



Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

PRELUDE

Dale Wood, arr.

Ashley J. Popperson

**The human mind may devise many plans,
but it is the purpose of the Lord that will be established.**

**The fear of the Lord is life indeed;
filled with it one rests secure
and suffers no harm.**

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

CORONATION

*INVOCATION

**Indicates all who are able may stand*

***PASSING THE PEACE**

*As a sign of our reconciliation with God and each other,
please greet those around you, saying "peace" or "the peace of Christ."*

SUNG RESPONSE

Please be seated for the Sung Response.

Soloist:

Gathered in God's name, 'round the living Word.
Gathered as one family in the name of love.

Congregation:

Gath-ered from near and far, gath-ered in this ho-ly place,
gath-ered as stran-gers and friends, gath-ered and gift-ed by grace.
Gath - ered in God's name, 'round the liv - ing Word.
Gath - ered as one fam-'ly in the name of love,
slowing
in the name of love, in the name of love.

Text and Music: Michael Burkhardt, 2021

WELCOME

ANTHEM

Hold Out Your Light

Rollo Dilworth, *arr.*

Hold out your light, children.
Hold out your light for the world.

*Hold out your light, you heaven bound soldier.
Let your light shine around the world.*

Oh my brother, won't you hold out your light?
Oh my sister, won't you hold out your light?
Oh my children, won't you hold out your light?
Let your light shine around the world.

Oh my leader, won't you hold out your light?
Oh my teacher, won't you hold out your light?
Oh my neighbor, won't you hold out your light?
Let your light shine around the world.

LISTEN

SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 9:1-12

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kate M. Nintcheu

*HYMN 604

**Hush, Hush,
Somebody's Calling My Name**

AFRICAN AMERICAN SPIRITUAL

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

SCRIPTURE

Philippians 4

SERMON

John M. Edgerton

*HYMN 609

Now is the Time Approaching

WEBB

*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

Be Blessed

Kurt Carr

OLD SOUTH CHURCH GOSPEL CHOIR

Tim Harbold, *director*

Be blessed my brother, be blessed my sister,
be blessed wherever this life leads you.

*Let me encourage you, let me speak life to you.
You can depend on God to see you through,
you can depend on me to pray for you.*

You might be hurting, you might be crying,
you might be worrying and frustrated, too.

Let me encourage you, let me speak life to you...

Pray, I'm gonna keep on praying.
Pray, I'm gonna keep on praying for you.
You can depend on God to see you through,
you can depend on me to pray for you.

I see you in the future, and you look better.

I see you walking in favor and prosperity, too.

Let me encourage you, let me speak life to you...

I pray for you, you pray for me,
and watch God change things.

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

Order My Steps

Glenn Burleigh

COMBINED GOSPEL AND FESTIVAL CHOIRS
Ida Kamrara & Geoff O'Hara, *soloists*

*Order my steps in your word, dear Lord.
Lead me, guide me, every day.
Send your anointing spirit, I pray.
Order my steps in your word.*

Humbly I ask you, teach me your will;
while you are working, help me be still.
Though Satan is busy, God is real:
order my steps in your word.

Bridle my tongue, let my words edify,
let the words of my mouth be acceptable in thy sight.
Take charge of my thoughts, both day and night:
order my steps in your word.

I want to walk worthy, my calling to fulfill—
please order my steps, Lord, and I'll do your blessed will.
The world is ever changing, but you are still the same;
if you order my steps, I'll praise your name.

Order my steps in your word. Order my tongue in your word.
Guide my feet in your word. Wash my heart in your word.
Show me how to walk in your word. Show me how to talk in your word.
When I need a brand new song to sing, show me how to let your praises ring.
In your word, in your word. Please order my steps in Your word.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN 3

Wakantanka Taku Nitawa
(Many and Great, O God, Are Your Works)

LACQUIPARLE

*BENEDICTION

John M. Edgerton

POSTLUDE

Fanfare

William Mathias



Today's Musicians:
Roberto Alaniz, *bass* & Aaron Trant, *percussion*

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

The flowers today are given by Margaret Wheeler
in honor of her wonderful son, Deven,
who was baptized at Old South by Quinn Caldwell years ago.

