

Old South Church *in* Boston ❖ November 16, 2025 ❖ 11:00 a.m.

Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost

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

GATHER

PRELUDE

Aria

Noel Rawsthorne

*CALL TO WORSHIP

John M. Edgerton

Come! Let us worship the God who delights in our rest.

The God who yearns for our hearts to know peace.

Come! Let us worship the God who calls us to justice.

The God who longs for our world to be made whole.

Come! Let us worship the God who invites us into renewal.

The God who sustains our strength and rekindles our hope.

*HYMN 20

God of Abraham and Sarah

CONSTANTINE

*INVOCATION

*PASSING OF 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.”*

WELCOME

**Indicates all who are able may stand*

ANTHEM

Give Me Oil in My Lamp

Kyle Pederson, *arr.*

Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burnin'.
Give me oil in my lamp, I pray.
Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burnin'.
Keep me burnin' til the break of day.

And when the oil runs low, come in, Lord, and fill it up high.
And when my lamp runs dry, come in, Lord, and fill it with oil.

Give me joy in my heart, keep me singin'...
Give me joy in my heart, I pray.
Give me joy in my heart, keep me singin'.
Keep me singin' til the break of day.

And when the joy runs low, come in, Lord, and fill it up high.
And when my lamp runs dry, come in, Lord, and fill it with oil.

Give me peace in my soul, keep me restin'.
Give me peace in my soul I pray.
Give me peace in my soul, keep me restin'.
Keep me restin' till the break of day.

And when the peace runs low, come in, Lord, and fill it up high.
And when my lamp runs dry, come in, Lord, and fill it with oil.

LISTEN

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 5: 1-9

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kate M. Nintcheu

*HYMN 247

My Shepherd is the Living God

CONSOLATION

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

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 5: 10-18

Kat Woodard

SERMON

Rest for the Weary

*HYMN 502

Dear God, Embracing Humankind

REST

*CALL TO PRAYER

Ashley J. Popperson

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.

RESPOND

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

Lawson & Milton Pereira

Clara Cargile

Laura Everett & Abbi Holt

Fred & Patrice Ficken

Kevin Fitzgerald

PRESENTATION

Ashley J. Popperson

NEW MEMBER LITANY OF INTENT

Friends in Christ, we are all received into the church through the sacrament of baptism. These before us have been led by the Spirit to affirm their baptism and enter into covenantal relationship with Christ and the members of the Christian Church.

They are here, as we are here, to endeavor to love God with all our heart, all our soul, all our mind, and to love our neighbor as ourselves. God help us.

Friends, we rejoice in your pilgrimage of faith which has brought you to this time and place. We give thanks for every community of faith which has been your spiritual home, and we celebrate your presence in this household of faith. Do you promise, by the grace of God, to continue in your pilgrimage of faith, to be Christ's disciple, to resist oppression and evil, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

New Members: We promise, with the help of God.

Do you promise to walk with us in faithfulness and in Christian love? And do you promise that, so far as able, you will participate in the life of this church, by worshiping God with us, and offering your time, talent and means for the ministry of this church and for the larger church of which this is a part?

New Members: We promise, with the help of God.

Members and friends of Old South Church: Will you support these siblings in Christ, uphold them and encourage them in faith, and keep them in your prayers?

We will.

New members, we then welcome you as partners in the common life of this church. And we rise, in body or in spirit, to share our covenant of mission with you:

***All: We pledge to give ourselves to the one whom Jesus called "Abba, Father," as the God in whose love we are grounded, and to Jesus Christ, God incarnate, who rules our lives. We give ourselves to God the Holy Spirit, the One who sustains, recreates and guides us. We promise to walk in covenant with one another, with the wider church, and with the Old South Church, secure in God's grace, and prepared in gratitude to live by the promise and serve in the hope of the Gospel.**

THE RIGHT HAND OF CHRISTIAN FRIENDSHIP

Laurie Stickels, *Deacon*

In the name of Jesus Christ and on behalf of the Old South Church, we extend to you the hand of Christian love, welcoming you into the company of this local church.

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Justin Dickerson



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

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

Kyle Pederson, *arr.*

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest;
in me your soul will find its peace, in me you draw each breath."

