

March 23, 2025 ❖ 11:00 a.m.

## Third Sunday in Lent

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

### GATHER

PRELUDE

Psalm 23

Emma Lou Diemer

VOTUM

Gracie Paterson

Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
**who made heaven and earth. Amen.**

\*HYMN 251

**I Greet You, Sure Redeemer**

TOULON

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Because we have seen pain without being moved, because we forget your love  
with solemn pride, because we pass by happy before poverty and sadness.

**Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, have mercy on us.**

For speaking of love without loving our siblings, for speaking of faith without  
living your word, because we live without seeing our sin.

**Christ have mercy, Christ have mercy, have mercy on us.**

For our tranquility in our affluent life, for our great falseness  
in preaching about poverty, for making excuses for injustice and misery.

**Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, have mercy on us. Amen.**

*Moment of silence*

*\*Indicates all who are able may stand*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God does not keep score of our wrongs or measure how far we have wandered.

**God welcomes us, like a mother scooping up her lost children,  
like a father embracing his prodigal offspring.**

Children of God, in forgiveness you have been welcomed home.

**Thanks be to God.**

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

WELCOME

ANTHEM

Unity

Daniel M. Cason II, arr.

Behold, how good and pleasant it is for people to dwell together in unity.

Unity, unity; Lord, we pray for unity.

**LISTEN**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Kate M. Nintcheu

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 25:34-40

Stephanie LaShoto-Westfield

\*HYMN 489

**I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say**

EVAN

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

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 11:25-30

SERMON

“My yoke is easy”

Rachel J. Barton

\*HYMN 484

**O Come to Me, You Weary**

MEIRIONYDD

# 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

What a Friend  
We Have in Jesus

Matthew Weaver, *arr.*

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer.  
Oh, what peace we often forfeit;  
Oh, what needless pain we bear,  
all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.

Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness, take it to the Lord in prayer.

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!  
Precious Savior, still our refuge; we will find our solace there.

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

What Wondrous Love Is This

Bill Cutter, *arr.*

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,  
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss  
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,  
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,  
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of life  
to lay aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,  
to lay aside his crown for my soul!

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*HYMN 546

**Jesus, Lover of My Soul**

MARTYN

\*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

Rachel J. Barton

POSTLUDE

Processional

Grayston Ives



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

The flowers today are given by Bettina Blake  
in memory of her parents, Betty & Billy Blake,  
who were married on March 26, 1927.

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

## **HOLY WEEK & EASTER 2025**

*Learn more at [www.oldsouth.org/holyweek](http://www.oldsouth.org/holyweek)*

### **PALM SUNDAY | April 13 | 9AM & 11AM**

We mark Jesus' triumphal entrance into Jerusalem as our shouts of Hosanna fade to the drama of the coming week.

### **MAUNDY THURSDAY | April 17 | 6PM**

This year's Maundy Thursday service will be a fresh experience. In the past, we've focused on the failures of the disciples. This year, we will highlight the many gifts Jesus gave them to prepare and sustain them for the challenging days ahead. With music led by Audrey Woodhams, find sustenance and encouragement for the living of these days.

### **GOOD FRIDAY | April 18 | 7PM**

This Good Friday, the Old South Chamber Chorus and soloists will present a performance of Sir John Stainer's passion oratorio *The Crucifixion*, a musical retelling of our redeemer's final hours. Modeled on the great passion settings of Bach, Stainer's oratorio is among the most popular English-language works depicting the events surrounding Christ's death. Premiered in 1887 — roughly contemporaneous with the New Old South Church edifice — the work combines recitatives, solos and masterful choruses that range from graphic shouts of "Crucify!" to the work's beloved centerpiece, "God So Loved the World."

### **EASTER & MARATHON SUNDAY | April 20, 2025**

**7AM**

Join us for a brief, informal outdoor service to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ and to bless the athletes of the Boston Marathon. With bagpipe and public art, celebrate the joy of the resurrection under the portico.

**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." For children: childcare will be available on the 3rd floor from 8:20 - 12:30, and we will have Children's Worship for older children for a portion of the 9am and 11am services. For details please reach out to Director of Children and Families Kate Nintcheu at [children@oldsouth.org](mailto:children@oldsouth.org).

## **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



## LENT

**In The Forum This Month:*****An Altar in the World, our Lenten All-Church Read***

10am Sundays, 2nd floor, or Zoom [tinyurl.com/2025ForumOSC](https://tinyurl.com/2025ForumOSC) password community

Join us as we explore the lessons author Barbara Brown Taylor includes in her book *An Altar in the World*. We'll highlight and discuss some of her teaching each week. Prior reading is not required, you will still learn and be able to participate.

- **Sunday Mar 23rd:** Walking on the Earth, Getting Lost, and Encountering Others
- **Sunday Mar 30th:** The Practice of Living with Purpose, Saying No and Carrying Water
- **Sunday Apr 6th:** Feeling Pain, Being Present to God, and Pronouncing Blessings

**LENTEN DEVOTIONAL READING**

*Get your copy at the church or at*

Living in a time of such chaos and outrage, we need spiritual discipline to stay grounded and to live out God's call of love and liberation for all. This Lent, Old South has created a devotional booklet to accompany you through these 40 days. Each week offers a reflection and a spiritual practice drawn from the scripture of Galatians 5. "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."

