

**Indicates all who are able may stand*

*INVOCATION

*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

God Has Work for Us to Do

Mark A. Miller

Till all the jails are empty and all the bellies filled;
till no one hurts or steals or lies, and no more blood is spilled;

*God has work for us to do, God has work for us to do,
till God's will is done, and all things are made new,
God has work for us to do!*

Till age and race and gender no longer separate;
till pulpit, press, and politics are free of greed and hate:

God has work for us to do...

In classroom, church, and office, in shops or on the street;
in every place where people thrive or starve or hide or meet:
God has work for us.

By sitting at a bedside to hold pale trembling hands,
by speaking for the powerless against unjust demands,
by praying through our doing and singing though we fear,
by trusting that the seed we sow will bring God's harvest near:

God has work for us to do...

LISTEN

SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 5:15-20

Stephanie LaShoto-Westfield

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kate M. Nintcheu

*HYMN 468

The Care the Eagle Gives Her Young

CRIMOND

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

SCRIPTURE

Deuteronomy 32, *selected verses*

Rachel J. Barton

SERMON

*HYMN 320

Deep in the Shadows of the Past

SHEPHERD'S PIPES

*CALL TO PRAYER

John M. Edgerton

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

River in Judea

John Leavitt, *arr.*

Oftentimes I dream of music, of the river that freely flows,
and it sings a song sweeter than honey, one everybody knows.
Late at night I hear it singing, then again when I wake at dawn,
and it fills me up with hope and goodwill, the will to go on.

*There is a river in Judea that I heard of long ago,
and it's a singing, ringing river that my soul cries out to know.*

I believe it keeps on traveling but it rests on the Sabbath day,
and the time when it pauses in stillness, I almost hear it pray.
When I'm weary and downhearted, how I long for the song it sings,
for the calm within its gentle blue, the peace that it brings.

May the time not be too distant when we meet by the river shore;
'til then, dream of that wonderful day as we sing once more:

RESPOND

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Kat Woodard



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 Mighty Fortress Is Our God
THE OLD SOUTH RINGERS
Peter Coulombe, *director*

Kevin McChesney, *arr.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN 377

Forward through the Ages

ST. GERTRUDE

*BENEDICTION

Rachel J. Barton

POSTLUDE

Nun danket alle Gott (from Cantata No 79)

Johann Sebastian Bach
C.H. Trevor, *arr.*



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

The flowers today are given by Renate Gerlinger
in loving memory of her husband Charles Gerlinger.

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



Old South Church *in* Boston invites you
to its *Signature Services and Events* during the coming year.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

November 2, 2025 | 11AM

In a solemn service of sacred music, we gather to name and remember our own beloved dead who now rest from their labors in the arms of God.

MEETING HOUSE SUNDAY

November 23, 2025 | 11AM

We return to our ancestral home, the Old South Meeting House at Washington & Milk Streets, to give thanks for God's many blessings and the rich history of our faith.

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2025

Family Service with Impromptu Pageant | 5PM

Lessons and Carols | 8PM

Carols and Communion | 11PM

HOLY WEEK 2026

Palm Sunday — March 29 | 9AM & 11AM

Maundy Thursday — April 2 | 6PM

Good Friday — April 3 | 7PM

EASTER SUNDAY

April 5, 2026 | 9AM & 11AM

The triumph of the Christian story of resurrection informs a service of worship that is characterized by joyous celebration.

MARATHON SUNDAY

April 19, 2026 | 9AM & 11AM

Hundreds of marathoners join us for worship, where we will pause to acknowledge the runners, their families, and volunteers in a special “Blessing of the Athletes.”

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 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. 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. Bring a donation of \$5 OR a shelf stable item for the pantry: canned goods (with pop top lids) soup, beans, and meat; cereals, grains and pasta; flour, cooking oils, and spices; body care items; infant formula and diapers.

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!

FIFTH THURSDAYS: A TNC OPEN MIC NIGHT

Thursday, October 30th, 7:15pm, Gordon Chapel

After Thursday Night Church, join us for our TNC 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 to sign up, or just show up and there's a spot for you!

