

Old South Church *in* Boston ❖ Gathered 1669

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

August 10, 2025 ❖ 11:00 a.m.

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

GATHER

PRELUDE

The Swan
from Carnival of the Animals
Sam Ou, *cello*

Camille Saint-Saëns

*HYMN 407

How Firm a Foundation

FOUNDATION

*CALL TO WORSHIP

John M. Edgerton

O God, you summon the day to dawn,
You teach the morning to waken the Earth.
**For you the valleys shall sing for joy,
The trees of the field shall clap their hands.**
For you the mighty of the Earth shall bow,
The poor and the persecuted shout for joy.
**Your love and mercy shall last forever,
Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise.**
Great is your power, Holy One.
Greater still is your love. Amen.

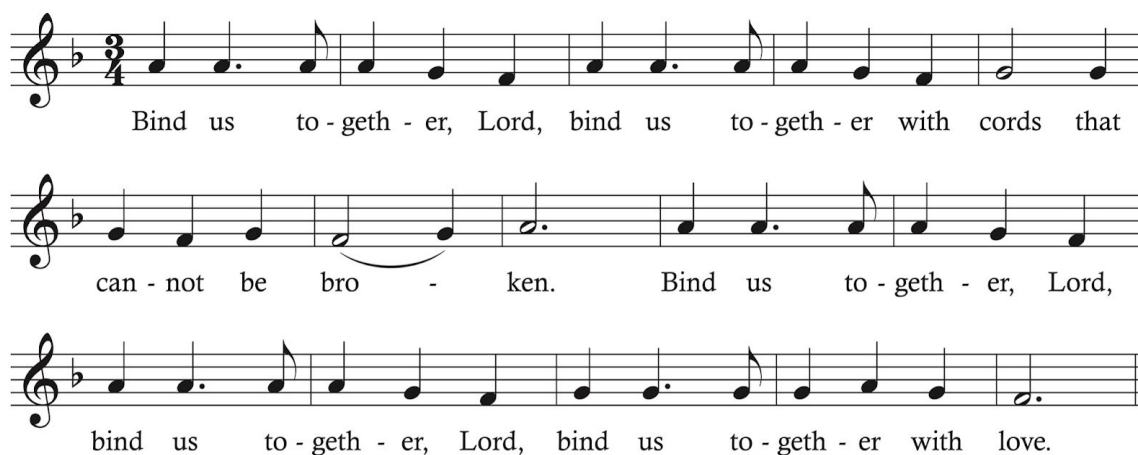
*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

**Indicates all who are able may stand*

SUNG RESPONSE

Congregation: [*refrain*]



Bind us to - geth - er, Lord, bind us to - geth - er with cords that
can - not be bro - ken. Bind us to - geth - er, Lord,
bind us to - geth - er, Lord, bind us to - geth - er with love.

Choir:

You are the family of God; you are the promise divine.
You are God's chosen desire; you are the glorious new wine. (*refrain*)

WELCOME

ANTHEM

Yet Not I, But Through Christ in Me

James Koerts, *arr.*

What gift of grace is Jesus, my Redeemer:
there is no more for heaven now to give.
He is my joy, my righteousness, and freedom,
my steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.

*To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus,
for my life is wholly bound to his.
Oh, how strange and divine, I can sing, "All is mine!"
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.*

The night is dark, but I am not forsaken,
for by my side, the Savior, he will stay.
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing,
for in my need, his power is displayed.

*To this I hold: my Shepherd will defend me.
Through the deepest valley, he will lead.
Oh, the night has been won, and I shall overcome!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.*

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven,
the future sure, the price, it has been paid.
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon,
and he was raised to overthrow the grave.

*To this I hold: my sin has been defeated.
Jesus, now and ever, is my plea.
Oh, the chains are released, I can sing, "I am free!"
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.*

With every breath, I long to follow Jesus,
for he has said that he will bring me home.
And day by day I know he will renew me
until I stand with joy before the throne.

*To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus.
All the glory evermore to him.
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat:
"Yet not I, but through Christ in me."*

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Nicholas Michael Matthews Popperson

Child of Ashley and Lindsay Popperson

Godchild of Katie Cole, Ben and Allison Bovell-Ammon

BLESSING THE WATER

John M. Edgerton

PRESENTATION AND INTRODUCTION

LITANY OF BAPTISM

We are gathered to present Nicholas Michael Matthews Popperson to the Church and to dedicate him to God. What can we affirm about him?

He is a child of God, made in God's image.

As Nicky grows and matures, how will he know he is a child of God and how will he learn of the Christian story?

We will tell him about Abraham and Sarah, the parents of our faith; about Moses and Miriam who led our ancestors out of bondage; about Mary and Joseph's openness to mystery; about the Savior, Jesus.