**POEMS FOR THE JOURNEY:****A LENTEN/HOLY WEEK GATHERING OF VERSE**

*Sunday, April 13, 10am,*

*Mary Norton Hall or Zoom [tinyurl.com/2025ForumOSC](https://tinyurl.com/2025ForumOSC) password community*

Join Theologian in Residence, Don Wells, in sharing poems and prose selections that reflect our Lenten and Holy Week journey. This is a new event similar to our annual Advent and Christmas Poetry Fest. To participate, let Don know the title of your selection ([granwell@comcast.net](mailto:granwell@comcast.net)). Choose not to read? Come anyway and hear others share their offerings.

**OUR LENTEN JOURNEY ....to Bethany.....Bethany?**

*A Blog from Don Wells, Theologian in Residence,*

*read the full blog at [tinyurl.com/WellsLentBlog2025](https://tinyurl.com/WellsLentBlog2025)*

"For us in the Church, while not a 'day' of tranquility, Lent can provide a different rhythm from the ordinary. It gives us a time frame in which to reflect, study, pray and perhaps engage in a new practice that will help us on our journey. It gives us a chance to hear again Jesus' invitation to 'come, follow me', and to assess how we are doing."

## **MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL VOCAL CHORDS AT FESTIVAL WORSHIP MARCH 23**

Beginning in February 1990, the Middlesex Hospital Vocal Chords began with a few compassionate singers led by Joyce Ghent, a registered nurse at the hospital in Middletown Connecticut. Since its founding 35 years ago, the choir has grown to more than 90 voices strong. Through music, we seek to help heal those who can be healed and soothe those who cannot. The Vocal Chords perform selections from a wide variety of musical styles including patriotic songs, classical pieces, music from the 1940's to the present, Broadway medleys, and numerous Christmas and Hanukkah arrangements.

## **BLESSINGS FOR MARATHON SUNDAY**

*Coffee Hours through April 13*

This year, we will be distributing felt hearts on the weekend of the Boston Marathon as a blessing. We invite you to decorate these hearts by embroidering encouraging words, patterns, or designs. We will have supplies available for decorating on the Sundays leading up to April 20th during coffee hour. Questions? Email [ashley@oldsouth.org](mailto:ashley@oldsouth.org).



## **FAMILY GAME NIGHT**

*Fridays Mar 28, and May 9. 6pm - 8pm in the Guild Rm.*

Grab your board games and join Old South families for a night of games & pizza in the Guild Room. Sponsored by Christian Formation, this relaxed kick off to the weekend is geared towards families, but we welcome any child-at-heart who wants to come. Please RSVP to Hillary Mull [hillary78@gmail.com](mailto:hillary78@gmail.com), so we know how much pizza to order. *Donations accepted to offset cost of pizza.*

## **SHELTERING OUR NEIGHBORS: SIX HOST HOMES BY EASTER**

As federal and state immigration policies change, refugees and migrants in Mass. remain in need of shelter. The New Neighbors Task Force, along with an ecumenical coalition led by the Massachusetts Council of Churches, has set a goal of six host homes by Easter. Working with trusted social service agencies, Old Southerners are stepping forward to host new neighbors (both families with children and individuals) in their homes for stays as short as an overnight and as long as several months. We are forming circles of support around each of these hosts to offer emotional support, transportation, babysitting, and other assistance as needed. If you are interested or want more information, please email [ashley@oldsouth.org](mailto:ashley@oldsouth.org).

## **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**

International aid is a hallmark of the Christian faith. As people who believe in a God who transcends all borders, we are called to embrace those in need who are divided from us by human-made boundaries. One Great Hour of Sharing offering is an opportunity to contribute to international aid. In partnership with multiple Protestant denominations, this offering makes a life saving difference in the lives of the most vulnerable. You can contribute to this offering in worship during Lent, or through our online portal at [tinyurl.com/OSCGiving](http://tinyurl.com/OSCGiving).

## **EASTER FLOWER DONATIONS**

*requested contribution \$20, make your donation by March 30*

Go to [tinyurl.com/OSCGiving](http://tinyurl.com/OSCGiving) and choose "Easter Flowers" to make your gift. Messages in honor or memory of loved ones or special occasions can be entered on the second page of the donation screen or you can give anonymously. Questions? Contact Rémy Hatfield-Gardner at [remy@oldsouth.org](mailto:remy@oldsouth.org).

## **VOLUNTEER TO READ SCRIPTURE**

Go to [tinyurl.com/2025OSCScriptureReaders](http://tinyurl.com/2025OSCScriptureReaders), Questions? Email Rev. Ashley at [ashley@oldsouth.org](mailto:ashley@oldsouth.org)  
Reading the Bible in community is an essential Christian spiritual practice. Each week at Festival Worship a volunteer reads scripture before the sermon. People of all ages are encouraged to volunteer! Questions? Email Ashley Popperson.

## **GREEN TIP: Lay Off the Online Ordering and Keep It Green**

Maybe Lent is a time to pause before pressing that "place order" button. Do you really need another T-shirt or pair of jeans? Can you make do, for 40 days, with what's already in your closet? Your landfill will thank you. Learn more at [tinyurl.com/GreenLentGuideposts](http://tinyurl.com/GreenLentGuideposts).

## **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

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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.

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