



Old South Church

Copley Square, Boston

*A Congregation of the
United Church of Christ*

Gathered 1669

The Sixth Sunday After Epiphany

February 15, 2026 ❖ 11:00 a.m.

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

GATHER

PRELUDE

Pièce canonique

Théodore Dubois

*HYMN 182

We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding

HYFRYDOL

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Justin Tyler Dickerson

Open unto me, courage for my fear,
Open unto me, hope for my despair,
Open unto me, peace for my turmoil,
Open unto me, joy for my sorrow,
Open unto me, strength for my weakness,
Open unto me, wisdom for my confusion,
Open unto me, forgiveness for my sins,
Open unto me, tenderness for my toughness,
Open unto me, love for my hates,
Open unto me, Thy Self for myself.
Lord, Lord, open unto me!

— *Adapted from Howard Thurman,
“Open Unto Me” in Meditations of the Heart*

**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

Psalm 150 from “Songs of Faith”

Paul Basler

Praise ye, praise ye, praise, praise ye the Lord!

Praise ye, praise ye, praise the Lord...
...praise ye, praise ye the Lord!

Praise him for his mighty deeds...
...praise ye, praise ye the Lord!

Praise him with trumpet blast...
...praise ye, praise ye the Lord!

Praise him with lyre and harp!
Praise him with strings and flutes!

Praise him! Praise him with clashing cymbals;
praise him with clanging, clashing cymbals!

*(Though often ascribed masculine or feminine pronouns in prose and poetry,
God is unbound by human concepts of gender.)*

LISTEN

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 17:1-13

Ashton Gregor

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Kate M. Nintcheu

*HYMN 183

Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain

SILVER SPRING

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

SERMON

After Six Days

Kat Woodard

*HYMN 87

O Splendor of God's Glory Bright

SPLENDOR PATERNAE

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

Be Thou My Vision
from "Songs of Faith"

Paul Basler

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;
thou, mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of Heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Justin Tyler Dickerson



*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

Psalm 23 from "Songs of Faith"

Paul Basler

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;
he leadeth me beside the still waters.
He restoreth my soul;
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil.
For thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

The Lord is my shepherd...
...forever. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN 316

We Limit Not the Truth of God

OLD 22ND

*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

Kat Woodard

POSTLUDE

Fanfare

Théodore Dubois



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

The flowers today are given
in loving memory of Elinor Lockwood Yeo by her family.

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



Howard Thurman (1899–1981) was a theologian, mystic, and spiritual guide whose writing profoundly shaped the inner life of the Black freedom struggle. A mentor to many leaders of the Civil Rights Movement, he believed that sustained social transformation must be rooted in a deep spiritual grounding. *Meditations of the Heart* is a collection of brief prayers and reflections that invites readers into stillness and courage as they seek God amid the pressures of modern life.

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, & 1PM

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*
Jamie Chelel, *Children's Choir Director* ❖ Yuexuan Joyce Wang, *Children's Choir Accompanist*
Rory Razon, *Youth Group Co-Leader*

Rebecca Pasipanodya, *Director of Operations*
Rémy Hatfield-Gardner, *Administrative Assistant* ❖ Kathleen Steen, *Staff Accountant*
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.



OLD
SOUTH
CHURCH
in BOSTON

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LENT AT OLD SOUTH CHURCH—More at oldsouth.org/lenet

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 18, 2026, 12PM & 6PM, Ashes On the Way, 8:30am-5:30pm

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. Ashes On the Way will be offered in front of the church to those who can’t attend the services.

ALL CHURCH LENTEN SERIES: BELOVED COMMUNITY

Various times and places. See Upcoming Community Hour Forums Announcement inside

PRAYER INSTALLATION IN CHAPEL

Throughout Lent, there is a community art project in the Chapel. All week, people write prayers on small slips of paper in the sanctuary. We will hang these prayers in the chapel, allowing our whole community to lift those prayers to God as we worship throughout Lent. During worship services and coffee hours, we invite you to add your prayers by clipping them to the twine on the columns in the chapel.

IN THE GUISE OF A STRANGER SERMON SERIES

Our Lenten sermon series invites us to recognize Christ in unexpected faces and places. Jesus tells us plainly where to find him: in the hungry and thirsty, the sick and imprisoned, the refugee and the forgotten. And yet, like the Disciples on the road to Emmaus, we can often miss him walking right beside us. This Lent, we’ll engage with scriptures, stories, and prayers to explore how God shows up in unexpected guises.

LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

Sunday, February 22, 12:30-5:00pm, Gordon Chapel,

for more info contact William Wei Mian at williamweimian@gmail.com

In a time when so much aggression is targeting immigrants and BIPOC people, what better way to reclaim our Christian Faith from the loud Christian Nationalists than honoring and celebrating the festival of a culture that once was colonized by the United States, and we will do it within the sacred space of a church that helped gave birth to the United States. Join us for a time of spiritual reflections and connections, food and fun, art, literature, and music.

