



Old South Church

Copley Square, Boston

*A Congregation of the
United Church of Christ*

Gathered 1669

May 17, 2026

11:00 a.m.

Sixth Sunday of Easter

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

GATHER

PRELUDE

Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier, BWV 730 & 731

J.S. Bach

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Ashley J. Popperson

Great loving God, we give you thanks for our daily bread.

For wheat that springs green in the fields, nourishing and good.

O God, bless us that we might grow too in the world, to nourish a hungry world.

God, who gives all good gifts, we thank you.

Great loving God, we give you thanks for the gift of hope.

For visions of life as it should be,

that raise our hopes like a bit of yeast raises a whole batch of bread.

O God, bless us that we might be leaven for our neighbors,
to encourage a despairing world.

God, who gives all good gifts, we thank you.

*HYMN 257

Alleluia! Gracious Jesus!

HYFRYDOL

**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

Ashley J. Popperson

ANTHEM

Song of Gladness
THE OLD SOUTH RINGERS
Peter Coulombe, *director*

Arnold Sherman

LISTEN

SCRIPTURE

2 Kings 2:9-12

Betsy Ragan

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Kate M. Nintcheu

*HYMN 259

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

DEO GRACIAS

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

SCRIPTURE

Acts 1:6-11

SERMON

Setting their Sight

John M. Edgerton

*HYMN 303

Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing
verses 1-3 only

DARWALL’S 148TH

RESPOND

*CALL TO PRAYER

Kat E. Woodard

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

A Thousand Different Colors

Audrey Woodhams

Tim Harbold, *arr.*

*Old South Gospel Choir Director Tim Harbold's arrangement
is of an original song by Audrey Woodhams,
Creative Director for Thursday Night Church.*

The silver-white waves wash up and bathe my feet,
I look out but cannot see the other side.
The surface water sways, azure, gold and green,
glittering the full spectrum of light.
The sea is not blue, the sea is like you:

*A thousand different colors, moving all together,
more beautiful than words.
It's a symphony of sound singing subtly but loud,
more beautiful than words.*

The sun goes down and disappears,
the clouds wave their goodbyes,
in a masterpiece of light and melody.
Wind whispers in my ears and sings a lullaby,
as seagulls call and surf the evening breeze.
The sky is not blue, the sky is like you:

A thousand different colors...

How great is the expanse of all you are to me,
I try, but still I can't describe all your diversity.
How you love, how you lead: like the sky, like the sea.

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Rachel J. Barton



*To give online,
Scan the QR code*

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



OFFERTORY

All Creatures Lift Your Voice and Sing

Tim Harbold, *arr.*

All creatures lift your voice and sing,
up to the heavens let it ring!

Alleluia, alleluia!

Bright burning sun with golden beam,
sweet silver moon with softer gleam:
sing your praises, alleluia.

Sing your praises, alleluia, alleluia.

Swift rushing wind so wild and strong,
high clouds that sail in heaven along.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Bright rising morn in praise rejoice,
soft evening stars find your voice:
sing your praises, alleluia.

Sing your praises, alleluia, alleluia.

Come now with pure and tender heart,
forgiving others, take your part.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Let us our Creator bless;
worship God with humbleness.

Sing your praises, alleluia.

Sing your praises, alleluia, alleluia.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN 55

Rejoice, You Pure in Heart

MARION

*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

John M. Edgerton

POSTLUDE

Sortie (Grand Chœur)

Théodore Dubois



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

The flowers are given by David Story in appreciation for the
Festival and First worship singers, young and older, pros and volunteers,
ringers, gospel singers, drummers and guitar strummers,
organists, tuners, librarians, pianists, musicians,
and conductors who create music at Old South.

It takes a village.

Close-Up, a twenty minute tour of the Sanctuary,
begins immediately following worship at the Pulpit.

Led by docent George Delianides.

UPCOMING SPECIAL SERVICES

PENTECOST SUNDAY

May 24, 2026 | 11am

Join us for an expansive and exhilarating service that celebrates the Holy Spirit coming to dwell amongst the people. This service includes the Old South tradition of showering our majestic sanctuary with red petals at the culmination of the scripture reading.

