



## Old South Church

*Copley Square, Boston*

*A Congregation of the  
United Church of Christ*

*Gathered 1669*

## Epiphany Sunday

11:00 a.m.

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

## GATHER

PRELUDE

O Morning Star, How Clear and Bright

Albert Runbäck

\*HYMN 157

**Brightest and Best**

MORNING STAR

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Ashley J. Popperson

Arise, beloved! The glory of the Lord rises to meet you.

**Arise, shine for your light has come!**

Lift up your eyes, behold the break of day.

**Though shadow covers the Earth,**

the Lord is our everlasting light.

**God's love sustains us through the night**

**and our joy comes in the morning. Alleluia! Amen.**

\*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

When the Song of the Angels Is Stilled

Elizabeth Alexander

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
the work of Christmas begins.

When the star in the heavens is gone,  
Oh, the work of Christmas begins:

*to find the lost,  
to heal the broken,  
to feed the hungry,  
to release the prisoner,  
to rebuild the nations,  
to bring peace among the people,  
to make music in the heart.*

When the star is gone, when the song is stilled,  
the work of Christmas begins.

When the kings and the princes are home,  
the work of Christmas begins.

When the shepherds are back with their flocks,  
the work of Christmas begins: *to find the lost...*

When the shepherds are back with their flocks,  
when the kings and the princes are home,  
when the star in the heavens is gone,  
when the song of the angels is stilled,  
the work of Christmas begins.

# LISTEN

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 2:1-12

Kat Woodard

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kate M. Nintcheu

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

\*HYMN 139

**The First Nowell**

THE FIRST NOWELL

SERMON

If Only This

Rachel J. Barton

\*HYMN 153

**Who Would Think That What Was Needed**

SCARLET RIBBONS

# RESPOND

\*CALL TO PRAYER

Kat Woodard

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

“Wo ist der neugeborne König”  
from Christus, Op. 97

Felix Mendelssohn

*Da Jesus geboren ward zu Bethlehem im jüdischen Lande,  
da kamen die Weisen vom Morgenlande gen Jerusalem und beteten ihn an.*

*Wo ist der neugeborne König der Juden?  
Wir haben seinen Stern gesehen und sind gekommen, ihn anzubeten.*

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the land of Judea,  
wise men from the East came to Jerusalem and worshiped him.

“Where is the newborn King of the Jews?  
We have seen his star and have come to worship him.”

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Ashley J. Popperson



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

“Es wird ein Stern aus Jakob aufgehen”  
from Christus, Op. 97

Felix Mendelssohn

*Es wird ein Stern aus Jacob aufgehen  
und ein Scepter aus Israel kommen;  
und wird zerschmettern Fürsten und Städte.*

*Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern!  
O welch' ein Glanz geht auf vom Herrn,  
uns Licht und Trost zu geben!  
Dein Wort, Jesu, ist die Klarheit,  
führt zur Wahrheit und zum Leben.  
Wer kann dich genug erheben?*

A star will rise from Jacob,  
a scepter will come forth from Israel;  
and it will shatter princes and cities.

How beautifully the morning star shines!  
Oh, what a radiance emanates from the Lord,  
to give us light and comfort!  
Your word, Jesus, is clarity,  
leading to truth and to life.  
Who can praise you enough?

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*HYMN 164

**Arise! Your Light is Come!**

FESTAL SONG

\*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

Rachel J. Barton

POSTLUDE

Rhapsodie sur des noels

Eugène Gigout

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

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

The flowers are given  
in memory of Benjamin C. Crawford  
by his parents, Linda and James Crawford.

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

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

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

**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.”

**ALL SAINTS SUNDAY**

**November 1, 2026 | 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 26, 2026 | 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, 2026**

***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](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 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**

Hearing assist devices are available from Ava Welling, our Director of Audio. Please see Ava for a device and instructions on how to use it. For more information or answers to questions, please contact Ava at [ava@oldsouth.org](mailto:ava@oldsouth.org).

