



## Old South Church

*Copley Square, Boston*

*A Congregation of the  
United Church of Christ*

*Gathered 1669*

February 23, 2025

# Seventh Sunday After the Epiphany

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

## GATHER

PRELUDE

*Sursum corda*

John Ireland

\*HYMN 387

**O Christ, the Great Foundation**

AURELIA

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Ashley J. Popperson

The way of Christ turns the world upside down:

**God's ways are not our ways.**

It moves us beyond retribution and cycles of violence:

**God's ways are not our ways.**

It leads us to enemy-love and scandalous forgiveness:

**God's ways are not our ways.**

It calls us beyond reciprocity into radical giving:

**God's ways are not our ways.**

So, let us commit our way to the Lord together,

**until our righteousness shines like the dawn,**

**and our justice like high noon.**

*\*Indicates all who are able may stand*

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*Please greet those around you, wishing them “peace” or “the peace of Christ.”*

WELCOME

ANTHEM

The Lily of the Valley

Wendell Whalum, *arr.*

*He’s the lily of the valley, oh, my Lord;  
he’s the lily of the valley, oh, my Lord.*

I’ve never been to heaven but I’ve been told  
that the streets up there are paved with gold.

What kind of shoes are those you wear  
that you can walk up in the air?

These shoes I wear are gospel shoes  
and you can wear these if you choose.

## LISTEN

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Kate M. Nintcheu

SCRIPTURE

Mark 4:9-12

\*HYMN 572

**When Israel Was in Egypt’s Land**

GO DOWN MOSES

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

SCRIPTURE

Ezekiel 3:1-7, 22-27

SERMON

The Moment Before You Speak

Rachel J. Barton

\*HYMN 476

**My Life Flows on in Endless Song**

ENDLESS SONG

# 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

### 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

*Ubi Caritas*  
The Old South Ringers

Matthew Compton, *arr.*

## CALL TO THE OFFERING

Gracie Paterson



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

Give Me Oil in My Lamp

Joseph Martin, *arr.*

Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning,  
give me oil in my lamp, I pray.

Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning,  
keep me burning 'til the break of day.

*Sing hosanna to the King of Kings.  
Sing hosanna to the King.*

I sing praise and give thanks for your blessings,  
I sing praise every day I live.  
I sing praise and give thanks for your blessings,  
for the blessing you alone can give.

Give me joy in my heart, keep my singing,  
give me joy in my heart each day.  
Give me joy in my heart, keep my singing,  
keep me singing 'til the break of day.

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*HYMN 588

**Let Justice Flow like Streams**

ST. THOMAS

\*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

Rachel J. Barton

POSTLUDE

Fanfare

William Mathias



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

The flowers today are given  
in honor of the amazing Reception Staff of Old South Church  
by Corey Spence, *Weekday Receptionist*.

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

## **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.oldsouth.org/your-first-visit) or see the front desk.

### **LEARN MORE**

Check out the church website [www.oldsouth.org](http://www.oldsouth.org) for more on the history and ministries of Old South. See [www.oldsouth.org/calendar](http://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, *Assistant Minister*  
Gracie Paterson, *Nancy S. Taylor Leadership Fellow* ❖ Kat Woodard, *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* ❖ Juniper Mai, *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*

Rémy Hatfield-Gardner & William Wei, *Livestream Production Assistants* ❖ Ava Welling, *Sound Technician*

Elias Perez, *Senior Sexton* ❖ 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* ❖ Bill Bulkeley, *Treasurer*

Debby Kuenstner, *Chair, Board of Trustees* ❖ Kate Silfen, *Historian*

Christine Del Favero & 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

## **PILGRIMAGE TO SEEK TRUTH AND JUSTICE WITH REV. JUNE**

*Sunday, February 23, 10am, 2nd floor Mary Norton Hall  
and on Zoom link at [oldsouth.org/sundays](https://oldsouth.org/sundays)*

Join us at the Community Hour Forum to hear from OSC members that participated in a Pilgrimage to Seek Truth and Justice in the fall of 2024. Traveling to Montgomery and Selma, we not only visited the hallowed sites of the civil rights movement, but heard first-hand stories from veteran and current activists. The Pilgrimage was led by our Theologian in the City, Rev. June Cooper. Please join us and be inspired!

