



Old South Church

Copley Square, Boston

*A Congregation of the
United Church of Christ*

Gathered 1669

August 31, 2025 ❖ 11:00 a.m.

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

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

GATHER

PRELUDE

His Eye Is On The Sparrow

Cindy Berry, *arr.*

*HYMN 67

Let Me Enter God's Own Dwelling

UNSER HERRSCHER

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rachel J. Barton

Greet the morning with song! Welcome the new day with open arms!

Fling wide the doors of your hearts:

Look into your neighbors' eyes and find Christ therein.

Fling wide the doors of your minds:

For faith is found not in answers, but questions.

Fling wide the doors of God's house:

Here, there is a place for each and every one of God's children.

Here, God has prepared a place for you, for me, for all of us.

Let us praise the God who welcomes all.

Let us praise the God who opens doors. Alleluia! Amen.

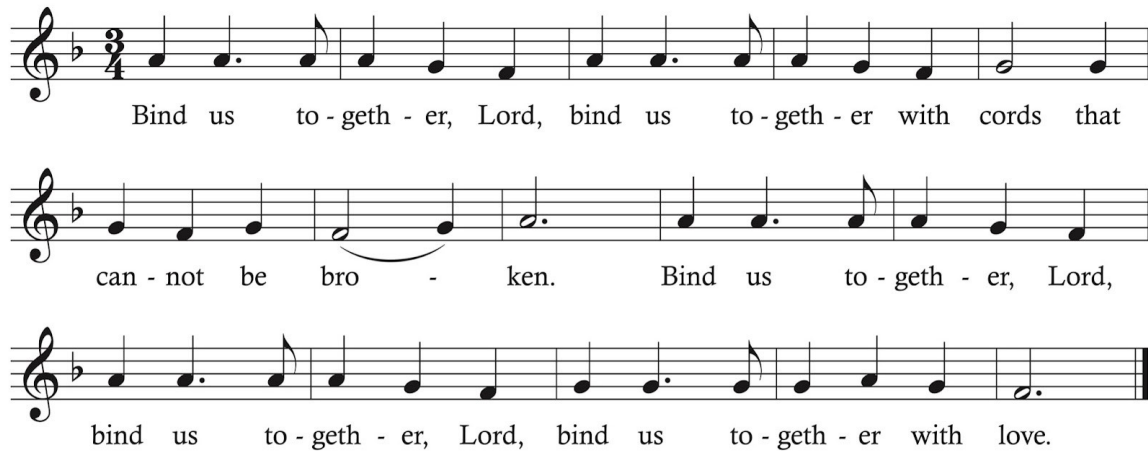
*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

**Indicates all who are able may stand*

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

Who Will Be a Witness?

Donald Moore, arr.

Who will be a witness, O my Lord?
Who will be a witness, O my Lord?
Who'll be there beside me?
Who'll be there to guide me?
Who'll be a witness, O my Lord?

I'm going to heaven, want to do it right;
I'm going to heaven, I'll be dressed in white.
Who'll be there to meet me?
Who'll be there to greet me?
Who will be a witness, O my Lord?

Don't want to stumble, don't want to fall;
I'm going to heaven when the roll is called.
Heaven bells are ringing,
saints are all a-singing.
Who will be a witness, O my Lord?

ATTEND

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kate M. Nintcheu

SCRIPTURE

Luke 14:1, 7-14

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

SERMON

Open Wide the Doors

Ashley J. Popperson

*HYMN 581

Lead Us from Death to Life

WORLD PEACE PRAYER

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, 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

Rachel J. Barton



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

Gathered As One

Deanna R. Light & Paul A. Tate

Many faces, the young and the old—
gathered as one in our God!
Throughout history the story's retold—
gathered as one in our God!

Many pilgrims, sharing at feast—
gathered as one in our God!
All are welcome: the greatest and least,
gathered as one in our God!

Like those come before us,
we listen and learn;
we remember the promise
and await your return.
So without hesitation, a new generation
proclaims the salvation of God!

Like those come before us...

Many voices, raised up in song—
gathered as one in our God!
In one family where all can belong—
gathered as one in our God!

Gathered as one in Jesus your Son,
lifting our voices in praise,
we know and believe and long to receive
the bread that is strength for our days,
Gathered as one!

Like those come before us...

