: AVOIDING MICROPLASTICS - Choose Natural Fibers**

Indoor environments with heavy use of synthetic materials (like carpets, upholstered furniture, or window dressings) can have higher microplastic concentrations in their dust or surrounding air, leading to higher rates of exposure. Microfibers are constantly shed from synthetic clothing and textiles due to abrasion during wear and laundering. Alternatives for clothing and home textiles include cotton, linen, bamboo, silk, and wool; note that sometimes synthetic fibers are blended with natural fibers, so check tags carefully. Learn more at [tinyurl.com/nrdcmicroplasticthreat](http://tinyurl.com/nrdcmicroplasticthreat).

## **GOD'S BIG BOOK OF FAITH ZOOM BIBLE STUDY DELVES INTO THE LIVES OF THE PROPHETS**

*Study continues Wednesdays, 7pm, on Zoom,*

*Interested? Contact Rich Nelson at [richnelson28@gmail.com](mailto:richnelson28@gmail.com) for link*

Each week we take a look at one of the prophets (there are 16 of them) and focus on a substantial part of his (yeah, they were all guys) writings. Each study is complete so you can miss a week and not be lost when you return – plus there is a print version of all the studies to help you keep track. The sessions usually run an hour, give or take, depending on the conversation.

## **SUMMER CHOIR**

Contact Mitchell Crawford at [mitchell@oldsouth.org](mailto:mitchell@oldsouth.org) for more information

The Old South Summer Choir is a welcoming and encouraging community of those who love to sing. This ensemble is an integral part of Festival Worship from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day, gathering at 10am to prepare for the 11am service. Summer Choir is a great opportunity to check out our music ministry, share your love of singing, grow your musical abilities, or try something new. No experience or preparation is necessary. Feel free to join us as your Sunday schedule allows!

## **VESPERS HEALING WORSHIP:**

*Next service Sunday, July 13, 5 p.m. on Zoom, [tinyurl.com/OSCHealing](https://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.

## **THURSDAY NIGHT CHURCH AND SUPPER CLUB**

*Thursdays, 6pm Worship, 7pm Supper*

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. 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.

## **FIFTH THURSDAYS: A TNC OPEN MIC NIGHT**

*Thursday, July 31, 7pm, Gordon Chapel*

After Thursday Night Church, join us for our Open Mic Night. All are welcome to gather after worship for supper club and an informal sharing of poetry, music, story, and art hosted by our Creative Director, Audrey Woodhams. Contact Audrey at [audrey@oldsouth.org](mailto:audrey@oldsouth.org) to sign up, or just show up and there's a spot for you!

## SANCTUARY AUDIO SURVEY

Go to [tinyurl.com/sanctuaryaudiosurvey](https://tinyurl.com/sanctuaryaudiosurvey) to take part

Do you sometimes struggle to hear portions of our in-person worship service? With the help of our Director of Audio, Ava Welling, the Operations Committee is hoping to better understand what the barriers are for all of our congregation to be able to hear the entire worship service without issues. Please take a minute to fill out this survey so we can work on improving the overall audio experience of our worship services.

## VOLUNTEER TO READ SCRIPTURE

Go to [tinyurl.com/OSCScriptureSummer2025](https://tinyurl.com/OSCScriptureSummer2025) 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](mailto:ashley@oldsouth.org).

## JOIN OUR USHER TEAM

Go to [oldsouth.org/hospitality](https://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](mailto:hospitality@oldsouth.org) for info.

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## 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.

**VESPER HEALING Worship**, Second Sundays 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.



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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.

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Old South Church in Boston ❖ 645 Boylston Street, Boston 02116 ❖ [www.oldsouth.org](http://www.oldsouth.org)