Close-Up, a twenty minute tour of the Sanctuary,
begins immediately following worship at the pulpit.
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 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, *Taylor Resident for Mission in the City* ❖ Justin Dickerson, *Seminarian*

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*
Jonathan Reddix, *Collaborative Pianist* ❖ Jan Christoph Hadenfeldt, *Visiting Organist*
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* ❖ Tahmina Akter, Ozo Nwodo, Richard Serebour, & M.D. Rahman, *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.



OLD
SOUTH
CHURCH
in BOSTON

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE OLD SOUTH COMMUNITY HOUR FORUM

Sundays, 10am, Mary Norton Hall

- **Homelessness 101: Beyond the Label** | *October 19*
- **Homelessness 202: Humanizing Homelessness** | *October 26*
How does our faith guide us to respond to homelessness? Join Rev. June Cooper and invited guests to learn about Boston's homelessness situation, sharing valuable information, challenging stereotypes, and fostering empathy. In what ways can we respond to Boston's homeless community with dignity and compassion? Join us for both or either session! Questions: email Paul Brouillette at brouillettepaul@gmail.com.
- **Youth Group Pancake Breakfast** | *November 2*
Join the Youth Group as they serve a delicious breakfast to raise funds and supplies for the Allston-Brighton Community Fridge
- ***The Business of Incarceration*** | *November 9*
Jimmy McCarty shares about his book, *The Business of Incarceration* and to gauge for congregational interest in going deeper on the prison industrial complex.
- **This Historic Building Celebrating the architecture of our building** | *November 16*
In anticipation of 150 years at our Boylston St. location, Kate Silfen shares some of the exciting history of this church building that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

NEW AROUND HERE?

October 19 and every 3rd Sunday in Rev. Ashley's office, meet in Elevator Lobby at 10:05am

Join Pastor Ashley and church members for informal conversation and coffee. If you've been coming for one week, or a dozen, or just exploring online, join us to get to know more about the church and to make a friend or two! Email ashley@oldsouth.org with any questions.

JOIN GOSPEL CHOIR FOR A WEEK

First Worship: *Sunday, October 19, 8:30am rehearsal*

Thursday Night Church: *Thursday, November 6, 7:00-7:30pm rehearsal*

Thursday, November 13, 6pm worship

Contact Tim Harbold at tim@oldsouth.org for details and music in advance.

You deserve a week of joyful singing. Please join us!

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

First Sundays, 10am, in the Columbarium

Need some space to breathe? Time to rest in the spacious silence of God's presence? Please join us for Contemplative Prayer. Together, we'll engage in practices of contemplative prayer, share from our hearts, and find strength and solace in God's abiding love. Questions? Email ashley@oldsouth.org.

RETIRED AND READY AT THE ARBORETUM

Tuesday, October 28, 10am, Hunnewell Visitor Center, Arboretum Gate, 125 Arborway, JP

Join us for a walk around Arnold Arboretum. This will be a self-guided tour focusing on fall highlights. Meet at the Hunnewell Visitor Center at the Arboretum Gate. Contact Mi Herzog at miherzog1@gmail.com or text 617-939-3966 to let us know you are coming to the Arboretum. Also indicate whether you plan to join us for lunch. We look forward to seeing you!

CONNECTIONS LUNCH

Sunday, November 2, 12pm in the Phillis Wheatley Room,

RSVP by October 29 to ashley@oldsouth.org

Interested in joining the church? To be a member of Old South Church is to enter the company of Revolutionary Era heroes, abolitionists, suffragettes, anti-poverty crusaders, and poets. Our saints include Benjamin Franklin, Samuel Adams, Phillis Wheatley... and maybe you! Want to learn more about the life of this community of faith while sharing lunch with other newcomers and church members? Join our Connections Lunch!

JOIN A SMALL GROUP AT OLD SOUTH CHURCH

Wanting to deepen your relationships at OSC? If you enjoy movies, walking, eating, reading, crafting, studying the Bible or just being in community with others, you're invited to join our growing Small Groups program. We have all kinds of groups doing all kinds of things this fall at Old South Church, and you're invited to join in! Go to oldsouth.org/small-groups to get more details and to sign up. Questions? Contact Rachel at rachel@oldsouth.org.