BLACK HISTORY MOMENT

This week, we spotlight one of Boston's native sons, Allen Rohan Crite (1910-2007). A resident of the South End and lower Roxbury, Crite dedicated much of his career to documenting the Black community there and in nearby neighborhoods. Mr. Crite continuously recorded the people and places of Boston in his art and writing. Alongside his representations of everyday life in the city, Crite also incorporated religious themes, blurring the boundaries between the secular and the sacred.

In January, members of (G)RACE Speaks and other congregants visited an exhibition of Crite's work featured at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum and the Boston Athenaeum. The exhibits featured a sweeping overview of Crite's long career and legacy as a storyteller and knowledge keeper. Mr. Crite has gifted us a window for better understanding the history and culture of African Americans in our city.

ANNUAL MEETING 2026

ANNUAL MEETING COMMUNITY GATHERINGS

In anticipation of our upcoming Annual Meeting on March 8 at 12:00, please join us for one of these upcoming sessions for an open discussion about Old South Church finances as we anticipate our 2026 budget discussion.

February 15, 12:15 pm

Mary Norton Hall and Zoom at tinyurl.com/2-15-26AnnualMeetingClass

March 1, 10:00 am

Mary Norton Hall and Zoom at tinyurl.com/3-1-26AnnualMeetingClass

At these gatherings, you'll get a basic introduction to Old South finances, and learn about sources of revenue and categories of expense. You'll hear the guiding principles underlying the development of the budget and engage with others in understanding some of the challenges we are facing.

ANNUAL MEETING AND LUNCH

Sunday March 8, 2026, 12:00 pm, Mary Norton Hall,

RSVP for lunch at tinyurl.com/RSVP2026AnnualMeetingLunch

Prefer to join online? Zoom at tinyurl.com/OSC2026AnnualMeetingZoom

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.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY HOUR FORUMS | SUNDAYS AT 10AM

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.

ALL CHURCH LENTEN SERIES: BELOVED COMMUNITY

*Community Hours, Thursday Night Supper Clubs, and Online Small Group
February 22 through March 29, except March 1*

Lent is a call to connect and align ourselves with the radical, all-encompassing love that Jesus embodied. This Lent, we invite you to build relationships and deepen connections through weekly small group discussions, facilitated by the Membership committee. Consider joining for the whole series, or simply pop in when you're able! All are welcome - come as you are - come when you can!

ANNUAL MEETING COMMUNITY GATHERING | March 1

Join church leaders for a preview of what our upcoming Annual Meeting will entail, including important conversations about caring for our historic building. More info to the left.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR BELONGING AT OLD SOUTH CHURCH

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

February 15 and every 3rd Sunday, in Rev. Ashley's office, meet in Elevator Lobby at 10:05am

Join Pastor Ashley and church members for informal conversation and coffee. If you've been coming for one week, or a dozen, or just exploring online, join us to get to know more about the church and to make a friend or two! Questions? Email ashley@oldsouth.org.

CONNECTIONS LUNCH

Sunday, February 22, 12pm, Phillis Wheatley Room, RSVP by February 19 to ashley@oldsouth.org

Interested in joining the church? To be a member of Old South Church is to enter the company of Revolutionary Era heroes, abolitionists, suffragettes, anti-poverty crusaders, and poets. Our saints include Benjamin Franklin, Samuel Adams, Phillis Wheatley... and maybe you! Want to learn more about the life of this community of faith while sharing lunch with other newcomers and church members? Join our Connections Lunch!

BECOME A MEMBER OF OLD SOUTH

If you're new to Old South or have been coming for a while and are ready to make it official, now is your chance! New Members will be joining Old South on March 5 and 8. Email Ashley Popperson ashley@oldsouth.org if you're interested in joining by February 26.

THE WEEKLY PUSHBACK—Christian Service and Outreach

The Museum of African American History

Learn more about their work and volunteer opportunities www.maah.org/

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

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

The Museum of African American History is New England's largest museum dedicated to preserving, conserving and interpreting the contributions of African Americans. In Boston and Nantucket, the Museum has preserved two historic sites and two trails that tell the story of organized Black communities from the Colonial Period through the 19th century. Exhibits, programs, and education activities at the Museum showcase the powerful stories of Black families who worshipped, educated their children, debated the issues of the day, produced great art, organized politically and advanced the cause of freedom. Old South is proud to support their work of keeping history alive by making a \$1,000 donation to their efforts.

During Black History Month this February our Weekly Pushbacks are going to Black created and Black led organizations in Boston.

GREEN TIP: Think Green When Shopping Presidents' Day Sales

More Info at tinyurl.com/2026FebGreenTips

Think "green" while shopping the President's Day sales. Bring your own reusable cloth bag for carrying your purchases, and try to buy items with minimal packaging and/or made with recycled content. For example, buy fleece jackets made from recycled soda bottles, sneakers made with recycled rubber soles, or clothes made from recycled cotton scraps.

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