

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Old South Church *in* Boston March 22, 2026 ❖ 11:00 a.m.

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

GATHER

PRELUDE Fugue on B-A-C-H op. 60, 3 Robert Schumann

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

Great God, your love has called us here
as we, by love, for love were made.
Your living likeness still we bear,
though marred, dishonored, disobeyed.
We come, with all our heart and mind
your call to hear, your love to find.

*HYMN 18 **Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer** CWM RHONDDA

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION Ashley J. Popperson

Lord, you come to us, but we do not recognize you;

you call, but we do not follow;

you command, but we do not obey,

you bless us, but we do not thank you.

Please forgive and help us.

Lord, you accept us, but we do not accept others;

you forgive us, but we do not forgive those who wrong us;

you love us, but we do not love our neighbors.

Please forgive and help us.

Lord, you showed us how to carry out your mission, but we still insist on our own;

you identified yourself with outcasts, the needy, and the poor,

but still we seek power in high places;

**Indicates all who are able may stand*

you suffered and died for the sake of all,
but we do not give up our comfortable lives.
Please forgive and help us, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Silence is kept.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Christ is our peace; those who are divided he has made one.
**He has broken down the barriers of separation by his death
and has built us up into one body, with God.**
To all who repent and believe, he has promised reconciliation.
So let us live as people reconciled. Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

WELCOME

ANTHEM

Geistliches Lied, Op. 30

Johannes Brahms

*Laß dich nur nichts nicht dauren mit Trauren, sei stille!
Wie Gott es fügt, so sei vergnügt mein Wille.*

*Was willst du heute sorgen auf morgen?
Der Eine steht allem für, der gibt auch dir das Deine.*

*Sei nur in allem Handel ohn Wandel, steh feste!
Was Gott beschleußt, das ist und heißt das Beste.*

Amen.

Let nothing afflict you with grief; be calm!
As God ordains, so may my will be content.

Why worry today about tomorrow?
The One is in charge who gives also to you what is yours.

In all your doings be steadfast; stand firm!
What God decrees is — and is acknowledged [to be] — the best.

Amen.

LISTEN

SCRIPTURE Psalms 130:1-8 Stephanie LaShoto-Westfield

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Kate M. Nintcheu

*HYMN 502 **Dear God, Embracing Humankind** REST
*During the hymn, children that wish may meet childcare staff
in the back of the sanctuary and proceed to the 3rd floor.*

SCRIPTURE 1 Kings 19:3-15 Justin Tyler Dickerson

SERMON Standing Against The Reign

*HYMN 286 **Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness** SPIRIT

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 & LORD'S PRAYER

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Rachel J. Barton



*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

He's Got the Whole World

Alice Parker, *arr.*

(All of the world?)

He's got the whole world in his hands,
he's got the whole wide world in his hands,
he's got the whole world in his hands,
he's got the whole world in his hands.

He's got the stars in the sky in his hands,
he's got the sun and moon and planets in his hands,
he's got the clouds and winds and weather in his hands,
he's got the whole world in his hands.

He's got the rocks and the mountains in his hands,
he's got the deserts and the plains in his hands,
he's got the flowers and the fruits in his hands,
he's got the whole world in his hands.

He's got all life on earth in his hands,
he's got the fishes in the sea in his hands,
he's got the insects and the birds in his hands,
he's got the whole world in his hands.

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, & 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 Tyler Dickerson, *Seminarian*

Donald A. Wells, *Theologian in Residence* ❖ June R. Cooper, *Theologian in the City*

James Harrison Jr. & 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*

Shirley Bivins, Anna Pratt, & 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

DOWNLOAD THE CHURCH CENTER APP TODAY!

Church Life app phases out on March 24. Please download the Church Center app Today!

Old South Church has launched Church Center, a secure app that allows you to access our directory, calendar, giving portal, and more! We are no longer using ACS, Vanco, or the Church Life phone app.

- **The Church Life app will be phased out on March 24. Please download the Church Center App TODAY.**
- Simply search “Church Center” in your app store and log in with the phone number or email we have on file. More info can be found oldsouth.org/church-center.
- Video help can be found at tinyurl.com/ChurchCenterVideo.
- If you need assistance, please email Ashley Popperson ashley@oldsouth.org.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY HOUR FORUMS | SUNDAYS AT 10AM

ALL CHURCH LENTEN SERIES: BELOVED COMMUNITY

Community Hours, Thursday Night Supper Clubs, & Online Small Group through March 29

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!

SOCK DRIVE PANCAKE BREAKFAST

April 12, 10am, Mary Norton Hall

Old South's Youth Group is hosting a Sock Drive Pancake Breakfast to benefit Cradles to Crayons on April 12 at 10:00am in Mary Norton Hall. Suggested contribution is a pack of new socks (toddler, kids, youth and adult sizes) per person or cash at the door. The collected cash will go towards buying more socks.

ALL CHURCH READ OF “ROUGH SLEEPERS”

The book is available in paperback, hardcover, and audio formats, and check your local library.

Trouble getting your own copy? Email Paul Brouillette at brouillettepaul@gmail.com

Community Hour Forum Book discussion on Sunday May 3

Join us as the Homelessness and Housing Insecurity Task Force sponsors an all-church read of “Rough Sleepers” by Tracy Kidder. The book profiles Dr. Jim O’Connell’s work with people experiencing homelessness in Boston and his role in helping develop the Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program. On Sunday, May 3, Dr. Jim O’Connell is scheduled to be a guest at the 10:00 Community Hour, where he will speak about his efforts reaching out to Boston’s unhoused population with individual care, compassion, and dedication. While reading “Rough Sleepers” before the discussion is not required to hear Dr. Jim’s talk, doing so will provide greater insight into his medical and spiritual journey.

