

In the silence, we lift up our longings, our regrets, our shame,
and our hope to the God who hears our cries.

Silence is kept.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Let God's people put their hope in God,
**for with you is a storehouse of kindness,
and with the Holy One redemption abounds.**
You will redeem your people
from all their guilt and confusion and sin.
Thanks be to God!

—Psalm 130:7-8, translated by Pamela Greenberg

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

WELCOME

ANTHEM

Sing of God Made Manifest

Bruce Neswick

Sing of God made manifest in a child robust and blest,
to whose home in Bethlehem where a star had guided them,
magi came and gifts unbound, signs mysterious and profound:
myrrh and frankincense and gold grave and God and king foretold.

Sing of God made manifest when at Jordan John confessed,
"I should be baptized by you, but your bidding I will do."
Then from heaven a double sign — dove-like spirit, voice divine —
hailed the true anointed one: "This is my beloved Son."

Sing of God made manifest when Christ came as wedding guest
and at Cana gave a sign, turning water into wine;
further still was love revealed as he taught, forgave and healed,
bringing light and life to all who would listen to God's call.

Sing of God made manifest on the cloud-capped mountain's crest,
where the law and prophets waned so that Christ alone remained:
glimpse of glory, pledge of grace, given as Jesus set his face
towards the waiting cross and grave, sign of hope that God would save.

LISTEN

SCRIPTURE	Psalm 8	Rory Razon
CHILDREN'S MESSAGE		Kate M. Nintcheu
*HYMN 327	Jesus Loves Me	JESUS LOVES ME
SCRIPTURE	Luke 2:41-50	Rachel J. Barton
SERMON	Expect to be Astonished	
*HYMN 359	O God, Who Teaches Us to Live	ST. ANNE

RESPOND

*CALL TO PRAYER
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.*

Justin Tyler Dickerson

PASTORAL PRAYER & 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.

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Ashley J. Popperson



*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

Children Will Listen

Stephen Sondheim;
Mark Brymer, *arr.*

How do you say to a child in the night,
“Nothing’s all black, but then nothing’s all white?”
How do you say, “It will all be alright”
when you know that it mightn’t be true?
What do you do?

What do you leave to your child when you’re dead?
Only whatever you put in its head.
Things that your father and mother had said,
which were left to them, too.
Careful what you say.

Careful the things you say, children will listen.
Careful the things you do, children will see — and learn.
Children may not obey, but children will listen.
Children will look to you for which way to turn,
to learn what to be.
Careful before you say, “Listen to me.”
Children will listen.

Careful the wish you make, wishes are children.
Careful the path they take: wishes come true, not free.
Careful the spell you cast, not just on children:
sometimes the spell may last, past what you can see
and turn against you...

Careful the tale you tell, *that* is the spell.
Children will listen.

*HYMN 208

God Loved the World

ROCKINGHAM

*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

Rachel J. Barton

POSTLUDE

Tuba Tune, Op. 15

C. S. Lang



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

The flowers today are given by Steve Dutton in loving memory of Valerie Papillo.

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



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

356th ANNUAL MEETING 2026 — MARCH 8 | 12PM

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.

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*
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

ANNUAL MEETING—MARCH 8

ANNUAL MEETING BUDGET PREVIEW 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 Annual Meeting will include important conversations about our finances and the work of the church in the years to come.

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 (and want to vote on the future of Old South at Annual Meeting), 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 March 2.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY HOUR FORUMS | SUNDAYS AT 10AM

ANNUAL MEETING COMMUNITY GATHERING | *March 1, See article above*

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!

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

March 1 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.

VESPERS HEALING WORSHIP

Next Service Sunday, March 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.

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.

THE UNFINISHED WORK OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

For more information go to oldsouth.org/black-history-month or contact:

Rev June R. Cooper (junerobyncooper@gmail.com), Theologian in the City and Chair of (G)RACE Speaks

Tim Harbold, (tim@oldsouth.org), Chair of the Belong Search Committee

Although this Black History Month is coming to an end, as the people of God, our journey towards healing, reconciliation and reparative justice continues. The spiritual work ahead requires the hard and courageous work of truth-telling, noticing our unnoticed neighbors, confession, and repairing the breach. Can you imagine what our church community would look and feel like when the flourishing of all of God's children, regardless of color of skin they are wrapped in, gender identity, orientation or appearance is the norm? Accepting anything less undermines the collective integrity and standards of our community and who God calls us to be in the world. So, let's finish the unfinished work that God has called us to at Old South Church. (G)RACE Speaks serves as a resource for this work so please contact our leadership with your suggestions, ideas, or passions.

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! Please sign up at <https://oldsouth.org/hospitality>.

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

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.

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.

STEADFASTNESS: A LENTEN REFLECTION from the Rev. Don Wells

The full 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.

IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO MAKE YOUR PLEDGE

Join us in practicing revolutionary generosity by [visiting www.oldsouth.org/stewardship](https://www.oldsouth.org/stewardship) to make your pledge online. Questions? Contact Remy at remy@oldsouth.org or 617-536-1970.

THE WEEKLY PUSHBACK—Iglesia Hispana de la Comunidad

Learn more about their work and volunteer opportunities www.facebook.com/IglesiaHispanaBoston/

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

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

Iglesia Hispana de la Comunidad, a fellow UCC congregation in Jamaica Plain, is working to expand their outreach to seniors in their community, helping build intergenerational connection and prevent isolation. As part of this commitment, Iglesia Hispana has developed a nine-month, presence-based ministry pilot program that will form a dedicated visitation team to travel to local nursing homes and create a series of events connecting youth with the stories and traditions of their elders. Old South is proud to support this pilot program in full, donating \$2,700 to sustain this vital ministry of our wider church partners.

GREEN TIP: Massachusetts New Climate Law Goes Into Effect in March

More Info at tinyurl.com/2026MassClimateLaw

Following climate laws passed in 2021 and 2022, Massachusetts has again enacted a new piece of climate-focused legislation. On November 21, 2024, Governor Maura Healey signed into law “An Act Promoting a Clean Energy Grid, Advancing Energy Equity, and Protecting Ratepayers,” which aims to expedite and simplify the permitting process for solar farms, wind farms, and energy infrastructure. By March 2026, the new law will overhaul the state’s siting and permitting process, which can involve up to a dozen state and local agencies, leading to years of delay. The state views this climate law as critical for Massachusetts’ to meet its 2050 climate goals.

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