I came to Jesus as I was, so weary and so worn;
I found him in a resting place, where peace and hope are born.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold, I freely give;
I am the living water, quench your thirst, come drink and live."

I came and drank from the stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul renewed, and now I live in him.

Speak now, spirit, speak...
...speak now spirit, come and speak!

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light;
look unto me and night will fade, and all your mornings rise."

I come to Jesus, and I find in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk till traveling days are done.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"I am life; I am light; I am love;
now come and live."

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN 82

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

AR HYD Y NOS

*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

Kat Woodard

POSTLUDE

Allegro moderato maestoso

Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy



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

Close-Up, a twenty minute tour of the Sanctuary,
begins following Worship in front of the pulpit.
Led by George Delianides.



MEMBERS JOINING THIS WEEK

JOINED AT THURSDAY NIGHT CHURCH

Lis Browning is from Winsted CT, and has in the past moved around a lot between places like Chicago, Canada, Montana, and Belgium and now is back in New England to be closer to family in Connecticut and enjoy the changing of the seasons! They currently work for a CT based furniture company and love to put together any tricky Ikea pieces. In their free time you will find them crocheting Christmas presents 6 months early, reading an absurdly long fantasy novel, or hanging out with friends! Lis have never been a member of a church before and is very excited about this next step!

Carrie Hillier is originally from the South Shore. She attended undergrad at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and returned to MA to attend law school at Northeastern. In her free time, she enjoys hiking (and recently completed the Camino de Santiago!), reading, board games, and volunteering at Rosie's Place in the South End.

Emily Osmun is a Boston native who spent much of her 20s and 30s in western MA. She grew up in the UCC church, and she's very excited to be back—and so grateful that Old South was the first stop in her church search, which she ended there. For work, she walks and sits for reactive dogs, sells plants, and wears various hats at a café in Porter Square. In her free time, she loves running, yoga, and wandering around the city trying to identify weeds."

JOINED AT FIRST WORSHIP THIS MORNING

Elise Person grew up in the 70's and 80's in northeastern NJ. She spent most Thanksgivings as a child in eastern CT with her father's brother's family. She and long-time OSC member David Clark have been married since 2008. (David spent his childhood Thanksgivings in north central NJ at his Aunt Evelyn's. They think they probably passed each other on the Tappan Zee Bridge at least once as kids.) Elise and David have one son, Jasper, in 9th grade. Recently, Elise has been a free-range/feral Quaker, Godly Play facilitator and long time OSC small grouper.

Elizabeth Richter and Brian Schulz married three years ago and chose Newton as the place where they would begin their new, shared life together. Finding Old South and deciding to make it their church home has been a joyful, buoyant milepost in that journey! They share a love for people, time in the woods and their gardens, and making art together, blending her photography and his poetry. Elizabeth is a former educator focused on literacy, and maintains her passion for reading and sharing. Brian occasionally consults with small businesses and entrepreneurs, and writes poetry and short fiction. They are grateful for the blessings of each other, their families, and this community.

JOINING TODAY AT FESTIVAL WORSHIP

Clara Cargile is a 32-year-old from Leander, Texas, where she lives with her husband, Scott. She earned her bachelor's degree in International Studies from the University of Oklahoma and a master's degree in Library Science from Simmons University in Boston. While in Boston, she attended Old South Church, where the messages of acceptance, tradition, and profound music deeply moved her and stayed with her long after she returned to Texas in 2019. Coming from a Church of Christ background that she often found exclusionary, Clara found Old South to be a refreshing and affirming place of faith that helped rekindle her spiritual curiosity. Clara's faith was recently renewed through reading *Better Ways to Read the Bible* by Zach Lambert and attendand attending Old South's Festival worship services online, which reminded her of a Christianity rooted in radical love and acceptance. She now feels called to formally join Old South Church and commit to her faith anew. Clara previously worked as a librarian and now serves in her city's communications office. In her free time, she enjoys gardening, reading, and creating stained glass art.

Laura Everett is daughter of New Jersey, and has served as the Executive Director of the statewide Massachusetts Council of Churches for the past fourteen years. Laura is the author of a book about urban spirituality and bicycles, a textile artist who teaches mending as spiritual practice, and a women's sports journalist. Rev. Everett lives in Jamaica Plain with her younger sister and wife Abbi who teaches middle school Latin, and they are a proud union family.

