

Lighting of Candles & Prayer

O Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, you reign from everlasting to everlasting. [...]
O God, bring to us a tenacious spirit of joy, so that we would serve you with gladness
of heart until that day comes when we meet you face to face. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE

Choir:

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us;
make us your living voice.

Congregation:



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the dark - ness. Christ, be our
light! Shine in your church gath - ered to - day.

Text and Music: Bernadette Farrell, 1993

WELCOME

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

ANTHEM

Selections from today's Christmas Pageant:

"Miracle at the Christmas Cafe"

OLD SOUTH CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Senseless Census

Ruth Elaine Schram
& Mark Cabaniss

It has been announced that Caesar has a plan.
We must all be counted; every person, each human.
We will render all the tender that we must.
For those who have been chosen it's Bethlehem or bust!

It's just a senseless census; a way to make us pay.
Senseless census; this ain't no holiday.
We'll have taxes and more taxes, but we know that the true fact is:
we confess that this census is a really big mess!
We confess, we protest! It's a mess!

Hundreds will be here; we'll get ready for the crunch.
We've not been this crowded since Moses stopped for lunch!
This could finally give our tiny town some fame!
And if it won't, then we'll know just who and what to blame!

It was that senseless census...

Unless there's a miracle to save us all, great and small!

God Loves Us So Much

Schram & Cabaniss

Tiny little fingers, tiny little toes,
this baby in a manger, all wrapped in swaddling clothes,
has come to Earth on this silent night.
Our darkness is gone with his everlasting light.

It's because God loves us so much.
God has reached down to earth with a life-changing touch.
It's amazing, and joyful, and never-ending love;
and it's because God loves us so much.

Silent night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright
'round yon virgin mother and Child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace.

LISTEN

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 25:6-10a

Pam Roberts

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kate M. Nintcheu

*HYMN 583

Like a Mother Who Has Born Us

AUSTIN

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

SERMON

Reveal, Rejoice, Repair

Rachel J. Barton

*HYMN 108

Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old

JUDAS AND MARY

RESPOND

*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

PRAYER RESPONSE And God Shall Wipe Away All Tears Eleanor Daley

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes,
and there shall be no more death,
neither sorrow, nor crying.

Neither shall there be anymore pain,
for the former things are passed away.

CALL TO THE OFFERING

John M. Edgerton



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

The Huron Carol

Dan Forrest, *arr.*

Jesous Ahatonia. Gloria.

'Twas in the moon of wintertime, when all the birds had fled,
that mighty *Gitchi Manitou* sent *angel choirs instead*;
before their light the stars grew dim, and wandering hunters heard the hymn:

Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria.

Within a lodge of broken bark the tender babe was found,
a ragged robe of rabbit skin enwrapped his beauty round;
but as the hunter braves drew nigh, the angel song rang loud and high...

The earliest moon of wintertime is not so round and fair
as was the ring of glory on the helpless infant there.
The chiefs from far before him knelt with gifts of fur and beaver pelt...

O children of the forest free, O sons of *Manitou*,
the Holy Child of earth and heaven is born today for you.
Come kneel before the radiant boy who brings you beauty, peace and joy...

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you:

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts:

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God:

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

[...] and so with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, we join the unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory,

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

...Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Invitation to Communion

Communion is open to all:

Cups contain only non-alcoholic grape juice.

Please signal to an usher if you need gluten-free crackers.

Today, communion will be served in the pews:

Please remain seated.

An usher will bring a tray of bread to your row.

*Take a piece of bread and consume upon receiving;
pass the tray to your neighbor, saying, "the bread of life."*

An usher will bring a tray of small cups to your row.

*Take a cup and store it in the cup holder on the pew;
please wait to drink until all are served;
pass the tray to your neighbor, saying, "the cup of the new covenant."*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND 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.

*HYMN 103

Watcher, Tell Us of the Night

ABERYSTHWYTH

*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

Rachel J. Barton

POSTLUDE

Sortie [pour le temps de Noël], FW 41, No. 56

César Franck



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

Today's flowers are given in honor
of the birthday of our
Weekday Receptionist Corey Spence
by his loving husband Christopher Dean.

Close-Up, a twenty minute tour of the Sanctuary,
begins immediately following worship. Please meet at the pulpit.
Led by docent David Story.

For our passed communion, here are a few of the pieces of silver we are using today:

- ❖ The Manning Family Goblet, 1875 with the inscription,
"That they all may be one, as thou Father, art in one,
and I in thee, that they also may be one in me".
- ❖ The 1914 J.M. Manning communion tray
dedicated to Jacob Manning, Minister of Old South Church, 1857-1882.
- ❖ 1943 Candlesticks dedicated to
Franklin Delano Putman, Deacon of Old South Church, 1928-1943.



CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2025

Family Service with Impromptu Pageant | 5PM

Lessons and Carols | 8PM

Carols and Communion | 11PM

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 for Sunday worship services only. 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*

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*

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.



OLD
SOUTH
CHURCH
in BOSTON

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRAINING ON OUR NEW SOFTWARE, CHURCH CENTER, THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

Our new church software, Church Center, is now live! You can access the church directory on the ChurchCenter website and app. Go to <https://oldsouthchurch.churchcenter.com/home> to find out more. Please join Amelia Gerrard, Director of Administration, this Sunday, December 14th for a training on Church Center basics. The training will be in-person in Mary Norton Hall from 12:15-1:00 PM and online from 2:00-2:45. Email amelia@oldsouth.org with any questions and for the online training Zoom link. Check out <https://oldsouth.org/church-center> for our FAQ!

