



Old South Church

Copley Square, Boston

*A Congregation of the
United Church of Christ*

Gathered 1669

February 9, 2025

Fifth Sunday After the Epiphany

11:00 a.m.

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

GATHER

PRELUDE

Mélodie, Op. 46, No. 4

Alexandre Guilmant

*HYMN 22 **Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped**

LOBE DEN HERREN

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Gracie Paterson

We will know Christ when He returns.

We will know Him right on sight.

He won't be heralded by any din of drums.

He won't wear any crown or take on lofty airs.

We will know Christ by the peace in our hearts.

We will know Christ by the peace between all people.

A peace we have never known.

Yet, a peace that is always inside us.

**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

Hold On Cleophus Robinson, Jr.
Just a Little While Longer
OLD SOUTH CHURCH GOSPEL CHOIR
Tim Harbold, *director* • Ida Kamrara, *soloist*

Hold on just a little while longer,
Hold on just a little while longer,
Hold on just a little while longer,
Everything will be alright.

Pray on...

Hold on...

Fight on...

LISTEN

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kate M. Nintcheu

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 1:11-18

Eliza McKown

*HYMN 447

Beams of Heaven as I Go

SOME DAY

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

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 10:20-34

SERMON

Especially not for the Chosen

John M. Edgerton

*HYMN 306

The Church of Christ in Every Age

WAREHAM

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

So Many Reasons to Rejoice

Eddie A. Robinson

Delivered out of darkness into the kingdom of his son.

Forgiven of my sin, and redeemed through his blood:

Oh, yes! I have so many reasons to rejoice.

He woke me up this morning and he started me on my way;
he gave me health and strength, let me see another day:
Oh, yes! I have so many reasons to rejoice.

Rejoice! I have so many reasons to rejoice.

*(Though often ascribed masculine or feminine pronouns in prose and poetry,
God is unbound by human concepts of gender.)*

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

Ye Followers of the Lamb Edwin Earle Ferguson, *arr.*

O brethren ain't you happy,
O brethren ain't you happy,
O brethren ain't you happy,
ye followers of the Lamb.

*Sing on, dance on, followers of Emanuel,
sing on, dance on, ye followers of the Lamb.*

O sisters ain't you happy...
...ye followers of the Lamb.

I'm glad I am a Christian...
...ye followers of the Lamb.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN 181 **You Are Salt for the Earth, O People** BRING FORTH

*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Processional March, Op. 41, No. 5 Alexandre Guilmant



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

The flowers today are given by Amy Coe
with love and an abundance of gratitude
for our Thursday night group.

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



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

HOLY WEEK 2025

Palm Sunday — April 13 | 9AM & 11AM

Maundy Thursday — April 17 | 7PM

Good Friday — April 18 | 7PM

EASTER & MARATHON SUNDAY

April 20, 2025 | 9AM, 11AM, & 1PM

The triumph of the Christian story of resurrection informs a service of worship that is characterized by joyous celebration. Our celebration continues with hundreds of marathoners joining us for worship, where we will pause to acknowledge the runners, their families, and volunteers in a special “Blessing of the Athletes.”

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

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, *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

OLD SOUTH FORUM: HOLDING UP THE SKY

Sunday February 9, 10am, 2nd floor Mary Norton Hall

This week is the our final discussion of documentary film Holding Up The Sky, a remarkable film that features the stories of two formerly incarcerated men who found purpose, hope, and success through mentorship and persistence. We will focus on what we as the Old South Church community are feeling called to do about issues of social justice and reforms needed in our criminal justice system. Come with your ideas and feedback! To screen the film at home, contact Kate Nintcheu kate@oldsouth.org

PHILLIS WHEATLEY PLAY AND CASTLE OF OUR SKINS MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

Sunday, February 9, 2:30-4:30pm, in the Gordon Chapel and on live stream

Go to tinyurl.com/2025PhillisandBen to register, free admission Old South's (G)RACE Speaks Committee is teaming up with playwright Debra Wiess to present "A Revolutionary Encounter in London", a 70 minute one-act play about the little-known meeting in 1773 between two of Boston's Colonial icons: enslaved African Poetess Phillis Wheatley and American Founding Father Benjamin Franklin. There will also be special music by Castle of Our Skins and refreshments to enjoy. You don't want to miss it!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY January and February

Sunday, February 9, at Festival Worship Coffee Hour

Join us to celebrate Old South members with birthdays in January and February with singing and cake!

