



Old South Church *in* Boston
Copley Square

May 18, 2025 ❖ 11:00 a.m.

Fifth Sunday of Easter Godspeed Gracie Paterson

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

GATHER

PRELUDE

III. Allegretto from the Sonata, Op. 65, No. 4

Felix Mendelssohn

*HYMN 73

Enter, Rejoice, and Come In

ENTER, REJOICE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rachel J. Barton

The Lord is our shepherd;

we lack nothing.

Though we may walk through the darkest valley,

we fear no evil; for God is with us.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us

all the days of our lives,

and we shall dwell

in the house of the Lord forever.

Let us worship God!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

WELCOME

**Indicates all who are able may stand*

ANTHEM

Just a Closer Walk With Thee

Joel Raney, *arr.*

I am weak but thou art strong;
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long
as I walk, let me walk close to thee.

*Just a closer walk with thee,
grant it, Jesus, is my plea;
daily walking close to thee,
let it be, dear Lord, let it be.*

O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path grows from day to day,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

When my feeble life is o'er,
time for me will be no more;
guide me gently, safely o'er
to thy kingdom shore, to thy shore.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Matthew Joseph Aleshire

Child of Jonathan and Molly Aleshire

Godchild of Matt Ogrodnik and Jennie Moctezuma

BLESSING THE WATER

John M. Edgerton

PRESENTATION AND INTRODUCTION

LITANY OF BAPTISM

One: We are gathered to present Matthew Joseph Aleshire to the Church and to dedicate him to God. What can we affirm about him?

Many: He is a child of God, made in God's image.

One: As Matthew grows and matures, how will he know he is a child of God and how will he learn of the Christian story?

Many: We will tell him about Abraham and Sarah, the parents of our faith; about Moses and Miriam who led our ancestors out of bondage; about Mary and Joseph's openness to mystery; about the Savior, Jesus.

One: In turn, what will we expect of him?

Many: We look forward to sitting with him at the Lord's Table, sharing with him the costs and joys of discipleship, learning and growing with him in the Christian pilgrimage, and declaring with one voice our faith in God and God's son, Jesus.

One: Do you, Molly and Jonathan, parents, assume your primary responsibility for fulfilling these expectations by growing with Matthew in the Christian faith, helping him to become a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, and by offering him the nurture and support of the Christian church? And will you, Jennie and Matt, godparents, agree to guide Matthew into becoming an engaged and complete human being, teaching him about personal sacrifice for a greater good, about grace and reconciliation at times of human weakness, and the power of unconditional love for all people?

Parents/Godparents: We happily and genuinely accept this serious duty.

One: And Old South Church, do you pledge to maintain a nurturing and challenging Christian environment for Matthew?

Many: We do, for he belongs to us as well.

One: Then, may God be with us.

Many: God help us. Amen.

BAPTISM

CONGREGATIONAL WELCOME

Rebecca Bowen, *Baptismal Deacon*

We rejoice in God's empowering love, freely given to each and all. We welcome you, newly baptized, into the circle of love in Christ's Church. We promise to pray for you, to seek the depths of faith with you, to support you, and to love you. We covenant with you to love God with all our hearts, minds, souls, and strength, and our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.

LISTEN

SCRIPTURE

2 Kings 2:6-12

Larry Bowers

*HYMN 358

God of the Prophets

TOULON

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

SCRIPTURE

Acts 9:36-43

SERMON

The Understudies

Gracie Paterson

*HYMN 495

Called As Partners in Christ's Service

BEECHER

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

II. Spring Carol
from "Three Carols for Solo Voice" (1977)
Kate Wood, *soprano*

Calvin Hampton

Now the spring has come again, joy and warmth will follow;
cold and wet are quite forgot, northward flies the swallow;
over sea and land and air spring's soft touch is everywhere
and the world looks cleaner;
all our sinews feel new-strung, hearts are light that once were wrung,
youthful zests are keener.

All the woods are now in leaf, all the fruit is budding,
bees are humming round the hive, done with winter's brooding;
seas are calm and blue again, clouds no more foretell the rain,
winds are soft and tender;
high above the kingly sun laughs once more his course to run,
shines in all his splendor.

God is in the midst of her. God commands her duty;
Earth does but reflect his light, mirrors back his beauty;
God's the fount whence all things flow, great and small above, below,
God's their only maker;
we but poorest patterns are of that Mind beyond compare:
God our great Creator.

GODSPEED TO GRACIE PATERSON

The Ministers

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

Amazing Grace

Jay Rouse, *arr.*

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound, that saved a sinful wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found; I once was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and by his grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear, the very hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares we have by faith already come:
'tis grace that brought us safe thus far, and grace will surely lead us home.

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound!

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun!

