

Old South Church *in Boston* ❖ August 24, 2025 ❖ 11:00 a.m.

## Middle Passage Sunday

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

### GATHER

PRELUDE

Andante in D Major

Florence Price

\*HYMN 572

**When Israel Was in Egypt's Land**

GO DOWN, MOSES

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Ashley J. Popperson

In the days of King Herod's sons;

**In the days of client kings who traded money for power;**

In the days of Pontius Pilate the governor, who ruled by fear;

**In those days, John the Baptist appeared**

**in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming:**

“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.

**“Turn around, a better way is before you!**

“Do better, so the beloved community may come to be.

**“Take heart, a place where all can live is not far off,**

“For there is one who is coming;

**This is the one the prophet Isaiah spoke of and said:**

“‘The voice of one crying out: Prepare the way of the Lord,

**“Make the pathways straight:**

**“Build a highway for our God in the wild places of imagination.”**

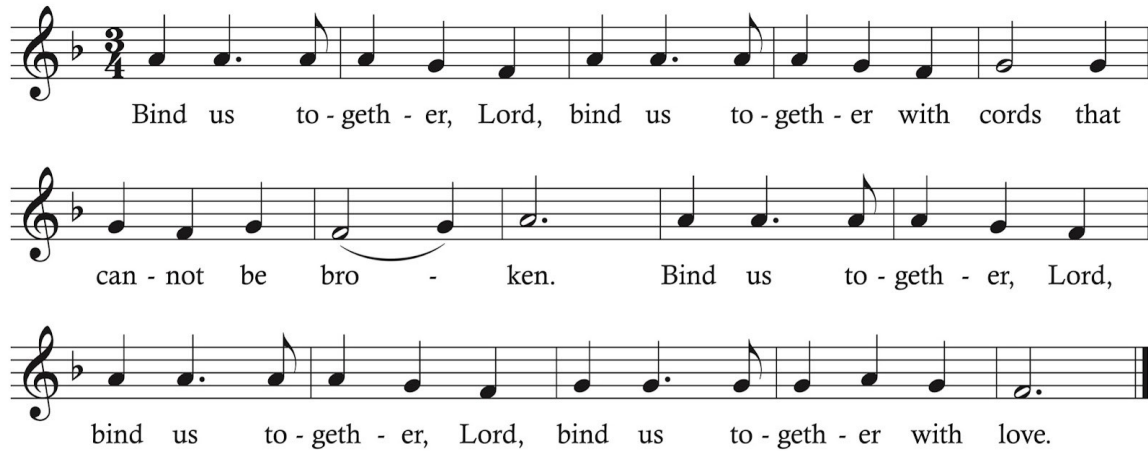
\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

*\*Indicates all who are able may stand*

SUNG RESPONSE

**Bind Us Together**  
**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

Unity

Daniel M. Cason II, *arr.*

Behold, how good and pleasant it is  
for people to dwell together in unity.

Unity, unity; Lord, we pray for unity.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kate M. Nintcheu

## ATTEND

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 1:1-14

David Story

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

SERMON

But When Is It Simple?

John M. Edgerton

\*HYMN 163

**Many Are the Lightbeams**

LIGHTBEAMS

## CEREMONY OF REMEMBRANCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON     Ashley J. Popperson  
**Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image, through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.** *from the PCUSA Book of Worship*

READING THE NAMES

David O'Malley, Deborah Weiss, Kate Silfen, Janice Cooper,  
June R. Cooper, Caitlin Minnich, Anne Scholder  
MEMBERS OF (G)RACE SPEAKS

*Silence is kept.*

MEMORIAL PRAYER

John M. Edgerton

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.**

# SUNG RESPONSE

## Goodness Is Stronger Than Evil

Good-ness is strong-er than e - vil; love is strong-er than hate;  
 light is strong-er than dark - ness; life is strong-er than death.  
 Vic-tory is ours; vic-tory is ours, through God who loves us. us.

Text: Desmond Tutu, c. 1994

Music: GOODNESS IS STRONGER, John L. Bell, 1996

## RESPOND

### CALL TO THE OFFERING

Ashley J. Popperson



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

City Called Heaven

Josephine Poelinitz, *arr.*

I am a pilgrim, a pilgrim of sorrow,  
 I'm left in this wide world, this wide world alone!  
 Ain't got no hope, got no hope for tomorrow  
 trying to make it, make heaven my home.

Sometimes I'm tossed and I'm driven, Lord.  
 Sometimes I just don't know which way to turn—  
 Oh, I heard of a city, a city called heaven  
 trying to make it, make heaven my home.

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*HYMN 75

**Lord, Make Me More Holy**

Trad. Spiritual

\*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

John M. Edgerton

SUNG RESPONSE

**Go Now in Peace**

*(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

III. [Allegro] from “Three Dances”

Florence Price



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

*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**

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](mailto:ava@oldsouth.org).

### **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*  
Rory Razon, *Youth Group Co-Leader*

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

## MIDDLE PASSAGE SUNDAY

*This 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.

## SPECIAL SANCTUARY TOUR

*This 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](https://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.

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

*Friday September 26 - Sunday September 28,*

*register at [tinyurl.com/retreatOSC2025](https://tinyurl.com/retreatOSC2025)*

How do we build belonging? Through a blend of shared wisdom, intentional conversations, and meaningful practices, we'll explore what it looks like to nurture genuine connection & community. We'll have a rich time of learning, sharing stories, and weaving a web of relationships and trust that can hold us all together. Led by Eugene Kim, an ordained minister and founder of the New Wine Collective—a church innovation lab seeking to rethink church from the ground up.