In turn, what will we expect of him?

We look forward to sitting with him at the Lord's Table, sharing with him the costs and joys of discipleship, learning and growing with him in the Christian pilgrimage, and declaring with one voice our faith in God and God's son, Jesus.

Do you, Lindsay and Ashley, parents, assume your primary responsibility for fulfilling these expectations by growing with Nicholas in the Christian faith, helping him to become a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, and by offering him the nurture and support of the Christian church? And will you, Katie, Allison, and Ben, godparents, agree to guide Nicholas into becoming an engaged and complete human being, teaching him about personal sacrifice for a greater good, about grace and reconciliation at times of human weakness, and the power of unconditional love for all people?

Parents/Godparents: We happily and genuinely accept this serious duty.

And Old South Church, do you pledge to maintain a nurturing and challenging Christian environment for Nicky?

We do, for he belongs to us as well.

Then, may God be with us.

God help us. Amen.

BAPTISM

CONGREGATIONAL WELCOME

Laurie Stickels, *Baptismal Deacon*

We rejoice in God's empowering love, freely given to each and all. We welcome you, newly baptized, into the circle of love in Christ's Church. We promise to pray for you, to seek the depths of faith with you, to support you, and to love you. We covenant with you to love God with all our hearts, minds, souls, and strength, and our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.

ATTEND

SCRIPTURE

Luke 12:32-34

Ashton Gregor

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

SERMON

From Everlasting to Everlasting

Ashley J. Popperson

*HYMN 286

Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

SPIRIT, *irr.*

RESPOND

*CALL TO PRAYER

Rachel J. Barton

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

Dream on, dream on, chil - dren of peace,
till on earth God's king - dom come.
Strife and sor - row shall not stop you;
pain and tears shall lose their pow'r.
E - ven when we fall or stum-ble, Gra - cious God re - news our strength:
we will run and not grow wea - ry,
led by jus - tice, hope, and love.

Text: Hae Jong Kim, 1992, alt.
Tune: DREAM ON, Sunkyoung Lee, 2001, alt.

CALL TO THE OFFERING

John M. Edgerton



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

A Joyful Song to the Lord

Patti Drennan, *arr.*

Let every creature great and small proclaim God's holy name,
the mountains sing and the rocks cry out a jubilant refrain.

*Sing to the Lord, sing to the Lord,
all of creation join and sing to the Lord.*

In joyful song, let the chorus sound, creation's anthem raise:
the melody of the universe rings out in glorious praise.

O sing the mighty power of God that fills the earth and skies;
with heart and soul lift up your voice and let your praise arise!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN 43

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

BEECHER

*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

Processional March in A Major

Alexandre Guilmant



Join us for Refreshments & Fellowship At Café Perez outside following the Postlude.

The Flowers today are given in gratitude to Grace Rousseau,
who has given generously of her time and spirit to our community.

We are grateful for you, Grace!
by the Old South Church and the Admin Team

Close-Up, a twenty minute tour of the Sanctuary,
begins following Worship at the back of the Sanctuary. Led by docent George Delianides.

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.

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.

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 or see the front desk.

LEARN MORE

Check out the church website www.oldsouth.org for more on the history and ministries of Old South. See 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

VESPERS HEALING WORSHIP:

Sunday, August 10, 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.

RETIRED AND READY OUTING TO THE OTIS HOUSE

Friday, August 22, 11:00am, Otis House, 141 Cambridge Street, Boston

Go to tinyurl.com/OSCRnRtripOtisHouse to purchase tickets,

Be sure to pick the correct date and time slot!

Questions/let us know you are coming contact Dotty Hayes at dotty.hayes94022@gmail.com

We will plan to meet for a 45-minute guided tour of the house followed by lunch at Boston Public Market, 100 Hanover Street near the Orange Line and Green Line Haymarket T stops. Tickets should be purchased in advance as capacity is limited. The Otis House is a registered national historic landmark, designed by Charles Bulfinch, and is the last surviving mansion in Bowdoin Square in Boston's West End neighborhood.

SPECIAL SANCTUARY TOUR

Sunday, August 24, Meet Kathleen Simone in the Sanctuary at 10am

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?).