NO KINGS RALLY

Sunday, March 28, 12pm, St. Paul's Cathedral

Join Rev. Ashley and other Old Southerners at St. Paul's Cathedral at 12pm for "Prep and Pray" to pray, sing, and ground ourselves in community before heading out to the protest on the Common at 1pm. The Cathedral will remain open throughout the rally, as a place of rest, refreshment, and (importantly!) bathrooms. If you'd like to join, please email ashley@oldsouth.org.

SANCTUARY SPRUCE-UP

Saturday, April 4, 1-3pm

We will gather the day before Easter to make the sanctuary sparkle for the big day! Come and help dust, vacuum, and straighten everything up. Materials and refreshments will be provided. Please sign up at the Front Desk or email Lois Corman at loiscorman@gmail.com so that we have an idea of how many people are joining us.

JOIN GOSPEL CHOIR FOR A WEEK! Sing at Thursday Night Church

Thursday, April 9 rehearsal in the Sanctuary, 7:00-7:30 pm, & Thursday, April 16 appearance at worship.

Contact Tim Harbold at tim@oldsouth.org for details and music in advance. You deserve a week of joyful singing! Please join us.

WEDDING MINISTRY CHANGES

REV. DAVID STORY RETIRES

After ten years of service as our Wedding Minister, Rev. David Story is set to retire this year. His final wedding officiation will be on May 23, 2026. In his newfound free time, he has plans to travel and spend time with his family. Rev. Story is thankful for the opportunity to serve Old South Church and the great variety of couples we have united. We are so grateful for his decade of service and continuing presence in our community as an OSC member.

WELCOME NEW WEDDING MINISTER REV. JAMES HARRISON, JR.

We are excited to welcome Rev. James Harrison Jr. as Old South's new Wedding Minister.



Currently, Rev. Harrison serves as the Sr Pastor at Southern Baptist Church in Roxbury, MA, as well as the Staff Chaplain at Sherrill House in Jamaica Plain. With decades of ministry experience and a deep commitment to faith, compassion, and excellence, Rev. Harrison brings heart, professionalism, and spiritual depth to every ceremony he officiates. He has already begun meeting with some couples who will be married at Old South, and we're grateful for his warm and thoughtful ministry.

PARKING VALIDATION CHANGES—NO PRUDENTIAL PARKING

Old South has a new and improved parking validation option with the Back Bay Garage. Entrances are at 85 St James Ave and 199 Clarendon St. The Back Bay Garage is closer and more affordable than our previous other parking options. It offers weekend rates of up to 3 hours for \$5, and up to 11 hours for \$10, as well as weeknights after 5:00 PM for \$8. Park your car, come to the church, request a coupon at the front desk (coupons vary by time) and then pay as you exit the garage. The 100 Clarendon garage can still be validated; however, validation remains \$10 for up to 3 hours. Beyond 3 hours, you have to pay full price. **Old South Church is no longer covering parking at the Prudential Center Garage due to rising costs.** This change will save the church a significant amount of money while providing a more convenient and more affordable option for many. If you have any questions, please reach out to Rebecca at 617-536-1970 or rebecca@oldsouth.org.

KAT WOODARD ORDINATION

Sunday, April 12, 3pm, First Church in Somerville UCC, 89 College Ave.

Our Taylor Resident for Mission in the City, Kat Woodard, is being ordained to her position here at Old South Church! The ordination service will take place at Kat's home congregation. Kat would be delighted for any and all Old Southerners to join her for this special milestone in ministry.

HEARD IT AT COUNCIL

Read the full report at oldsouth.org/news/heard-it-council-february-2026

Church Historian Kate Silfen reports on February's full meeting discussing church finances, (G) RACE Speaks' work on finding a Consultant for Belonging, and a report from the Stewardship Committee.

common cathedral ZOOM WORKSHOP

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. Please reply to [Carolyn Clark](mailto:Carolyn.Clark@oldsouth.org) if you are interested in attending a workshop or if you have any questions.

GREEN TIP: Spring Cleaning Tips—Ditch single-use cleaning tools

more at tinyurl.com/OneTreeSpringTips

Take stock of what you are using and research the best ways to phase out wasteful items. This could mean anything from trading your paper towels for bar mops to making your own reusable disinfectant wipes with clean rags, rubbing alcohol and essential oils.

THE WEEKLY PUSHBACK—Immigration Family Support Fund at Grace Church in East Boston

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

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

The Immigration Family Support Fund, facilitated by our denominational partners at Grace Church in East Boston, was developed in response to growing concerns about ICE activity within their local community. The fund assists individuals and families who have experienced income or job loss due to immigration detention or deportation, helping neighbors avoid eviction, put food on the table, and cover other basic costs of living. Funds may also support family connection and reunification. To strengthen this effort, Old South's Christian Service and Outreach Committee has committed to matching up to \$2,500 in donations made during worship this week and those made online at this link: tinyurl.com/OSC-IFSF.

HOLY WEEK, EASTER, AND MARATHON SUNDAY 2026

PALM SUNDAY — March 29 | 9AM & 11AM

MAUNDY THURSDAY — April 2 | 6PM

GOOD FRIDAY — April 3 | 7PM

EASTER SUNDAY — April 5, 2026 | 9AM & 11AM

MARATHON SUNDAY — April 19, 2026 | 9AM, 11AM, & 1PM

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