MEMBERSHIP & CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

May 31, 2026 | 11am

On this special Sunday, we welcome both new members and confirmands, as well as honor our long-term members. The Children's Choir will also sing in this multigenerational service.

YOUTH SUNDAY

June 7, 2026 | 9am & 11am

Each spring, our Youth Group leads worship at 9am and 11am. Youth Sunday is our opportunity to be led and inspired by our older students, and to celebrate those graduating high school.

PRIDE SUNDAY

June 14, 2026 | 9am & 11am

On the second Sunday in LGBTQ+ Pride Month, we fill the Sanctuary with song, prayers, praise, and worship of the God who loves and embraces all. This year, Drag Queen Ms. Penny Cost will preach at both services.

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.

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*

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, & Zach Zang *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 & guide.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW AROUND HERE?

Sunday, May 17, 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, May 17 at 12:15pm

New to Old South? Come to our Connections Lunch! Connections lunches are great places to get to know other newcomers, learn more about Old South, and get more deeply connected. If you would like to join us for lunch or are interested in joining Old South as a member, please email ashley@oldsouth.org.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY HOUR FORUMS

Sundays, 10am, Mary Norton Hall

RESOURCES TO CARE FOR A LOVED ONE | *Sunday, May 17*

Are your parents aging? Are you caring for an ailing loved one? Do you need a will or a health care proxy? Learn how to prepare for the unexpected. Come with questions, leave with knowledge and handouts. Presented by members of the Planned Giving Committee.

SIGN UP FOR PENTECOST DAY OF SERVICE | *Sunday May 24*

On Sunday, May 24th, we will celebrate Pentecost, the day when the Holy Spirit met the disciples and sent them out into the world, by stepping into that same call to go and to build deeper relationships with our neighbors and partners across Boston. We invite you to participate in any part (or all!) of the day:

- 10am in Mary Norton Hall: Join the LUCE Supply Hub work or help prepare sandwiches and pack lunches for common cathedral in the kitchen
- 12pm offsite: Join fellow Old Southerners at a campus clean up for the Allston Brighton Food Pantry, or join our common cathedral partners and unhoused neighbors to distribute lunches on the Boston Common

Register for any of these opportunities at tinyurl.com/PentecostDayOfService. Have questions before you RSVP? Reach out to kat@oldsouth.org and brouillettepaul@gmail.com.

MASONRY: HOW DO WE DO IT?

Sunday, May 17, 12:15pm,

Grab coffee and snacks in the Chapel before heading up to the 4th Floor Guild Room.

Join Paul Kuenstner (Chair of the Finance Committee and member of the Operations Committee) for a conversation about the church's upcoming masonry renovation work and the process behind it. We'll discuss our work toward creating a masonry "master plan" — a professional assessment and long-term roadmap developed with consultants to help us understand current needs, prioritize repairs, plan phases of work, and budget responsibly over time. Paul will share what we've learned so far, explain how the planning process works, and outline possible next steps.

BOSTON HANDBELL FESTIVAL

Tuesday, May 19, 7:30 pm, in the Sanctuary, free admission.

Come hear five amazing bell choirs present a wide array of handbell music. One of this year's special conductors is Old South Ringers' very own Peter Coulombe and the concert will feature Old South's organ! The Boston Handbell Festival is the continuation of a musical tradition of handbell performance at Old South Church that stretches back almost a century. A goodwill offering is taken to provide a local school with a set of Choirchimes.

BUILDING BELONGING TOGETHER: LISTENING SESSIONS WITH ROESHANA MOORE-EVANS

Various Dates May 19-June 3. on Zoom.

Go to tinyurl.com/46uzb3bs to see dates and RSVP

Roeshana Moore-Evans, Old South's Ministry Consultant for Congregational Belonging, is hosting Zoom listening sessions with congregational members to hear reflections, experiences, and hopes related to belonging, connection, and community life at Old South. Whether you are a longtime member, newer to the church, or still finding your place, your voice and perspective are valued.

PRIDE AT OLD SOUTH CHURCH

Saturday, June 6, 2026, 10:15am, Gordon Chapel

The UCC is marching! Out of the church and into the streets! We will gather together in the chapel at 10:15am. We will then gather at our designated formation area (TBD) to gather for the parade, which begins at 11am. The parade will finish at Beacon St and Park St, between the Public Garden and the Common where there will be a festival. Please RSVP at tinyurl.com/2026OSCPrideMarch to be notified of our designated formation area for the march.