Fred and Patrice Ficken are returning to Old South, where their journey began. They were married here in 1994 and were active members, serving in various leadership roles. Fred served as a Deacon and led a writing group called, "Writing in God." Patrice played piano for various Theatre at Old South events and along the way, discerned a call to ministry. She was ordained at Old South in 2004. Fred and Patrice moved to New Hampshire when she was called to serve as pastor of the Sanbornton UCC church. She now serves as a spiritual director in private practice. Fred is a retired builder/contractor and community organizer. They enjoy walks in the woods, music, and visits with family and are thrilled to be "home" again.

Kevin Fitzgerald was born in Boston and has never actually lived outside the city limits. He went to High School in the city, attended Boston College and married his Back Bay raised wife Christina who has been a member here at Old South since she was a baby. They were married in Old South a year and a half ago and Baptized their daughter Annabelle here just a few months ago. Kevin grew up as an altar server at a Catholic Church in Jamaica Plain and often attended mass at Mission Church where his parents grew up but he is very excited to continue his faith at such a welcoming place like Old South alongside his family.

Abbi Holt studied Romans at the University of Virginia, the University of Pennsylvania, Boston University and UMass Boston. She bikes to Arlington MA where she teaches Latin to some awesome humans and she hopes to show her students that everyone's story, including their own, is worth hearing. She also is an illustrator and loves her some women's soccer.

Lawson Pereira is originally from Kentucky. He has been in New England for 3 years, in Maine for 2 of those years. He recently moved to Revere upon marrying Milton.

Milton Pereira is originally from Mato Grosso, Brazil. He has been in the US for over 20 yrs. He has worked at the Capital Grille for over 20 years. He has recently begun a new career as a care giver.

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 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*
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* ❖

Elias Perez, *Senior Sexton* ❖ Ozo Nwodo, Richard Serebour, Tahmina Aktar & MD Rahman, *Sextons*
Corey Spence, *Weekday Receptionist*
Shirley Bivins, Shelia Randolph, & , Sarah Acheson-Field, *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

COMMUNITY HOUR ON THE ARCHITECTURE OF OUR BUILDING

Sunday, November 16 at 10am in Mary Norton Hall

In anticipation of 150 years at our Boylston St. location, church historian Kate Silfen will talk about why our forebears decided to vacate our longtime home at the Old South Meeting House on Washington Street. Learn about the remarkable architects who designed our Boylston Street house of worship and the Italian Gothic style that inspired them. Kate will offer an overview of the key events that have made our building what it is today, and there will be an opportunity to reflect on the relationship between architecture and spirituality.

NEW AROUND HERE?

November 16 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!

MEETING HOUSE SUNDAY

Sunday, November 23 at 11am, at the Old South Meeting House

Join us as 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. The service features music for choir, bells, and brass.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY HOUR FORUMS

Sundays, 10am, Mary Norton Hall

- **No Forum November 23—See you at the Meeting House**
- **Precedented Times: Sermon Talk Back with John Edgerton** | *November 30*
- **Annual Advent and Christmas Poetry Fest** | *December 7*

CHURCH CENTER: A NEW WAY TO CONNECT

Exciting news! Church Center is coming soon to Old South. This easy-to-use app and website will let you access the church directory, manage your giving, view events, join small groups, and more - all in one place. No action needed yet, but stay tuned: we'll help you set up your account in December so you're ready to start using Church Center in January. In the meantime, you might get some emails referring to Church Center/Planning Center. No need for you to do anything, we are just getting things set up behind the scenes.

RETIRED AND READY NOVEMBER EVENT

Tuesday, November 18, 10am at Dillaway Thomas House

Travel, parking and more information at nps.gov/places/dillaway-thomas-house.htm

Retired and Ready's November event will be to tour the Dillaway Thomas House in Roxbury followed by lunch and shopping in Nubian Square. We will meet at 10am on November 18 at the Dillaway Thomas House. Parking is available in a small lot or on the street nearby. There are multiple ways available to reach this National Historical Park via public transportation. Members of Union Combined Parish are welcomed at this event. Please contact Charlotte Simpson at char.r.simpson@gmail.com to confirm your participation for the tour and lunch.