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Sunday, December 14, 9am, First Worship

The kids of Old South have been hard at work rehearsing the annual Christmas Pageant, and you don't want to miss it! Join us in the Gordon Chapel for "Miracle at the Christmas Cafe: A Christmas Musical for Children" by Ruth Elaine Schram and Mark Cabaniss. You won't want to miss this spectacular, funny, heartwarming worship service!

HELP MAKE AND SERVE LUNCH AT *common cathedral*

Sunday, Dec. 14, contact Carolyn Clark to volunteer at carolyneclark@comcast.net

There are many ways to participate! Join us for any part of the day.

All are welcome, including families.

- **9:00-10:30am** Make bag lunches in Old South's Mary Norton Hall kitchen.
- **12-1pm** Meet at Boston Common (near Park St station) to unload and hand out lunches to the Common Cathedral congregation. Join for lunch.
- **1-2pm** Attend outdoor Common Cathedral service.

ADVENT SERMON CONVERSATIONS: PRECEDENTED TIMES

Sundays, 10am, in Mary Norton Hall Dec. 14—Ashley Popperson; 21—Rachel Barton

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.

CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS (IN LIEU OF FLOWERS)

Donations due by Sunday, December 14th,

Questions? Email Remy Hatfield-Gardner remy@oldsouth.org

The needs of the Allston Brighton Food Pantry are even greater this year. Your donation of \$20 in honor or memory of loved ones or special occasions will help our less fortunate neighbors. Go to oldsouth.org/donate and click on "Christmas Memorials" to make your donation and enter your message on the second page.

NEW AROUND HERE?

December 21 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! Questions? Email ashley@oldsouth.org.

PAJAMA CHURCH

Sunday December 28, Single Worship Service at 10am

Come for a relaxed celebration of Christmastide as we worship God who is with us, Emmanuel. Come in your pajamas or coziest of clothes, bring a loved one and settle in with us to experience the love of God coming into our world.

BOSTON FIRST NIGHT: PIPES AND POPS CONCERTS

Wednesday, December 31st at 6:30 and 8 p.m., Old South Church in Boston

The best of Boston's brass and percussion artists join organist Mitchell Crawford in a supersonic program of popular classics. Featuring fun and engaging programming for the whole family, this concert includes a seasonal sing of "Auld Lang Syne." Experience Old South's incredible E. M. Skinner organ, with over 7,000 room-shaking pipes! Free and open to the public.

THE TWELVE GREEN TIPS OF CHRISTMAS

5. Buy locally made and certified green and plastic free gifts.
6. Use alternatives to traditional wrapping paper: Choose eco-friendly paper, fabric, and reusable ribbon.

EXTRA! EXTRA! MARY NORTON TO VISIT OLD SOUTH! MEET THE LEGEND!

Sunday, January 11, following Festival Worship, Mary Norton Hall

Go to tinyurl.com/1-2025MaryNortonRSVP to let us know you want to join us!

Enjoy a delicious 17th century lunch by Carol Blair that includes homemade cornbread and vegetarian baked beans. Then wonder at a dramatic performance starring Pam Roberts as Mary Norton, John Edgerton as himself, Laurie Stickels as herself, and Scott McInturff as the Rev. John Norton. The one-act play, written by Debbie Wiess, is based on an original premise by Mary Kohák and Debbie Wiess.

STEWARDSHIP SEASON UPDATE

As the year comes to a close, now is a great time to take a look at your giving and make sure you're on track to complete your pledge. Your January–November 2025 tax statement is available on the Member Portal: <https://tinyurl.com/OSCAccessACS> go to Giving History → PDF Tax Statement.

REVOLUTIONARY GENEROSITY—2026 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

We are also excited to announce our 2026 stewardship campaign, Revolutionary Generosity, is underway! Old South revolutionaries of today practice radical change in our society, serve neighbors, and open doors wide to the city. Join us in practicing revolutionary generosity by pledging online at: <https://tiny.oldsouth.org/pledge2026>. Questions? Contact Amelia at amelia@oldsouth.org or 617-536-1970.

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. 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

HEARD IT AT COUNCIL

Church Council on Tuesday, November 11, 2025 was the setting for early 2026 budgetary discussions, reminders about our buildings' multi-year maintenance needs, and the official sanctioning of a new group to specifically address congregational belonging and engagement: BELONG. Find out about all this and more by going to tinyurl.com/OSCNov2025Council for the full report from special guest writer Church Clerk Rob Gabler.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE AND OUTREACH

THE WEEKLY PUSHBACK - Eastie Farms

Learn more about their work at <https://eastiefarm.com/>

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

To get involved or ask questions email Kat Woodard at kat@oldsouth.org

As we light the Advent candle of Joy this Sunday, we celebrate Eastie Farms, whose work brings joy to East Boston in the most tangible ways: through fresh produce, community gardens, youth programs, and climate-resilient food systems that nourish both people and neighborhood. Old South is giving an additional \$5,000 to support their joyful vision of a greener, healthier, and more equitable city. We're also delighted that Isa Walsh, Administrator at Eastie Farms, will join us at the Festival Worship this week, giving us the chance to thank her firsthand for all the excellent work Eastie Farms is doing in our wider community.

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WEEKLY WORSHIP

Join us in person, on Facebook, and YouTube

Thursday Night Church, Thursdays at 6:00 p.m., no service 12/25 and 1/1

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