



Old South Church

Copley Square, Boston

*A Congregation of the
United Church of Christ*

Gathered 1669

First Sunday of Lent

February 22, 2026 ❖ 11:00 a.m.

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

GATHER

PRELUDE *Alle Menschen müssen sterben*, BWV 643 J.S. Bach

INTROIT Great God, Your Love Has Called Us Here David Hurd

*HYMN 198 **Lift High the Cross** CRUCIFER

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION Kat Woodard

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf.

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence is kept.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

**Indicates all who are able may stand*

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

ANTHEM

Hand Me Down My Silver Trumpet

Joy Webb

THE OLD SOUTH CHILDREN’S CHOIR

Jamie Chelel, *director* • Yuexuan Joyce Wang, *accompanist*

Well I’ve never been to heaven, but I’ve been told—
hand me down my silver trumpet, Gabriel;
the gates are made of pearl, and the streets are made of gold—
hand me down my silver trumpet, Lord.

*O hand me down, O hand me down,
O hand me down my silver trumpet, Gabriel.
Send it down, hand it down, any ol’ way just get it down!
Hand me down my silver trumpet, Lord.*

If religion were a thing that money could buy,
the rich would live, and the poor would die.

Well now, if you want a silver trumpet like mine,
you’d better learn to play it in plenty of time.

WELCOME

LISTEN

SCRIPTURE

1 Kings 17:8-16

Manuel Navia

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Tweens Small Group

*HYMN 587

Through All the World, A Hungry Christ

DE TAR

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

SCRIPTURE Matthew 25:31-46 Ashley J. Popperson

SERMON This is Not a Metaphor

ANTHEM Light in the Darkness arr. Margaret R. Tucker
THE OLD SOUTH RINGERS
Peter Coulombe, *director*

RESPOND

*CALL TO PRAYER John M. Edgerton

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

PRAYER RESPONSE My Song Is Love Unknown arr. Cathy Moglebust
The Old South Ringers
Stephanie LaShoto-Westfield, *director*

CALL TO THE OFFERING



*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 The Love We Long to See Mark A. Miller

We cry, "God, save us from the troubles of the world!"
Can we be the change we long to see?"
We pray, "Lord, your kingdom come to us upon the earth!"
Can we be the change we long to see?"

Despair and hatred cloud our skies,
but strong and sure our voices rise.

*We are the love we long to see!
Your love shines through us, and that's all we need.
Help us to trust and to believe,
we are the love, we are the love as long to see.*

Love is not jealous, love is not boastful;
love is the very true nature of God.
Love is forgiving; love, ever hopeful;
love is the essence and true heart of God.

There's a joy in knowing El Shaddai will light the way;
we are the change we long to see.
May we work for justice and for peace this very day,
becoming the change we long to see.

Despair and hatred cloud our skies...

Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving

John M. Edgerton & Kat Woodard

The Lord be with you:

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts:

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God:

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

[...] and so with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven,
we join the unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory,
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!**

...Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”
Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

Our communion table is open to all.

Cups contain only non-alcoholic grape juice.

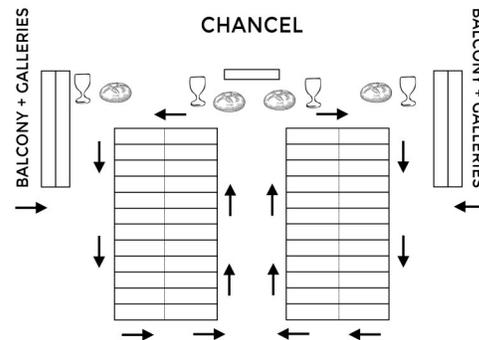
Gluten-free crackers are available at a station under the pulpit.

Communion is served by intinction.

*Come forward at the direction of the ushers to
receive a piece of bread.*

Dip the bread into the cup and partake.

*If you are unable to come forward,
please signal an usher and the elements
will be brought to you.*



Music During Communion

No More a Stranger or a Guest

David Ashley White, *arr.*

My shepherd will supply my need; Jehovah is his name.
In pastures fresh he makes me feed, beside the living stream.
He brings my wandering spirit back when I forsake his ways,
and leads me, for his mercy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.

When I walk through the shades of death your presence is my stay;
one word of your supporting breath drives all my fears away.
Thy hand, in sight of all my foes, doth still my table spread;
my cup with blessings overflows; thy oil anoints my head.

