



Old South Church *in* Boston  
Copley Square

June 15, 2025

## Pride Sunday

11:00 a.m.

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

### GATHER

PRELUDE

Over the Rainbow  
Ida Kamrara, *soloist*

Harold Arlen / Yip Harburg

\*HYMN 391

**In the Midst of New Dimensions**

NEW DIMENSIONS

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

John M. Edgerton

Arise, beloved of God,

**for though the storm rages,**

**hope is ever on the horizon.**

Arise, for the Spirit of God breaks every chain,

**They dance forth beyond human constructs.**

Arise, for Jesus has defeated death

**and with it all powers of hatred and oppression.**

Arise, for the creativity of God is unending

**and you are a treasured work of art.**

Arise beloved of God,

**The flowers have begun to bloom**

**and the time of singing has come.**

*\*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

Plenty Good Room  
OLD SOUTH CHURCH GOSPEL CHOIR AND SUMMER CHOIR  
Geoff O’Hara, *director*

Spiritual

Plenty of good room. Plenty of good room.  
Plenty of good room in our heavenly kingdom.  
Plenty of good room. Plenty of good room.  
Choose your seat and sit down.

There’s a long white robe in the heavens I know.  
There’s a long white robe in the heavens I know.  
There’s a long white robe in the heavens I know.  
Choose your seat and sit down.

There’s a starry crown in the heavens I know.  
There’s a starry crown in the heavens I know.  
There’s a starry crown in the heavens I know.  
Choose your seat and sit down.

## ATTEND

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Kate M. Nintcheu

SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31

Ashton Gregor

*Following the reading, children who wish to may meet childcare staff  
in the back of the sanctuary and proceed to the 3rd floor.*

\*HYMN 530

God Our Author and Creator

JEFFERSON

SCRIPTURE

John 16:12-15

SERMON

Beyond all Knowing

Ashley J. Popperson

HYMN

**Singing for Our Lives**

Holly Near



The image shows two staves of musical notation in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The melody is written on a treble clef. The lyrics are: "We are a gen-tle, an-gry peo - ple, and we are sing-ing, sing-ing for our lives. \_\_\_\_". The first staff ends with a long horizontal line indicating a continuation of the melody. The second staff continues the melody and ends with a double bar line.

2. We are gay and straight together
3. We are a peaceful, loving people

## RESPOND

\*CALL TO PRAYER

Rachel J. Barton

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

May the Spirit of the Living God fall afresh on us.

**The Holy Spirit guides our way and ignites 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

Home (from "The Wiz")  
Eren Brooks, *soloist*

Charlie Smalls

When I think of home, I think of a place where there's love overflowing.  
I wish I was home, I wish I was back there with the things I've been knowing:  
Wind that makes the tall grass bend into leaning,  
Suddenly, the raindrops that fall have a meaning.  
Sprinkling the scene, makes it all so clean.

Maybe there's a chance for me to go back now that I have some direction.  
It sure would be nice to be back home where there's love and affection.  
And just maybe I can convince time to slow up,  
Giving me enough time in my life to grow up.  
Time, be my friend. Let me start again.

Suddenly, my world's gone and changed its face, but I still know where I'm going.  
I have had my mind spun around in space, and yet I've watched it growing.  
If you're listening, God, please don't make it hard  
To know if we should believe the things that we see.  
Tell us, should we try to stay, should we run away,  
or would it be better just to let things be?  
Living here in this brand new world might be a fantasy.  
But it taught me to love, so it's real to me.  
And I've learned that we must look inside our hearts  
to find a world full of love.  
Like yours. Like mine. Like home.

## 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

True Colors

Steinberg/Kelly, arr. Emerson

OLD SOUTH CHURCH GOSPEL CHOIR AND SUMMER CHOIR

You with the sad eyes, don't be discouraged.  
Oh, I realize it's hard to take courage.  
In a world full of people, you can lose sight of it.  
And the darkness inside you makes you feel so small.

Chorus:

But I see your true colors shining through.  
I see your true colors, and that's why I love you.  
So don't be afraid to let them show, your true colors.  
True colors are beautiful like a rainbow.

Show me a smile then, don't be unhappy.  
Can't remember when I last saw you laughing.  
If this world makes you crazy, and you're taking all you can bear,  
just call me up, because you know I'll be there.