### **GARAGE PARKING VALIDATIONS**

We have arrangements for discounted parking with two nearby garages for Old South Church for Sunday worship services only. 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, *Taylor Resident for Mission in the City* ❖ Justin Dickerson, *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*

Jonathan Reddix, *Collaborative Pianist* ❖ Jan Christoph Hadenfeldt, *Visiting Organist*

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*

Rory Razon, *Youth Group Co-Leader*

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, *Director of Audio*

Rémy Hatfield-Gardner & William Wei, *Livestream Production Assistants*

Elias Perez, *Senior Sexton* ❖ Tahmina Akter, Richard Serebour, & M.D. Rahman, *Sextons*

Corey Spence, *Weekday Receptionist*

Sarah Acheson-Field, Shirley Bivins, & Shelia Randolph, *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.



OLD  
SOUTH  
CHURCH  
*in* BOSTON



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **(G)RACE SPEAKS AT ISABELLA STEWART GARDNER MUSEUM**

*Sunday, January 4, 1pm,*

*Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, 25 Evans Way, Boston*

(G)RACE Speaks is sponsoring an outing to the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum at 1 PM following Festival Worship. We will explore the exhibit featuring Allan Rohan Crite: Urban Glory. Crite was an African American artist who celebrated, recorded and spoke to Boston's Black community. Tickets are \$22 and, if cost is prohibitive, please let the church know so a ticket can be purchased for you. RSVP/questions to [amyecoe@gmail.com](mailto:amyecoe@gmail.com)

## **EXTRA! EXTRA! MARY NORTON TO VISIT OLD SOUTH! MEET THE LEGEND!**

*Sunday, January 11, following Festival Worship, Mary Norton Hall*

*Go to [tinyurl.com/1-2025MaryNortonRSVP](https://tinyurl.com/1-2025MaryNortonRSVP)*

*to let us know you want to join us!*

Enjoy a delicious 17th century lunch by Carol Blair that includes homemade cornbread and vegetarian baked beans. Then wonder at a dramatic performance starring Pam Roberts, John Edgerton, Laurie Stickels, and Scott McInturff. The script, written by Debbie Weiss, will be read by the actors. It is based on an original premise by Mary Kohak and Debbie Wiess.

## **REVOLUTIONARY GENEROSITY— 2026 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN**

*Questions? Contact Amelia Gerrard at [amelia@oldsouth.org](mailto:amelia@oldsouth.org) or 617-536-1970*

We are also excited to announce our 2026 stewardship campaign, Revolutionary Generosity, is underway! Old South revolutionaries of today practice radical change in our society, serve neighbors, and open doors wide to the city. Join us in practicing revolutionary generosity by pledging online at: <https://tiny.oldsouth.org/pledge2026>.

## **CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER**

*January 4 and every first Sunday, 10am, in the Columbarium*

Need some space to breathe? Time to rest in the spacious silence of God's presence? Please join us for Contemplative Prayer. Together, we'll engage in practices of contemplative prayer, share from our hearts, and find strength and solace in God's abiding love. Questions? Email [ashley@oldsouth.org](mailto:ashley@oldsouth.org).

## **OLD SOUTH PRESCHOOL CREATES DIAPER DROP OFF SITE**

Old South Preschool is partnering with local organization Diaper Circle to serve as a drop-off location. Diaper Circle collects items and distributes them to families in need across Greater Boston. The collection bin is in the lobby by the reception desk. We are accepting:

- new, unopened packs of diapers
- opened packs of diapers
- loose diapers (clean, of course!)
- new, unopened containers of wipes

## **DONATE FLOWERS FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP IN 2026**

*Email Amelia Gerrard at [amelia@oldsouth.org](mailto:amelia@oldsouth.org) to sign up for a Sunday*

Every week, the church has beautiful flowers in front of the pulpit. Would you like to give the flowers one Sunday - in memory or in honor of a special person or event? It is quite meaningful every Sunday to read the flower message. The price is \$100. If cost is prohibitive, please reach out to Amelia Gerrard for more information. Please send your message along with your payment. You can drop it off, send a check, or donate online at [oldsouth.org/donate](https://oldsouth.org/donate).