CELEBRATING 150 YEARS AT BOYLSTON STREET

Save the date—Saturday, December 6, 7pm

It has been 150 years since Old South Church moved into its historic building at 645 Boylston Street. Join us for a celebration of the church's storied legacy in the heart of the city with a special concert program *If These Walls Could Talk: A Celebration of Sanctuary in the Heart of Boston*, to be followed by a festive reception in the Chapel. Registration details to follow.

HEARD IT AT COUNCIL

Go to tinyurl.com/Sep2025Council to read the full report

September's Council meeting was full of finances, inclusion work, building issues, and small group news. Read all about it in Church Historian Kate Silfen's report.

MEETING THE MOMENT: FALL SERMON SERIES

Go to oldsouth.org/fall-sermon-series to learn more

This fall we delve into a sermon series about "Meeting the Moment". Together we'll find the spiritual strength and virtues we need to face the challenges of our world today. Through love, truth, wisdom, courage, and faith, we're invited to draw from the deep well of scripture and community. Throughout the season we will explore how ancient words speak powerfully into our present moment.

October 19 at First Worship *Justin Dickerson*

Fear of God | Proverbs 9:1-12

October 19 at Festival Worship *John Edgerton*

Fear of God | Proverbs 9:1-12

October 23 at Thursday Night Church *Ashley Popperson*

Bon Courage | 1 Thessalonians 5:11-28

October 26 at First and Festival Worship *Rachel Barton*

Our Stories of Faith | Deuteronomy 32

HOST AN OSC GBIO HOUSE MEETING IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Navigating this moment requires getting back to the basics. In that vein, GBIO has just launched its House Meeting Campaign with the goal of engaging over 2,000 individuals at local small group gatherings across the city. This will be a time to deepen relationships, build power, and share stories that will get at the heart of our needs here in Greater Boston. Curious about hosting a house meeting? Reach out to Christina Gregg Fitzgerald at clg3792@gmail.com.

THE SANCTUARY IS GETTING A SOUND UPDATE!

Starting October 26th, the last four rows of pews in the Sanctuary will no longer have cushions. This is part of an acoustic experiment aimed at improving the overall sound quality in our worship space. Because the Sanctuary is a fairly "dead" space in terms of acoustics, sound doesn't carry well. The Old South team is exploring ways to add more sound-reflective surfaces to the space. Removing the cushions is one simple method we're testing to enhance sound reflection and clarity. This change may also serve as a visual cue to encourage sitting closer to the front, where it's easier to hear and engage with the service. We appreciate your flexibility as we explore how to make worship a more immersive sonic experience for everyone!

CHRISTIAN SERVICE AND OUTREACH

THE WEEKLY PUSHBACK - Victory Programs

To learn more, go to <https://www.vpi.org/>

Have other weekly action ideas? Email outreach@oldsouth.org

In July, a new executive order defunded HUD housing first programs that are essential to supporting individuals struggling with addictions to get the resources that they need. Victory Programs was founded in 1975 as one of the first organizations in the state to provide housing and support for people living with HIV/AIDS, homelessness, and substance use disorders. Over time, it has expanded to operate more than a dozen programs across Boston, offering emergency and transitional housing, recovery and treatment services, health care navigation, and harm reduction supports. Today, Victory Programs plays a critical role in the community by helping thousands of individuals each year stabilize their lives, achieve recovery, and build long-term health and housing security. Old South is honored to give them a grant of \$1,000 to continue their great work.

GREEN TIP: Plan Ahead For Your Halloween Pumpkin's Afterlife

Plan ahead for your pumpkin's afterlife: Don't doom your pumpkin to eternity in a landfill! When pumpkins and other organic materials decompose in a landfill, they generate methane, a greenhouse gas 25 times more potent than carbon dioxide. Landfills are the third largest producer of methane in the U.S., where an estimated 1.91 billion pounds of pumpkins are grown annually. Keep your pumpkin in the cycle of life - eat it, or compost it! Learn more at tinyurl.com/Pumpkinafterlife.

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