(Chorus)

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*HYMN

## Queerly Beloved

Amanda Udis-Kessler

Queer - ly be - lov - ed, we have as - sem - bled, join - ing in  
Queer - ly be - lov - ed, we have been hat - ed, treat - ed as  
Queer - ly be - lov - ed, we have dis - cov - ered love that is  
won - der, sing - ing in praise. Lift - ing our eyes,  
out - casts, rag - ged and rough, Still we per - sist,  
per - fect, end - ing our fear. There is a truth  
rais - ing our voic - es, trust - ing in hope, in love, and in faith.  
joy - ous and grate - ful, trust - ing that grace is ev - er e - nough.  
wait - ing to claim us. There is a call so strong and so clear.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, God is Great!  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, God is love!  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, God is here!

\*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

Ashley J. Popperson

SUNG RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Our Love Is Here to Stay  
Geoff O'Hara and Eren Brooks, *soloists*

George Gershwin



## Today's Guest Musicians

Roberto Alaniz, *bass* & Aaron Trant, *percussion*



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

The Flowers today are given by Candace Belanoff  
in honor of their Mommy and Daddy  
and wishing a happy Pride to all!

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



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](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, *Associate Minister for Transformation*  
Kat Woodard, *Nancy S. Taylor Leadership Fellow*

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

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.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## PRIDE @ OLD SOUTH

### BOSTON PRIDE FOR THE PEOPLE

*Saturday, June 14*

Out of the church and into the streets! Old South will be hosting UCC churches from across the region to march together in Boston's Pride parade. We will gather in Gordon Chapel, beginning at 10:15am. We will travel from there to gather at our designated formation area (TBD) for the parade which begins at 11am. The parade will finish at Beacon St and Park St, between the Public Garden and the Common. Old South Church will host a Hospitality Station under the Portico on Boylston street from 10am-12pm. Volunteer at [tinyurl.com/PrideHospitality](https://tinyurl.com/PrideHospitality).

### PRIDE WORSHIP WITH RAINBOW DISCO COFFEE HOUR

*Sunday, June 15, at First and Festival Worship*

Join us for Pride Worship at Old South Church! We will gather as our most fabulous selves to worship the God who made us fearfully and wonderfully. Services at 9am and 11am. Rainbow Disco Coffee Hour at 10am & 12pm.

### PRIDE SHIRTS FOR PURCHASE

Go to [tinyurl.com/2025PrideShirt](https://tinyurl.com/2025PrideShirt) to order

Our Queerly Beloved Pride Shirts are now available - made to order and mailed to your home! You can choose from different styles (t-shirts, hoodies, etc.), including youth sizes, and many color options for each style.

### LEARN ABOUT THE CARE AND SUPPORT COMMITTEE

*Sunday, June 15, 10 and noon, at Coffee Hour in the Gordon Chapel.*

Ever wonder who sends out all those cards of congratulations, get well wishes or prayerful thoughts and sympathy in times of sadness? You may have received a lovely message or two. Ever wonder who gets the cakes for the monthly birthday celebrations? Helps with an occasional Uber ride? Or the little OSC onesies to welcome our newest little congregants? Well, wonder no more; it's Old South's Congregational Care and Support Committee. We'd love for you to come meet some committee members and hear more about all the ways we are trying to Care and Support Old South's congregation. Stop by; you might even get a cupcake treat.

## **JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION AT THURSDAY NIGHT CHURCH**

*Thursday, June 19, 6pm in Gordon Chapel and on live stream*

*Old South Church is open on June 19 and closed on June 20*

Join us next week at Thursday Night Church as we mark Juneteenth, which is a holiday that commemorates the end of slavery in the United States. We will gather to uplift Black freedom and commit to the struggle for the liberation of all of God's children. Donnell Patterson and Ida Kamrara will lead us in song, and Rev. June Cooper will preach in this service of reflection, solidarity, and hope. All are welcome, refreshments provided.



### **GUEST PREACHER AND SPEAKER: THE REV. MATT R. RASURE**

*Sunday, June 22, at First and Festival Worship and 10am Coffee Hour*

The Rev. Matthew R. Rasure, Ph.D., is the Director of Development for the Allston Brighton Food Pantry, a strategic mission of the Brighton-Allston Congregational Church. Matt is a community advocate, scholar, and fundraiser who is passionate about the intersection of faith and community empowerment. Prior to joining the Allston Brighton Food Pantry staff, he served as the Senior Minister of the First Baptist Church of Medford. Matt will be preaching at First and Festival Worship, and hosting coffee hour

between the services in Mary Norton Hall at 10:00 am on the 22nd, where he'll share more about the Allston-Brighton Food Pantry, and the Trans BIPOC Residency at the Brighton-Allston Congregational Church.