### **REV. ERIC MOELLER ALL-IN CONCERT**

*Tuesday, September 2, 7pm, Mary Norton Hall, more at [facebook.com/theallinmusicproject](https://facebook.com/theallinmusicproject)*

Join Rev. Eric Moeller for a free, family friendly show for such a time as this. Eric will be sharing songs of righteous rage, defiant hope, and communal joy to help fuel the movement for justice and peace. Come fill your tank for the days ahead.

### **WELCOME BACK SUNDAY WORSHIP & BRUNCH**

*Sunday, September 7th, all morning long!*

Join us as we kick off the program year and welcome back both familiar faces and those new to church. You're welcome to any and all of these events! Join us for a day of joy and community!

- **Blessing of the Backpacks:** 9am First and 11am 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.
- **Potluck Welcome Back Brunch:** Between the services at 10a.m., we'll share a meal in Mary Norton Hall. Sign up to bring an item at [tinyurl.com/2025OSCWelcomeBack](https://tinyurl.com/2025OSCWelcomeBack).
- **Popsicles on the Portico:** Following Festival Worship, we'll keep the party going with popsicles on the portico.

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

*Monday, September 8, 6pm. via Zoom, limited to 20 participants,*

*sign up through Don Wells at [granwell@comcast.net](mailto:granwell@comcast.net) for the zoom code.*

The Theological Book Group's 'Summer Read' will discuss Liz Walker's book: 'No One Left Alone', A Story of How Community Helps Us Heal'. This one time discussion of her powerful book on healing in the midst of trauma, and the role of the church in facilitating that healing. This group is only for those who have read the book.

### **HOLDING UP THE SKY—BOSTON PREMIERE AND Q&A**

*Tuesday, September 10, 6:30pm. Somerville Theatre, 55 Davis Square, Somerville*

*Reserve your seat ASAP [tinyurl.com/HoldingUpRSVP](https://tinyurl.com/HoldingUpRSVP), tickets available soon at theater box office*

*More info at [holdinguptheskyproject.org/](https://holdinguptheskyproject.org/)*

Last winter in The Forum we screened an early release of Bob Nesson's documentary Holding Up The Sky, a film that explores themes of penal justice, juvenile sentencing reform, and the transformative role of education, mentorship, and opportunity. The Old South Church community is now invited to the official premiere on September 10th at the Somerville Theater. The screening will be followed by an intimate Q&A with Nesson, Jordan, and Costello, offering audiences a rare opportunity to engage directly with the individuals behind the story.

## **SUN WAY PILGRIMAGE**

*Sunday, September 21, 1:00pm*

Save the Date for the Sun Way pilgrimage from Old South to the Boston Common. 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 processional is a part of the wider international action that celebrates solar and wind power and the movement to free our world of fossil fuels.

And BICA and the Old South Climate Task Force need your help! There will be poster painting on August 31 at the Cathedral Church of St Paul, 138 Tremont St. at 12 pm. No special artistic skills required. There will be a need on Sept. 21 for setting up at the Boston Common and cleaning up after the event (about 2:30 pm). And we may also need some folks who can be marshals along the route from Old South to the Boston Common. If you can help in any way, please contact Rich Hassinger [richhassinger@verizon.net](mailto:richhassinger@verizon.net).

## **DONATIONS FOR BOSTON HEALTHCARE FOR THE HOMELESS**

*Find the wishlist at [tinyurl.com/HealthCareWishList2025](https://tinyurl.com/HealthCareWishList2025)*

The Family Team at Boston Health Care for the Homeless is collecting much-needed items for their patients through an Amazon Wish List. The list includes everyday essentials and other supplies that often run low at the clinic. You can either choose items directly from the list or contribute to an e-gift card fund—everything will be shipped straight to the clinic at checkout.

## **THROUGH THE BIBLE**

*Thursdays, 7pm, on Zoom at [tinyurl.com/OSCThroughtheBible](https://tinyurl.com/OSCThroughtheBible) password psalter*

Through the Bible meets weekly for a slow & steady study of scripture from Genesis all the way through to Revelation. This Fall, we start the New Testament and it's a great time to join! If you are interested in building a community with folks from all over the US and taking a closer look at the Bible, join us!

## **GREEN TIP: DON'T FLUSH UNUSED MEDICATION**

Flushing old medications or disposing of them in the trash may seem convenient, but it can contaminate water supplies and disrupt aquatic ecosystems. Instead of letting unused pills or liquids harm the environment, please return them to a pharmacy take-back program. There are also MedReturn Drug Collection Kiosks at all District Stations of the Boston Police Department. You can dispose of your medications safely, confidentially, and for free. The kiosks are open to all residents, 24 hours a day, seven days a week — no questions asked. Learn more at [tinyurl.com/BadHouseholdHabits](https://tinyurl.com/BadHouseholdHabits).

## CHRISTIAN SERVICE AND OUTREACH

### THE WEEKLY PUSHBACK - Supporting Capuchin Mobile Ministries

*Learn more at [www.capuchin.org/ministries/mobile-ministries](http://www.capuchin.org/ministries/mobile-ministries)*

*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. With reductions in support for programs that help those who are poor and homeless, Capuchin Mobile Ministries continues its work on the streets of greater Boston providing comfort, prayer and companionship. Capuchin Mobile Ministries brings the welcome of Christ to people living on the streets in Boston and Cambridge, Mass. They provide spiritual care to everyone experiencing homelessness, poverty, and loneliness. They share food and drink and other emergency supplies. They offer spiritual resources, pray together, and direct people to social services. Old South is donating \$1,000 this week to support their work.

### 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](mailto:ava@oldsouth.org).

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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)