## **CONNECTIONS LUNCH**

*Sunday, February 23, 10am*

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 and break bread with other newcomers and church members? Join our Connections Info Session! Contact [Ashley Popperson](mailto:AshleyPopperson) for more info.

## **REMOTE POTLUCK**

*Sunday, February 23, 4pm, on Zoom at [tinyurl.com/Zoom-for-potluck](https://tinyurl.com/Zoom-for-potluck)*

Join fellow Old Southerners on Zoom for a time of fellowship & reflection particularly for our members for whom in-person events are not easily accessible. It will be a time of fellowship and conversation, enjoying one another's good company! Email Alliea Grouppe for info [aegrouppe@gmail.com](mailto:aegrouppe@gmail.com).

## **ANNUAL MEETING**

*Sunday, March 2, 12:30pm, in Mary Norton Hall*

Mark your calendars! Our Annual Meeting will take place on March 2nd. Together, we will vote on our Officers, Trustees and Committee Chairs, vote on our Annual Budget, and engage in the work of the church. This year, our Annual Meeting will include interactive and collaborative activities to seek feedback and input on our strategic transformation work in the year to come. We'll hear from representatives from the Christian Service and Outreach Committee, gather ideas for deepening our relationships with one another, and explore ways we can welcome more people into Old South Church in the year to come. Join us to help shape our work on social justice, deepening community, and growing the church in 2025. Lunch will be served. RSVP at [tinyurl.com/OSCAannualmeeting2025](https://tinyurl.com/OSCAannualmeeting2025)

## ASH WEDNESDAY & LENT

### ASHES ON THE WAY

*Wednesday, March 5, Old South's sidewalk, 8:30am-5:30pm*

Old South Church is pleased to continue our tradition of offering holy conversation, prayer, and ashes on Boylston Street to passersby.

### ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

*Wednesday, March 5, 12pm and 6pm, in the Gordon Chapel*

#### Noon Ash Wednesday Service

Held in Gordon Chapel, this simple service of prayer, silence, confession, and imposition of ashes mark our entrance into the reflective and somber season of Lent.

#### 6pm Evening Ash Wednesday Service featuring Holden Evening Prayer

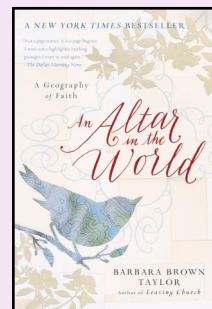
Join us for this special musical service featuring the Old South Festival Choir and instrumentalists. Incorporating "Holden Evening Prayer" by composer Marty Haugen (whose songs have enlivened both First and Festival Worship during the past month), this gentle service of word and prayer concludes with the imposition of ashes.

### ALL-CHURCH LENTEN BOOK READ: *An Altar in the World*

*Four Sundays, beginning March 16, 2nd Floor Mary Norton Hall*

We invite you, as part of your Lenten practice this season, to read Barbara Brown Taylor's book *An Altar in the World: a Geography of Faith*. This 2009 publication presents a compelling invitation to intentionally bring more holiness to our everyday lives. Grounded in gratitude and wonder, Brown Taylor's writing is accessible and inspiring, as well as honest and funny. To take part in discussions you do not need to have read the book to participate (but we hope you do) - we'll have materials each week.