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN 573

Lead On, Eternal Sovereign

LANCASHIRE

*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

To God Be The Glory

Cindy Berry, *arr.*



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

The flowers today are given by Elizabeth and Betty Pitcher
in loving memory of those who have gone before.

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

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

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.

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*
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*
Elias Perez, *Senior Sexton* ❖ Rahlek Givan, 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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy birthday to our members and friends with August birthdays! Join us at coffee hour after Festival Worship to celebrate with some cake!

PRAYERS FOR LIBERTY LABOR DAY WALK

Monday, September 1, 2025, 9:00am to 5:00pm, Hancock Church near Lexington Battle Green

More info, detailed schedule and registration at www.prayersforliberty.org/labor-day-walk

Join religious leaders in Massachusetts as we call for our President to obey the law and to respect the decisions of our courts and the rights of all American residents. You may join for all or part of the walk, which will begin outside Hancock Church, across from the Lexington Battle Green, and end at the statue of The Embrace in Boston Common. All are welcome to walk all or part of the route from Lexington to Boston Common, or to participate in one of our interfaith prayer services along the way.

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.

REV. ERIC MOELLER ALL-IN CONCERT

Tuesday, September 2, 7pm, Mary Norton Hall, 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.

COMMUNITY RESISTANCE & NONCOOPERATION TRAINING

Saturday, September 13, 2025, 10am-3pm, Cathedral Church of St. Paul, 138 Tremont St.

The event will fill quickly, RSVP ASAP www.episcopalcitymission.org/upcoming-events

The Massachusetts Council of Churches and Episcopal City Mission invite you to the MA Faith Community Resistance & Noncooperation Training. This in-person gathering will equip faith leaders and community members with tools for nonviolent resistance, faithful noncooperation, and solidarity in times of crisis. Lunch will be provided.

FINAL CALL FOR 'SUMMER READ'!

If you have read Liz Walker's book, No One Left Alone, over the summer, then join with us for this one session discussion on Monday evening, September 8th, at 6 p.m. via zoom. Let Don Wells know to receive the zoom code. (granwell@comcast.net).

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.
- **Popsicles on the Portico:** Following Festival Worship, we'll keep the party going with popsicles on the portico.

SEEKING ALLSTON BRIGHTON FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS

To get involved, contact Esther Seguin at ejohannaseguin@gmail.com by September 5

Let's put our faith into action! Join your fellow Old Southerners in serving the food insecure at the Allston Brighton Food Pantry. We plan to commit to a regular schedule of 2-hour shifts, 2 to 4 times per month. We will help people select shelf-stable goods, serve prepared food, help with breakdown and cleanup, and together discover other ways we can help the Allston Brighton Food Pantry bring nourishment and joy to the community.

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, tickets available soon at theater box office

More info at 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.

VESPERS HEALING WORSHIP:

Sunday, September 14, 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.

HEARD IT AT COUNCIL

Read the whole blog at oldsouth.org/news/heard-it-council-august-2025

Church Historian, Kate Silfen, shares highlights of this month's Council meeting including Old South's committee structure, our staffing model, and ways to advance our commitment to become an anti-racist church.

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.

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

Friday September 26 - Sunday September 28,

register at 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.

DONATIONS FOR BOSTON HEALTHCARE FOR THE HOMELESS

Find the wishlist at 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.

GREEN TIP: Compost Food Scraps

When you toss food scraps in the trash, you waste it and contribute to a major environmental problem. Approximately 30% to 40% of the U.S. food supply is wasted, along with the water, energy, and resources used to produce it. You can make an impact by composting your food scraps at home or using a community composting program. Keeping valuable nutrients out of landfills reduces harmful emissions and helps create healthy soil. Learn more at tinyurl.com/BadHouseholdHabits.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE AND OUTREACH

THE WEEKLY PUSHBACK - Federal Employee Defense Fund

Learn more about their mission at actionnetwork.org/fundraising/donate-afge

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. As we celebrate labor day this weekend and the importance that unions have played in supporting worker's rights across the country, one critical fight is with our federal government. The American Federation of Government Employees and the Partnership for Public Service have been on the front lines, pushing back against the dismantling of our federal civil service and providing resources to support laid off federal employees. Old South is proud to donate \$1,000 to their federal employee defense fund to support those who have been wrongfully terminated..

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.

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