We will also host a Hospitality Station outside of Old South on Boylston street from 9am-1pm providing water, bubbles, snacks, & glitter tattoos. To volunteer go to tinyurl.com/2026PrideTable.

A TIP OF THE HAT TO REV. DAVID STORY

June 14th, 12:00 pm, Mary Norton Hall

As Rev. David Story retires from his role as Wedding Minister at Old South Church, please join us for a special Coffee Hour to celebrate him and his many years of faithful ministry among us.

OLD SOUTH MUSIC PRESENTS: DECLARATIONS

June 27, 2026, 7pm concert at Old South

Old South Music presents Ensemble Altera in a major new choral work by Piers Connor Kennedy. A reflection on the ideals of liberty and equality, placing Thomas Jefferson's words in dialog with those of Langston Hughes, Tracy K. Smith, and others.

JUNE COOPER AND NANCY TAYLOR LEAD PILGRIMAGES TO ALABAMA

Rev. June Cooper, Theologian in the City, and Rev Dr. Nancy Taylor, Senior Minister Emeritus, Old South Church, will lead two Pilgrimages to Montgomery and Selma, Alabama. The dates for the Pilgrimages are October 9-14 and October 15-20, 2026. The Pilgrimage, which is conducted at the epicenter of the Civil Rights Movement, offers a chance to build community, reflect on the past, address intergenerational racial trauma, and find ways to pursue healing and advance racial justice. For additional information, visit www.bostonfaithjustice.org.

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE TEACHERS NEEDED

Apply: bit.ly/4rsCOWf

Learn more: faith-justice.org/esol/ Questions: mdwyer@faith-justice.org

Volunteer: faith-justice.org/volunteer-opportunit/esol

A Faith That Does Justice is seeking volunteer English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Teachers and Assistants for an 8-week session beginning July 6, 2026. Serve adult learners at all levels through virtual classes and in-person classes in Boston. Classes meet two mornings or two evenings per week (two-hour classes). A Faith That Does Justice provides curriculum, textbooks, training/orientation, and classroom support. Teaching experience is welcome but not required, and strong English fluency is especially helpful.

APRIL HEARD IT AT COUNCIL

Read the full article at oldsouth.org/news/heard-it-council-april-2026

Learn about building reserves, finances, and our new Belong Consultant from Church Historian Kate Silfen.

GREEN TIP—Repair and Mend

Just because something is broken, doesn't mean it's time to get something new. Many items can be fixed with just a little bit of effort or know how. For clothing that needs repairing learn to sew and darn (plus, check out sewing videos on youtube.com). For shoes, take them to a cobbler. For small appliances, find small appliance technicians or call the manufacturer.

**CHRISTIAN SERVICE AND OUTREACH WEEKLY PUSHBACK
FIRST TEACHER**

For more info and volunteer opportunities: www.firstteacherboston.org/

Have other weekly action ideas? [Email outreach@oldsouth.org](mailto:outreach@oldsouth.org)

This week, we are proud to support First Teacher with a \$1,000 Weekly Pushback donation as they continue their work alongside families with young children across Boston, particularly in Roxbury and Dorchester. Since 2014, First Teacher has helped build spaces of shared learning for families with at least one child under the age of eight. Through book clubs, parenting discussion groups, playdates, wellness gatherings, workshops, and community events, First Teacher helps caregivers and children build meaningful relationships and stronger communities. At a time when education funding continues to face cuts across the country, we are grateful for organizations like First Teacher that continue to invest in children, caregivers, and the long, ongoing work of helping families flourish.

SPONSOR WORSHIP FLOWERS

Go to tinyurl.com/2026OSCFlowers to claim your date—they are filling fast!

Would you like to sponsor the Sanctuary's worship flowers on a Sunday - in memory or in honor of a special person or event? Dedications and sponsors are printed in our bulletin each week, and the donation costs \$100. We have a few weeks in 2026 where we still need sponsors - and you can see which dates are available.

WEEKLY WORSHIP

Join us in person, on Facebook, and YouTube

Thursday Night Church, Thursdays at 6:00 p.m

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