



Old South Church

Copley Square, Boston

*A Congregation of the
United Church of Christ*

Gathered 1669

Pledge Celebration Sunday

February 1, 2026 ♦ 11:00 a.m.

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

GATHER

Prelude Poco lento from the Fantaisie, Op.16 César Franck

*CALL TO WORSHIP *Adapted from John Jea,
"Desire to Worship"* Justin Tyler Dickerson

Lord we come before thee now,
at thy feet we humbly bow:
Oh! do not our suit disdain;
shall we seek thee, Lord, in vain?

Grant that all may seek and find
thee, most merciful and kind.
Heal the sick, the captive free;
let us all rejoice in thee!

**Indicates all who are able may stand*

In thine own appointed way,
Lo! we meet thee, here we stay;
Lord, we know not how to go,
till a blessing thou bestow.

Lord, on thee our souls depend;
in compassion now descend:
fill our hearts with thy rich grace,
tune our lips to sing thy praise.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

WELCOME

*Done made my vow to the Lord, and I never will turn back,
I will go, I shall go to see what the end will be.*

Sometimes I'm up, sometimes I'm down,
sometimes my soul feels heavenly-bound.

If you get there before I do
tell all my friends I'm coming, too.

LISTEN

SCRIPTURE

Luke 10:25-37

Pam Roberts

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kate M. Nintcheu

*HYMN 551

Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior

PASS ME NOT

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

SERMON

Revolutionary Generosity

Rachel J. Barton

*HYMN 541

They Asked, "Who's My Neighbor?"

NEIGHBOR

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

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

Smith and Hustad, *arrs.*

LAY REFLECTION

June R. Cooper

CALL TO THE OFFERING

John M. Edgerton



*To give via ApplePay,
GooglePay, or Credit Card,
scan the QR code.*

*If you're new to Old South,
scan the QR code
to tell us more about yourself.*



OFFERTORY AND CELEBRATION OF PLEDGES

How Can I Keep from Singing

Gwyneth Walker, *arr.*

My life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation,
I hear the real (though distant) song that hails a new creation.
Through all the tumult and the strife I hear the music ringing;
it sounds an echo in my soul — how can I keep from singing?

What though the tempest loudly roars, I hear the truth, it's living!
What though the darkness round me close, songs in the night it's giving!
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that rock I'm clinging;
since I believe that love abides, how can I keep from singing?
La la la la...

When tyrants tremble when they hear the bells of freedom ringing;
when friends rejoice both far and near — how can I keep from singing?
In prison cell, in dungeon dark, our thoughts to them are winging.
When friends hold courage in their heart, how can I keep from singing?
La la la la...

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN 565

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

AUSTRIAN HYMN

*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

Rachel J. Barton

POSTLUDE

Fanfare

Jacques-Nicolas Lemmens



Join us for Refreshments & Fellowship in the Gordon Chapel following the Postlude.
There will be a luncheon in Mary Norton Hall to celebrate the collection of pledges.

The flowers today are given in loving memory of Ruth Ann Strong
by the Palma Strong Fund.

Close-Up, a twenty minute tour of the Sanctuary,
begins immediately following worship near the pulpit.
Led by docent David Story.



ABOUT TODAY'S CALL TO WORSHIP

John Jea (1773-c.1817), whose words form our Call to Worship this morning, was a freedman, mariner, preacher and author of two books. According to his autobiography, *The Life History and Unparalleled Sufferings of John Jea, the African Preacher*, he was born in the town of Calabar (now southeastern Nigeria) in 1773. Along with his family, he was captured and enslaved as a child, and taken to New York City, where he was sold to Oliver and Angelika Triebuen.

As a teen, John searched for a faith that made sense to him, and found Christianity, getting baptized around the age of fifteen. He became emancipated as a young adult, and spent the rest of his life preaching and sharing his faith with others. His preaching and autobiography focused on religious reasons for abolition, arguing that slavery was morally wrong and contrary to Christian faith.

Our Call to Worship this morning comes from his second book, *Collection of Hymns*. You can read more about John Jea's life in a number of works, including *Black Itinerants of the Gospel: The Narratives of John Jea and George White*, by Graham Russell Hodges.

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

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 18, 2026 | 12PM & 6PM

At noon, a simple service of prayer, silence, confession, & imposition of ashes.

At 6PM, a special musical service featuring the Old South Festival Choir & incorporating “Holden Evening Prayer” by composer Marty Haugen.

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 22, 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.

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 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

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.

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 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*

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, & MD 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.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Old South Church in Boston | Week of Sunday January 25, 2025

BLACK HISTORY MONTH AT OLD SOUTH

Established in 1915, half a century after the Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery in the United States, Black History Month is an annual celebration of the achievements made by African Americans and a time to recognize their central role in U.S. history. During February, (G)RACE Speaks will lift up issues, events, and people who have made a difference in our community in our weekly announcements. To learn more, visit oldsouth.org/black-history-month. *This week's prayer: Oh God, help me to pause in gratitude for the stories, lives, and legacies of Black people whose courage, brilliance, faith, and resilience have shaped our world. Amen.*

STEWARSHIP CELEBRATION LUNCH THIS SUNDAY

You've made your pledge and you have sent it ahead or brought it to one of the three services this week. Now join in a delicious lunch and celebration of our congregation's incredible generosity. Connect with others in our faithful community of givers that fuel the work and ministry of Old South Church. Join us in practicing revolutionary generosity at tinyurl.com/2026OSCPledge and send your pledge online. Questions? Contact Remy remy@oldsouth.org or 617-536-1970.

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

February 1 and each 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 .