## **MISSIONARY VISIT TO OLD SOUTH**

*Sunday, June 29, 10am, in the Gordon Chapel*

Dr. Nathanael Wiles is a physician in Kenya, Africa. Born in Cleveland, Ohio, he is preparing for his second mission to Tenwek Hospital in Bomet, Africa. He was diagnosed with an aggressive brain tumor during medical school but by God's grace, he was able to overcome this seemingly insurmountable challenge. Come, hear him talk about the African people he serves and how he continues to respond to

God's calling. He will share slides and details of his ministry. Those interested in getting to know Nathanael in a more intimate setting are cordially invited to a dinner at the home of Esther and Fredrick Seguin here in the Back Bay on Saturday, June 28, at 6pm. Please sign up for the dinner by emailing Esther Seguin at [ejohannaseguin@gmail.com](mailto:ejohannaseguin@gmail.com), seating is limited to 10 people



### **MEMBERSHIP SUNDAY LUNCH**

*June 29, 12:30pm, RSVP to Ashley Popperson at [ashley@oldsouth.org](mailto:ashley@oldsouth.org) by June 26th, noting any dietary needs or restrictions.*

Calling all new Old Southerners! Calling all Long Term Members! If you joined the church in the last few years or if you've been a member of the church for over 20 years, this lunch is for you! Join us for lunch to celebrate membership at Old South!

### **RETIRED AND READY AT THE AFRICAN MEETING HOUSE**

*Purchase your ticket at [www.maah.org/boston-location](http://www.maah.org/boston-location) for Tuesday, July 8 at 10am and join our group at 46 Joy Street. Email Charlotte at [char.r.simpson@gmail.com](mailto:char.r.simpson@gmail.com) for info*

Want to learn the history that was missing from your history books? Join a guided tour of the Abiel Smith School, the oldest public school in the United States that was built for the sole purpose of educating African American children. We will also tour the African Meeting House, the oldest existing black church building in our country. A special exhibit "Black Voices of the Revolution" is also on display. Following our tour we plan to dine at Flour Bakery and Cafe, 209 Cambridge Street.

### **THE WEEKLY PUSHBACK**

Bad news comes fast and furious these days--for trans folks, for immigrants, for the disabled. But all across the country, people of goodwill are pushing back. Every week, Old South's Christian Service and Outreach Committee will be giving \$1,000 to an organization or individual who is serving the gospel in a world of bad news. Juneteenth offers an opportunity for reflection and engagement, particularly for a country built on and continuing to perpetuate racial inequity. For our action this week, Old South is donating \$1,000 to YW Boston, a nonprofit 4 blocks away with the mission of eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all. Have other weekly action ideas? Email [outreach@oldsouth.org](mailto:outreach@oldsouth.org).

### **CHRISTIAN SERVICE AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE SEEKS GRANTEES**

*Email [outreach@oldsouth.org](mailto:outreach@oldsouth.org) to provide your suggestions by June 30*

The Christian Service & Outreach Committee (CSOC) continues Old South's history of service by supporting the work of local non-profits through grant giving and connecting our grantees with the human capital our congregation has to offer. Each year, CSOC reviews local non-profit organizations and invites several to apply for consideration for a grant or awards. We are soliciting recommendations from the congregation for organizations to consider for 2025. We are particularly interested in learning about Boston-based non-profits that serve the local Boston community and offer hands-on volunteer opportunities.

## JAZZY JUNE AT OLD SOUTH CHURCH

Get ready for a Jazzy June during Festival Worship! It will be a feast of swinging, soulful music, brought to you through the combined efforts of the Willie Sordillo Ensemble, Summer Choir, and Gospel Choir. This musical series will be an uplifting way to bid farewell to the Sanctuary before we decamp to the Chapel for July and August. In particular, we're thrilled to bring elements of Old South's groundbreaking Jazz Worship to our Festival service during these weeks. Come prepared to sing some of your favorite tunes, and revel in the artistic chemistry of Willie, Zoë, and the band.

## SUMMER CHOIR

Contact Mitchell Crawford at [mitchell@oldsouth.org](mailto:mitchell@oldsouth.org) for more information

The Old South Summer Choir is a welcoming and encouraging community of those who love to sing. This ensemble is an integral part of Festival Worship from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day, gathering at 10am to prepare for the 11am service. Summer Choir is a great opportunity to check out our music ministry, share your love of singing, grow your musical abilities, or try something new. No experience or preparation is necessary. Feel free to join us as your Sunday schedule allows!

## GREEN TIP: Get a Reusable Coffee Cup

We drink a lot of coffee. 587 million cups per day for Americans. That's quite a few cups that are going right into the garbage. Instead of getting that coffee in a disposable cup bring your own. It's a simple switch that saves a lot of waste.

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## 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.

**VESPER 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.



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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)