## **CHURCH CENTER IS LIVE**

You can access the church directory on the Church Center website and app. Giving and Calendar on Church Center also went live on January 2nd, 2026. Go to [oldsouthchurch.churchcenter.com/home](https://oldsouthchurch.churchcenter.com/home) to sign in and <https://oldsouth.org/church-center> for our FAQ. We will have an all-church training on how to use the giving and calendar features on January 18, in-person at 10am and online at 2pm. Reach out to Amelia Gerrard at [amelia@oldsouth.org](mailto:amelia@oldsouth.org) with any questions.

## **WINTER WALK TO END HOMELESSNESS**

*Sunday, February 8th at 8:30am,*

*Boston Common at the corner of Beacon and Charles Streets*

Old South is once again participating in Winter Walk to support our partners over at common cathedral, and people of all ages are invited to join! Winter Walk's mission is to raise awareness and funds towards ending homelessness, and to support organizations that are working on prevention, support, and care for our unhoused community. Join the Old South team as we take this 2 mile walk around Boston Common during the coldest month of the year. To register, go to <https://tinyurl.com/WW26OSC> and select "I have a promo code." Your registration fee is already covered because OSC is a sponsor, and our code is OSC26. You may choose to donate extra money if you choose. If you don't want to walk but do want to donate, you can donate at this link: <https://fundraisers.winterwalk.org/OldSouth>

## **CAN YOU JOIN THE CARDIE CREW?**

Old South's Congregational Care & Support team has a very special at-home job that is in need of a few fresh volunteers: the Card Crew! You may have received a flock of cards from this special group of people, who celebrate, mourn, pray, encourage, and thank our congregation as a way of extending the church's care and support. As a member of the Card Crew you'll receive periodic emails from leader (and OSC parent) Caroline Murray with the names, addresses, and reason that the crew is writing to these Old South folks. There are no meetings, just emails with folks who are in need of cards. And if it's ever a bad time for you, just let Caroline know. This is a great "church job" for folks who cannot commit to regular committee work, or who want to volunteer on their own time at home. You cannot underestimate the importance of this work, as it truly touches individual lives and hearts. If you know of a pew-mate, friend, or yourself who is going through something, celebrating, retiring, moving, excelling, or struggling -- let us know by emailing [care@oldsouth.org](mailto:care@oldsouth.org).

## **GREEN TIP—Lower the Thermostat**

Stay Warm Without Using the Thermostat. As the temperatures outside start to drop, we tend to reach for the thermostat. Before you do that, make sure you layer with sweaters, thick socks and extra blankets.

## CHRISTIAN SERVICE AND OUTREACH

### THE WEEKLY PUSHBACK - Saint Andrew's Church in Cairo

*Learn more about their work at <https://stars-egypt.org/>*

*Have other weekly action ideas? Email [outreach@oldsouth.org](mailto:outreach@oldsouth.org)*

*To get involved or ask questions email Kat Woodard at [kat@oldsouth.org](mailto:kat@oldsouth.org)*

While a lot of attention is focused on the how many refugees the US admits each year, the vast majority of refugees don't live in Europe or America. Instead, they live in neighboring countries that provide no resources or support for individuals facing poverty and trauma. St. Andrew's Church in Cairo has been providing support to refugees in Egypt for decades, including more than a million refugees fleeing violence in Sudan. Old South is proud to support their work, along with some of our members who have been supporting them for years.

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### WEEKLY WORSHIP

**Join us in person, on Facebook, and YouTube**

**Thursday Night Church**, Thursdays at 6:00 p.m., no service 12/25 and 1/1

**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



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)