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN 82

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

AR HYD Y NOS

*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

Gracie Paterson

POSTLUDE

Toccata for a Joyous Day
THE OLD SOUTH RINGERS
Peter Coulombe, *director*

Paul McKlveen



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

The flowers today are given in honor of
Gracie Paterson, departing Nancy S. Taylor Fellow,
and Kat Woodard, departing Seminarian and returning
Nancy S. Taylor Fellow for 2025-2026,
by the Old South Church Staff.

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

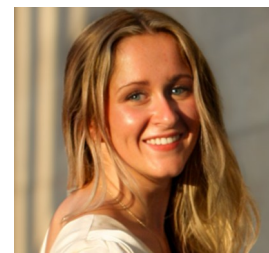


GODSPEED GRACIE PATERSON

This academic year, Old South has been blessed by Gracie Paterson, our Nancy S. Taylor Fellow. We are grateful for their leadership and contributions to Old South. Gracie's last Sunday will be May 18. Come celebrate with us and bless them on their way!

ANNOUNCING NANCY S. TAYLOR RESIDENT FOR MISSION IN THE CITY: KAT WOODARD

Thanks to two generous bequests, we are overjoyed to announce that the Taylor Fellow position (formerly 10-12 hours per week) will be expanded into a full time role for the next program year. The role will be filled by Kat Woodard who has been serving as our seminarian this year. Kat is graduating from Harvard Divinity School in just a few weeks and is excited to continue to bring her immense gifts to the ministries of Old South Church.



Old South's Sanctuary Organ has a new sound: the 8' Gedeckt, a rank of "flute" pipes located in the instrument's Great division. These pipes, built in 1916 by the Ernest M. Skinner Company (the primary builder of Old South's organ) were originally installed in the First Church of Christ, Scientist in Quincy. When that church closed in 2017, the organ was removed; however, Joe Sloane (one of our two organ curators) saved these pipes, knowing they would one day find a good home. Restored and fit onto a little-used position behind the Doge's screen, the new-old pipes take their name from the German word for "covered", which describes the general type of tone of any pipes whose tops are stoppered. (You can see the wooden plunger-stoppers in the tops of the pipes, fitted with leather, rising up and down to flatten or sharpen the pitch.) The bright, cheerful flute tone fills in one of the instrument's sonic gaps, and will be immensely useful as both an accompaniment or solo voice.

Please extend a warm, Old South welcome to the 8' Gedeckt!



ORGAN-STOPS

AND THEIR

ARTISTIC REGISTRATION

NAMES, FORMS, CONSTRUCTION,
TONALITIES, AND OFFICES IN
SCIENTIFIC COMBINATION ❁ ❁

BY
GEORGE ASHDOWN AUDSLEY, LL.D.
ECCLESIASTICAL AND ORGAN ARCHITECT

(Published 1925)

STOPPED DIAPASON, Eng.—Ger., GEDECKT. Fr., BOURDON. Span., TAPADO, TAPADILLO.—A covered labial stop, of 8 ft. pitch in the manual divisions, and of 16 ft. pitch in the Pedal Organ. The English name, though time-honored, is neither correct nor desirable, for the stop has no resemblance to a true DIAPASON in form or tonality. The stop yields an unimitative flute-tone, and belongs to the Flute-work of the Organ. The proper English equivalent is STOPPED FLUTE. The English practice is to make the pipes of the stop entirely of wood, but in some late examples metal pipes have been used in the higher treble octaves. The so-called STOPPED DIAPASON, 16 FT., is invariably constructed of wood throughout: the stop is only a medium-scaled BOURDON, voiced to be as free from the second upper partial as possible. The old builders in England, and notably Bernard Smith, made their STOPPED DIAPASONS of oak, and no better material could be used for the purpose. In the "Schedule" of the Organ constructed by Smith for the Temple Church, London, are mentioned two "GEDACKTS of wainescott"—a superior quality of straight-grained oak grown abroad. The German organ-builders have made their GEDECKTS of both wood and metal; while the French builders have preferred metal for their manual unison BOURDONS. See BOURDON and GEDECKT.

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

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

HOLY WEEK 2026

Palm Sunday — March 29 | 9AM & 11AM

Maundy Thursday — April 2 | 6PM

Good Friday — April 3 | 7PM

EASTER SUNDAY

April 5, 2026 | 9AM & 11AM

The triumph of the Christian story of resurrection informs a service of worship that is characterized by joyous celebration.

MARATHON SUNDAY

April 19, 2026 | 9AM & 11AM

Hundreds of marathoners join us for worship, where we will pause to acknowledge the runners, their families, and volunteers in a special “Blessing of the Athletes.”

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*
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* ❖ 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*
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* ❖ 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.