VESPERS HEALING WORSHIP

Sunday, February 9, 5 p.m. on Zoom, tinyurl.com/OSHealing 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.

CHURCH VISION AND STRATEGY GATHERINGS

February, 10, 7:30pm on Zoom at tinyurl.com/OSC2025StrategyZoom, password 664195

Our Boards and Clergy have been dreaming together about strategic next steps for Old South Church. Please join us for a collaborative session where we'll share the big picture of this exciting and transformative vision, focused on three key pillars:

1. Growing the Church – Expanding our reach and impact.
2. Deepening Relationships – Strengthening our community and connections.
3. Doing Justice – Acting with compassion and advocating for change.

This is the first of many opportunities to hear about our strategic plans and provide your feedback. Everyone is welcome to help us shape the next chapter at OSC.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

(G)RACE SPEAKS ANTI-RACISM LANGUAGE WORKSHOP

Sunday, February 16, 10 am, 2nd floor Mary Norton Hall and on Zoom link at oldsouth.org/sundays

Join us for the 10 o'clock hour on Sunday Feb 16th as we explore the language of antiracism and align the terminology we use at Old South Church, as we continue our journey to being the anti-racist church we aspire to be. Old South members Amy Coe and Anne Scholder will lead this discussion on behalf of (G)RACE Speaks on the 2nd floor.

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

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 CLASS

Sunday, February 16, 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

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 Grouppp for info aegroupp@gmail.com.



DONALD A. WELLS PREACHING PRIZE WINNER

The Donald A. Wells Preaching Prize winner for 2025 is Katy Fazio, a student at Boston University School of Theology and seminarian at the UCC Church in Milton, MA. Established when Don was named Executive Director Emeritus of the Massachusetts Bible Society, the award is given annually to a student who preaches the best sermon on a biblical text dealing with a social justice issue. It carries a \$1,500 stipend and is open to any student enrolled in any theological seminary in New England. Congratulations to Katy Fazio!

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.” Here’s how Mary Norton Society members, Ted and Kathy Wade, describe their reasons for joining the society:

We have been members of Old South Church for about 10 years. Our decision to join was easy. The people, the ministry, the music, the openness to all, the opportunities for involvement, all factored into our decision. Old South holds a critical space in our lives and we want to do what we can to be sure that Old South has the resources it needs to continue in its mission to provide community, inspiration and purpose to others, both within the congregation and the larger community. This is why we have included Old South in our estate plan.

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 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

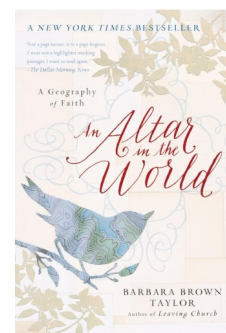
Have you ever wondered what it was like for Phillis Wheatley to worship upstairs at the Old South Meeting House? Or about the worship life of the other members of African descent whose names are etched on the leaves of our Memorial Tree in the Columbarium? Join us as historian Richard Boles, author of *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. The Old South Church community is invited to a wine and cheese reception at 5:15 p.m. prior to Professor Boles' talk. Co-sponsored by Old South Church's Mary Norton Society and by Revolutionary Spaces.

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



2025 NEW NEIGHBOR TASK FORCE INTEREST FORM

With the 2025 Presidential Inauguration comes a test of our faith and a test of our love of our neighbors. Trump has promised to “carry out the largest domestic deportation operation in American history” and his administration plans to use broad federal powers to do so. The time is now to leverage our power as a community to say “NO” to these efforts. In the coming months, the New Neighbor Task Force aims to assert the inherent value of our immigrant neighbors - through housing and accompaniment, financial sponsorship, legislative advocacy, prayer, and more. If you are interested in learning about or supporting this effort in any way, follow the QR Code to fill out this new intake form.



GREEN TIP: For Valentine's Day, Skip the Cut Flowers for a Potted Plant

A beautiful bouquet of roses is a staple for Valentine's Day. But unfortunately, most of the bouquets you find in stores have been transported a long way before they reach you, sometimes even from other countries. That creates a high carbon footprint for a gift that's only enjoyed for a day or two! If you want to give your special someone something thoughtful and beautiful, give a potted plant instead! This way, your gift will last for a long time, and add beauty to your home. You can give one that's easy to care for, like bamboo, aloe, snake or spider plants. You could also add beauty to your garden by planting seeds for annual flowers together! Go to tinyurl.com/EcoValentines.

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.



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