GBIO MAYORAL CANDIDATE ACTION

Tuesday, September 2, 7pm, Bethel AME, 100 Wachusett Street, Jamaica Plain

Register at tinyurl.com/GBIOMayoral2025

Join Greater Boston Interfaith Organization members from around the city for an engaging opportunity to hear the mayoral candidates discuss critical issues facing Boston residents. Register here: 2025.09.02 Boston Mayoral Action.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE AND OUTREACH

THE WEEKLY PUSHBACK - Supporting the Marcus Anthony Institute

Go to www.maheii.org to learn more about their mission

Have other weekly action ideas? Email 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. With cutbacks to youth job training programs and federal grant funding for low-income schools, it has never been more important to support our community nonprofits in the Boston area. The Marcus Anthony Hall Educational Institute provides job training, mentorship, and community connection. Old South is donating \$1,000 to support the stipend for two students in their summer cohort.

BOSTON PUBLIC ART TRIENNIAL

Learn more about the artist at www.thetriennial.org/patrick-martinez

Old South Church joins 15 other buildings in Boston displaying bold neon-light art pieces. Created by Patrick Martinez, the bright signs and provocative texts are meant to encourage passersby to stop and take notice of stories and lives that tend to remain in the shadows. The "No one deserves to be unhoused" sign hangs in our porte cochère until the end of October.

TEACHERS SOUGHT

Our Church School classes are looking for some new teachers! We need a few more volunteers, could that be you? We try to form teams of 3 or 4 people who teach an average of 2 times a month. We have several openings, most require some preparation and training. All require submitting to a background check. Does this sound interesting? Let Kate at children@oldsouth.org know, we'd love to see if this is the right fit for you!

THIS MUST BE CHURCH: A GENERAL SYNOD BLOG

From member William Wei, read the whole blog at oldsouth.org/must-be-church

"In peace, in force, in love, in anger, in fear, in faith, here we are, people from different towns all over the US gathering in one place to listen, to learn, to reflect, to pray, to plan, to decide: what is the next step for us to take to follow Christ? What kind of future are we creating? Who are the people we are becoming? ...Truly, expensively, heavily, yet gracefully, we weave our lives into this one body of Christ, the United Church of Christ, and I know I am where I belong."

SAVE THE DATE

MIDDLE PASSAGE SUNDAY

Sunday, August 24 at Festival Worship

Gathered in 1669, Old South Church in Boston continues to research, name and account for a history which includes radical abolitionists and the first anti-slavery tract on this soil (1700) AND many early ministers and members who were enslavers, who benefited from the forced enslavement and unpaid work of countless persons of African descent. We will honor the lives of our African members from the 1600s, 1700s, and early 1800s on Middle Passage Sunday.

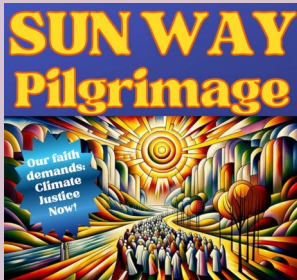
WELCOME BACK SUNDAY WORSHIP & BRUNCH

Sunday, September 7

Join us as we kick off the program year and welcome back both familiar faces and those new to church. First and Festival Worship will feature the Blessing of the Backpacks. If you are or have a student in your life, be sure to bring a backpack. Between the services at 10a.m., we'll share a Potluck Brunch in Mary Norton Hall. Sign up to bring an item at tinyurl.com/2025OSCWelcomeBack. Following Festival Worship, we'll keep the party going with popsicles on the portico. Join us for a day of joy and community!

SUN WAY PILGRIMAGE

Sunday, September 21, 1:00pm



Save the Date for the Sun Way pilgrimage from Old South to the Boston Common on. Please plan to join Boston Interfaith Climate Allies (BICA), including the Old South Climate Crisis Task Force, as we "pray with our feet" for climate justice. This public, prayerful, and joyful procession is a part of the wider international action that celebrates solar and wind power and the movement to free our world of fossil fuels. More info to come.

OLD SOUTH'S ALL-CHURCH RETREAT RETURNS TO CRAIGVILLE!

*Friday September 26 - Sunday September 28,
Registration coming in August!*



HEARING ASSIST DEVICES

Hearing assist devices are available from Ava Welling, our Director of Audio. Please see Ava for a device and instructions on how to use it. For more information or answers to questions, please contact Ava at ava@oldsouth.org.

SANCTUARY AUDIO SURVEY

Go to 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.

GREEN TIPS: Don't Pour Cooking Oil Down the Drain

Pouring leftover cooking oil down the sink creates serious problems for your home and the environment. As the oil cools, it makes "fatbergs" that stick to your pipes and leads to costly blockages in the sewer system. Those plugs cause the system to overflow, releasing hazardous chemicals and waste into waterways. If you have a septic tank, pouring oil down the drain is even riskier. Grease buildup changes the tank's chemistry and stops helpful bacteria from breaking down waste. Instead, collect used cooking oil in a sealed container and take it to a local recycling center or hazardous waste facility. . Learn more at tinyurl.com/BadHouseholdHabits.

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.

VESPERS 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.



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