ABRAHAM AND ISAAC: INTERFAITH PERFORMANCE AND DISCUSSION

Saturday, November 22, 6 pm, Mary Norton Hall, free, more at tinyurl.com/DelCaseEvent2025

Longtime friend of Old South Church, Delvyn Case, presents 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.

GODLY PLAY FOR FAMILIES

Sunday, December 7 at 10am in the Green Room

Families are invited to gather in the regular childcare room on the 3rd floor to hear a Godly Play story together, to wonder a bit about the story, and then to have some work time to play around with the ideas and stories we heard. This is a great way for families who have not yet become regulars at church school to begin hearing the stories and practicing together. Families of any age are welcome - though this is geared towards preschool age 3 and under.

WHERE'D THE PEW CUSHIONS GO?

Because the Sanctuary is a fairly "dead" space in terms of acoustics, sound doesn't carry well. We're exploring ways to add more sound-reflective surfaces to the space. We appreciate your flexibility as we explore how to make worship a more immersive sonic experience for everyone! Questions? AvaWellingava@oldsouth.org.

PARTY LIKE IT'S 1875: CELEBRATING 150 YEARS AT BOYLSTON STREET

*Saturday, December 6 at 7pm, **RSVP at tinyurl.com/150yearsatBoylston***

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

GIVING BACK: THE TRUE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

As we prepare our hearts for Christmas, Old South has several opportunities to give to the wider community. Beginning on November 13th, a Christmas tree will be near the reception desk decorated with ornaments. Each ornament will have instructions for a gift for one of the gift drives listed below. You can select an ornament from the tree or you can participate online at oldsouth.org/true-spirit-christmas

ADVENT SERMON CONVERSATIONS: PRECEDENTED TIMES

The world feels as if it is spiraling out of control. Institutions that once seemed sturdy teeter, national commitments are abandoned, and rights are under attack. How is a Christian to understand these days? Join our ministers throughout Advent for conversations about their sermons and a chance to reflect together, ask questions, and share insights as we explore this year's Advent theme as a community.

ANNUAL ADVENT & CHRISTMAS POETRY FEST

Sunday, December 7 at 10am in Mary Norton Hall

Do you have a favorite seasonal poem or short prose selection? Have you written a poem, prayer or brief meditation that sheds light in the Christmas story? We invite you to come and share it! Selections can be humorous, serious or thought provoking.....but all reflecting some aspect of the season. Readers will have up to 3 minutes to introduce and share their offering. Sign up to read by contacting Don Wells at granwell@comcast.net by Wednesday, December 3, along with the title of your selection. We can accommodate 15 or so readers. If you choose not to read, please come and join us to listen and enjoy! It will be a wonderful occasion!

OLD SOUTH RINGERS HANDBELL CONCERT: WITH ANTHEMS SWEET

Sunday, December 7 at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary and on live stream

Fun for the whole family, the annual Christmas Handbell Concert presented by the Old South Ringers will delight you with arrangements of beloved Christmas carols and songs that are sure to get you in the holiday spirit! Come and hear us in person if you can or join us online. Admission is free.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE AND OUTREACH

THE WEEKLY PUSHBACK - TRANS EMERGENCY FUND

Learn more about their work at transemergencyfund.org

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

To get involved or ask questions email Rachel Barton at Rachel@oldsouth.org

In honor of Trans Day of Remembrance on November 20, Old South is proud to support the Transgender Emergency Fund of Massachusetts. Since 2008, this fund has provided vital financial assistance to low-income transgender and nonbinary individuals, offering support with rent, shelter, food, prescription co-pays, transportation, and winter clothing. In a time when trans rights and safety are increasingly under attack, supporting this work is one way we can stand in solidarity with and care for our trans neighbors. To learn more go to: <https://transemergencyfund.org>

EMERGENCY DONATIONS TO BOSTON HEALTHCARE FOR THE HOMELESS

Please consider donating at tinyurl.com/Homelesshealthcarehelp
to support local families affected by SNAP cuts.

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