DAN FORREST REQUIEM FOR THE LIVING FOR ALL SAINTS DAY

Sunday, November 2, Festival Worship

For this year's All Saints observance at Festival Worship, the Festival Choir and instrumentalists present contemporary American composer Dan Forrest's Requiem for the Living, a cathartic journey through the gamut of human emotion. Commissioned by the Hickory Choral Society and premiered in 2013, Forrest's setting is an unconventional one, concerned as much with the living (and their own struggle with pain and sorrow) as for those already departed. The Latin text Forrest sets combines sections from the traditional Requiem mass with biblical texts from Ecclesiastes and the Book of Job. The music captures a range of emotion, inviting solace and reflection, and ultimately embraces the beauty of human existence & life.

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!

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

First Sundays, 10am, in the Columbarium, next session November 2

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.

ONLINE SMALL GROUP

November 2nd at 7:30pm EST and every first Sunday of the month

Go to tinyurl.com/2025OSCOOnlineSmallGroup password 684963 to join

Gather with other online members and Rev. Ashley for a time of fellowship, communion, and deepening our relationships with one another. Please bring something to eat (bread, cracker, cookie) and something to drink (juice, water, coffee) as your communion elements.

JOIN GOSPEL CHOIR FOR A WEEK

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!

SEEKING ADVENT DEVOTIONAL SUBMISSIONS

Submission deadline: November 10

Looking for hope in these mean days? You're not alone! Hope is something that we create together. This Advent, we will create a devotional filled with entries from Old Southerners and community partners about what is giving them hope. Hope always arises amidst trouble and we know that trouble abounds, and so we know that hope does too. We're seeking submissions for stories, prayers, art, and poetry that answers the questions: What is giving you hope today? How are you finding God amidst the struggles of our times? Please see the guidelines and submit your entry at tinyurl.com/OSCAAdventDevotions2025. Questions? email ashley@oldsouth.org.

DEL CASE PRESENTS

Abraham and Isaac: Interfaith Performance and Discussion

Saturday, Nov. 22, 6-7:15 pm, Mary Norton Hall, Free

Longtime friend of Old South Church, Delvyn Case, conducts a live performance of his dramatic new solo cantata based on the sacrifice of Isaac, followed by an interfaith panel discussion. This provocative piece explores this challenging Biblical story by highlighting how the thread of sacrificial violence tragically binds together God, Abraham, and Isaac—and, through its historical legacy—Christians and Jews as well. More info may be found at tinyurl.com/DelCaseEvent2025.

THE SANCTUARY IS GETTING A SOUND UPDATE!

Starting October 26, 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! Questions? [Ava Welling *ava@oldsouth.org*](mailto:AvaWellingava@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.

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.

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.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE AND OUTREACH

THE WEEKLY PUSHBACK - Christian Friends Mission International

Go to wecarewelove.org to learn more

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

Pastor Frank Mukiliza has spoken at Old South several times over the last decade as his ministry to provide food, education, and jobs to LGBTQ youth and other marginalized youth comes under threat from the Ugandan government. Old South is proud to support their great work, particularly as the US has taken a step back from its international support.

GREEN TIP: Ditch the Plastic Decorations

Learn more at tinyurl.com/Greentipecohalloween

Plastic decorations have become a Halloween staple, from spooky skeletons to jack-o'-lanterns. Most plastic decorations end up in landfills, taking hundreds of years to decompose. The manufacturing and disposal of plastic items also contribute to pollution and climate change. To make your Halloween eco-friendlier, consider these alternatives:

- **DIY DECORATIONS:** Get creative and make your own decorations from recyclable or biodegradable materials like cardboard or paper. This way, you can reduce plastic waste.
- **SECOND-HAND FINDS:** Explore op shops or Facebook marketplace for pre-loved decorations. This is also a great way to find second-hand costumes!
- **NATURAL DÉCOR:** Incorporate nature into your decorations with fallen leaves, branches, or pumpkins. These items are biodegradable and can be composted after Halloween.

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.



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