The sure provisions of my God attend me all my days;
O may your house be mine abode, and all my work be praise.
There would I find a settled rest, while others go and come;
no more a stranger, or a guest, but like a child at home.

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

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*HYMN 332

As We Gather at Your Table

BEACH SPRING

*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

Ashley J. Popperson

POSTLUDE

Fantasia in g minor, BWV 542

J.S. Bach



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

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



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*
Tim Harbold, *Director, Gospel Choir* ❖ Peter Coulombe, *Director, Old South Ringers*
Audrey Woodhams, *Creative Director for Thursday Night Church*

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/len

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.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR BELONGING AT OLD SOUTH CHURCH

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.

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.

GETTING INVOLVED IN LOVING OUR IMMIGRANT NEIGHBORS

Please fill out this survey tinyurl.com/OSC2026LovingNeighborsSurvey to be connected.

Questions? Please email ashley@oldsouth.org.

As immigration enforcement continues to rise in our neighborhoods, we are called to love our neighbors. If you are interested in getting involved in ministries of care and justice, from being an active presence in your neighborhood to preparing know-your-rights materials, there is a place for everyone in this movement.

STEADFASTNESS: A LENTEN REFLECTION from the Rev. Don Wells

The fill blog post is at tinyurl.com/DonWells2026LentenReflection

In this Lenten season let our hymns, prayers, conversations, voices, protests and votes come to the fore with new resolve as we live out our lives as disciples. Let us encourage one another, calling forth the deep goodness that is within each of us from creation, moving us away from the deadening and disempowering focus on guilt, so that we might follow him 'steadfastly' toward Jerusalem.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF REV. JESSE JACKSON

To read the full tribute to Rev. Jackson visit oldsouth.org/black-history-month

The week of February 23 we lift up the life of Reverend Jessie Jackson a Civil Rights icon who passed away this week at the age of 84. We honor Reverend Jackson for his vision, passion for change and justice.

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR AFRICAN AMERICAN NEIGHBORS

Tuesday, February 24, 6:30pm, on Zoom. RSVP to get the Zoom link at tinyurl.com/DioMassScreening

Join us for a free screening the award-winning documentary *A Reckoning in Boston* about racial disparities in the city. The film, hosted by the Diocese of Massachusetts's Racial Justice Commission, the 90 minute film is followed by a panel discussion with the filmmaker and the subjects of the film.

ANNUAL MEETING—MARCH 8

ANNUAL MEETING COMMUNITY GATHERING | *Sunday, March 1, 10am*

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

In anticipation of our upcoming Annual Meeting on March 8 join us for an open discussion about Old South Church finances as we anticipate our 2026 budget discussion. At this gathering, 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.

SERVING OUR UNHOUSED NEIGHBORS THROUGH *common cathedral* WORKSHOP

Practical Workshop in person and Zoom in March, Time and Date TBD

The Christian Service and Outreach committee is going to hold workshops covering the steps involved in a successful Common Cathedral Sunday luncheon. We prepare lunches for the unhoused community that meets every Sunday for a service on the Boston Common. We want to broaden our organizing team so that we can offer our help more than 2 times a year. They could use our assistance more often. Reply to Carolyn Clark carolyneclark@comcast.net. if you are interested in attending a workshop or if you have any questions. There is no commitment at this point, just the opportunity to learn about the process.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY HOUR FORUMS | SUNDAYS AT 10AM

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, See article above for more information

THE WEEKLY PUSHBACK—Boston Ujima Project

Learn more about their work and volunteer opportunities www.ujimaboston.com

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

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

The Boston Ujima Project is a community-led organization working to keep wealth, land, and decision-making power in the hands of Boston's working-class communities of color. They bring together local residents, small business owners, workers, artists, and values-aligned investors to collectively decide where their funds should be allocated within local communities. Through their democratically governed Ujima Fund, community members help fund local businesses, housing projects, and cultural work that meet shared standards around fairness, sustainability, and care for workers and neighbors. Ujima makes it possible for people most impacted by economic inequality to shape the future of their own neighborhoods, and Old South is proud to support this work with a \$1,000 donation.

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

GREEN TIP: Recycling Rechargeable Batteries

More Info at tinyurl.com/2026RecycleBatteries

Rechargeable nickel-cadmium (NiCd) and nickel-metal hydride (NiMH) batteries are used in cordless phones, power tools, electric toothbrushes, cordless vacuums, and many other household devices. Unlike single-use alkaline batteries, these rechargeable types have valuable materials inside. NiCd batteries also contain hazardous substances, so recycling them is not only smart but also required by law in many states.

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