ONLINE SMALL GROUP

February 1 at 7:30pm EST and every first Sunday of the month

Go to tinyurl.com/2025OSCOnlineSmallGroup password 684963 to join

Gather with other online members and Rev. Ashley for a time of fellowship, communion, and deepening our relationships with one another. Please bring something to eat (bread, cracker, cookie) and something to drink (juice, water, coffee) as your communion elements.

WINTER WALK TO END HOMELESSNESS

Sunday, February 8, 10am

Questions? Email Kat Woodard at kat@oldsouth.org

Old South is once again participating in the **Winter Walk to End Homelessness**, a two-mile walk around Boston Common during the coldest month of the year. Winter Walk raises both awareness and critical funds to support organizations working to prevent homelessness and provide care, accompaniment, and resources for our unhoused neighbors. This year, Old South will be walking as part of the *common cathedral* team and **all funds raised by individual Old Southerns go directly to *common cathedral* commoncathedral.org**. To further amplify this impact, an anonymous donor from Old South has generously committed to **matching up to \$5,000 in individual donations!** To register for the walk, visit tinyurl.com/OSC2026WinterWalk and select "Walk With Us" if you would like for the proceeds from your registration fee to go to our partners at *common cathedral*. If the registration cost would be a financial barrier for you, you are welcome to use Old South's sponsor code: select "I have a promo code" and enter **OSC26**. If you are unable to walk but would still like to support this important work, you can donate directly to the *common cathedral*'s Winter Walk team here: tinyurl.com/commoncathedralWinterWalk.

IT'S TIME—

PLEASE REGISTER ON CHURCH CENTER IF YOU HAVE NOT

We get it - no one actually enjoys having to learn new technology or be made to download one more app. However, our church's registrations, attendance, giving, and more is moving into Church Center and it's really important that you move with us. If you have not made a login and approved your profile, then you will have trouble with the above things, and possibly miss out on important announcements and other news from the church. Please take time this weekend to login, update / edit your profile, maybe even add a picture.

Get started here:

<https://oldsouthchurch.churchcenter.com/me/profile-and-household>

GREEN TIP: Winter Words to Listen For

Learn more at tinyurl.com/Redcrosswintertips

- **WIND CHILL Temperature:** The wind chill temperature is not the actual temperature but rather how wind and cold feel on exposed skin.
- **Winter Storm OUTLOOK:** Winter storm conditions possible in the next two to five days. Stay tuned to local media for updates.
- **Winter Storm WATCH:** Winter storm conditions possible within the next 36 to 48 hours. Review your winter storm plans and stay informed about weather conditions.
- **Winter Weather ADVISORY:** Winter weather conditions expected to cause significant inconveniences and may be hazardous but not life-threatening if you are cautious.

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, March 8, Mary Norton Hall, RSVP at tinyurl.com/Annualmeeting26

Mark your calendars! Our Annual Meeting will take place on March 8th. Together, we will vote on our Officers, Trustees, and Committee Chairs; review the Budget; and engage in the work of the church. This year, our Annual Meeting will include important conversations about our finances and the work of the church in the years to come. Lunch will be served. **Save the date!**

HOSPITALITY VOLUNTEERS

Be the friendly face that makes a difference in someone's day! At each worship service, our hospitality team offers a warm welcome to friends and visitors alike. We are seeking ushers and welcomers for all three services through April. For Festival Worship, note the new role of Offertory Usher who will only help collect the offering. This new, simpler role is an excellent opportunity to those new to ushering. If you've been wondering how to get more involved and get to know others, hospitality is a great way to start! Sign up at oldsouth.org/hospitality.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY HOUR FORUMS | SUNDAYS AT 10AM

OLD SOUTH CHURCH FINANCES | February 1

Join Zoom Meeting: tinyurl.com/2026-2-1-CommunityHourZoom

Meeting ID: 830 8355 2242 | Passcode: 501753

Join Old South lay leaders Maren Batalden, Christine Del Favero, Paul and Debby Kuenstner, and Donna Matson for an open discussion about Old South Church finances as we anticipate our 2026 budget discussion at the upcoming Annual Meeting. Get a basic introduction to Old South finances, learn about sources of revenue and categories of expense. Understand the guiding principles underlying the development of the budget and engage with others in understanding some of the challenges we are facing.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT- Open Forum about current events | February 8

Join Rev June Cooper and fellow Old South folks for an open conversation about how our current world is affecting you and how your faith is motivating and sustaining you.

GBIO HOUSE MEETING SESSION | February 15

As part of Greater Boston Interfaith Organization's current listening campaign, take part in a "house meeting" session with the goal of both sharing and learning more about the issues impacting us and those we love and stand in community with.

THE WEEKLY PUSHBACK—Christian Service and Outreach

Immigrant Family Services Institute

Learn more about their work and volunteer opportunities www.ifsi-usa.org/

Have other weekly action ideas? Email outreach@oldsouth.org

To get involved or ask questions email Kat Woodard at kat@oldsouth.org

This week for our Weekly Pushback, we lift up the work of Immigrant Family Services Institute, a Boston-area nonprofit dedicated to expediting the successful integration of recent immigrants into the social and economic life of our region. IFSI welcomes newcomers in its “One Stop Centers,” where culturally-competent staff help families access legal aid, housing, healthcare, and continuing education. With programs for children, youth, and adults, including academic enrichment, English language instruction, job preparation, IFSI walks with immigrants of all ages as they seek to become active members of their new communities.

VESPERS HEALING WORSHIP

Next Service Sunday, February 8, 5pm on Zoom, tinyurl.com/OSCHealing 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.

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.*

*If you're new to Old South,
scan the QR code
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