- March 16: Waking up to God, Paying Attention, and Wearing Skin
- March 23: Walking on the Earth, Getting Lost, and Encountering Others
- March 30th: The Practice of Living with Purpose, Saying No and Carrying Water
- April 6: Feeling Pain, Being Present to God, and Pronouncing Blessings





## **WORKSHOP: AFRO-CHRISTIAN HISTORY AND LEGACY, THE UCC'S FIFTH STREAM**

*Friday, March 7, 9:30am - 12:30pm. at the Congregational Library & Archives (14 Beacon St)*

*Learn more and register at [tinyurl.com/UCCFifthStream](https://tinyurl.com/UCCFifthStream)*

Old South members are warmly invited by our friends at the *Congregational Library & Archives* to join an in-person workshop led by Dr. Julia M. Speller on the Afro-Christian Convention. Attendees will gain a deeper knowledge and understanding of the history and legacy of the Afro-Christian Convention as the fifth stream of the United Church of Christ (UCC). It is designed for church and community leaders as well as anyone interested in the history of this important, and until recently overlooked, Christian tradition within the UCC. Old South Members should register at the Member rate, in recognition of the generous support of the CLA by Old South!

## **JOIN THE MARY NORTON SOCIETY**

Every one of us, no matter our age or financial circumstances, needs a plan for what will happen to our resources after we pass on. Many members and friends of Old South have included the church in their estate plans- "a way to support Old South from heaven." Christine del Favero, describes her reasons for joining the society:

*The invitation and grace of our Open Door is powerful. I know this firsthand, having drifted in almost unknowingly on my way to the supermarket just a few years ago. Old South was to me, in that moment, the precise place I needed for ease and openness to a new chapter and relationship with God and God's people. Almost weekly, I hear something similar from someone else who find themselves in our church home. This happenstance brush with grace is only possible because our door is both figuratively and literally open. And that literal opening requires staff, electricity, and more. With my planned gift, I want to contribute to keeping our doors and hearts open, that we may foster more hearts opening to God and God's people.*

Those who provide for Old South in their estate plans become members of the Mary Norton Society. Won't you join them, as a way of insuring that the things that have mattered most to you will be here for coming generations? Contact [cathryngriffith@mac.com](mailto:cathryngriffith@mac.com) for more information.

## **BANISHED TO THE BALCONY: A TALK ON THE HISTORY OF RACE AT OSC**

*Monday, March 10, 6pm, Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St*

Have you ever wondered what it was like for Phillis Wheatley to worship upstairs at the Old South Meeting House? Or about the worship life of the other members of African descent whose names are etched on the leaves of our Memorial Tree in the Columbarium? Join us as historian Richard Boles, author of *Dividing the Faith: The Rise of Segregated Churches in the Early American North*, talks about the 18th c. circumstances of Native Americans and enslaved African Americans in New England who worshipped, were baptized, and took communion in predominantly white churches with segregated seating and other race-based proscriptions

## VESPERS HEALING WORSHIP

Sunday, February 9, 5 p.m. on Zoom, [tinyurl.com/OSCHealing](https://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.

## GREEN TIP: Save Water in the Bathroom

Install a low flow shower head. When you're first starting the shower, place a small bucket under the faucet while the water warms up so you can capture this water rather than simply sending it down the drain. Then you can use it to take care of your indoor plants. Shorten your shower time. This can get tricky with kids, but a simple shower timer may help. Turn the water off when you're using soap. Get wet, turn the water off and soap up, then turn the water back on and rinse off. Skip your shower. Unless you're getting really sweaty, consider skipping the occasional shower.

## FLOWER DEDICATIONS FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP

Are you interested in honoring a loved one or commemorating a special occasion with a beautiful flower dedication? By making a flower donation, you can dedicate the altar flowers on a date that is meaningful to you. Each dedication includes a flower bouquet and a special message in the Sunday bulletin. The cost of flower donations are \$100, which can be purchased via check, cash, or online in our Giving Portal [www.oldsouth.org/give](http://www.oldsouth.org/give). Go to [tinyurl.com/OSCFLOWERS25](https://tinyurl.com/OSCFLOWERS25) to sign up for a Sunday flower Questions? Email Amelia Gerard at [amelia@oldsouth.org](mailto:amelia@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, the second Sunday 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.



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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.

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Old South Church in Boston ❖ 645 Boylston Street, Boston 02116 ❖ [www.oldsouth.org](http://www.oldsouth.org)