



## Old South Church

*Copley Square, Boston*

*A Congregation of the  
United Church of Christ*

*Gathered 1669*

June 21, 2026 ❖ 11:00am

# Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

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

## GATHER

PRELUDE

Keyboard Sonata in A major, K. 208

Domenico Scarlatti

\*HYMN 332

**As We Gather at Your Table**

BEACH SPRING

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Kate M. Nintcheu

Come: you joyful ones, cups overflowing

**Come: you who mourn, weary and heavy laden,**

Come: you living in fear, unsure of where to turn,

**Come: you full of faith, songs of praise on your lips,**

Come, God has prepared a place for you,

**Come, we have prepared a place for you.**

Come, for here there is healing. Here there is freedom.

**Come, all who seek the peace of Christ, come in. Come in.**

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

*\*Indicates all who are able may stand*

SUNG RESPONSE

**Open Door Welcome**

Tim Harbold

The musical score is written on five staves in a 3/4 time signature with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The lyrics are: "No mat-ter who you are, no mat-ter who you love, you are wel-come in this place. No mat-ter how you look, no mat-ter what you be-lieve, all are blest with heav'n-ly grace. We are stand-ing up for jus-tice! We're lift-ing hands in praise. We try to fol-low Christ's ex-am-ple, all are wel-come in this place. All are blest with heav'n-ly grace." The melody is simple and accessible, with a mix of quarter and eighth notes.

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WELCOME

ANTHEM

**Down by the Riverside**

Lon Beery &  
Pamela Perc Lee, *arrs.*

Gonna lay down my sword and shield,  
down by the riverside,  
down by the riverside,  
down by the riverside;  
Gonna lay down my sword and shield,  
down by the riverside,  
and study war no more.

*I ain't gonna study war no more,  
I ain't gonna study war no more,  
I ain't gonna study war no more.*

Gonna join hands with everyone...

Gonna ring out a song of joy...

## **ATTEND**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kate M. Nintcheu

SCRIPTURE

Acts 8:26-39

Karen Hand

*Following the reading, children who wish to may meet childcare staff  
at the Chapel entry doors and proceed to the 3rd floor.*

ANTHEM

Festival Fanfare on ENGELBERG  
THE OLD SOUTH RINGERS  
Stephanie LaShoto-Westfield, *guest director*

Kevin McChesney, *arr.*

SERMON

A Visible Sign

Ashley J. Popperson

\*HYMN 337

**Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether**

UNION SEMINARY

# RESPOND

## \*CALL TO PRAYER

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

May the Spirit of the Living God fall afresh on us.

**The Holy Spirit guides our way and ignites our hope.**

Let us pray. *Please be seated.*

## PASTORAL PRAYER

## THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

COMMUNION MUSIC Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

*Jason Krug, arr.*

THE OLD SOUTH RINGERS

Stephanie LaShoto-Westfield, *guest director*

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND 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.**

## CALL TO THE OFFERING



*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

The Welcome Table  
(with “The Sweet By and By”)

Joel Raney, *arr.*

I’m gonna sit at the welcome table, O Lord;  
I’m gonna sit at the welcome table one of these days; Alleluia!  
I’m gonna sit at the welcome table;  
gonna sit at the welcome table one of these days.

I’m gonna feast on the bread of heaven, O Lord;  
I’m gonna feast on the bread of heaven one of these days; Alleluia!  
I’m gonna feast on the bread of heaven;  
gonna sit at the welcome table one of these days.

There’s a land that is fairer than day,  
and by faith we can see it afar:  
for our Maker waits over the way  
to prepare us a dwelling place there.

In the sweet by and by,  
we shall meet on that beautiful shore;  
In the sweet by and by,  
we shall meet on that beautiful shore.

I’m gonna share my cup with Jesus, O Lord;  
I’m gonna share my cup with Jesus one of these days; Alleluia!  
I’m gonna share my cup with Jesus;  
I’m gonna sit at the welcome table one of these days.

...We shall meet on that beautiful shore.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*HYMN 82

**Go, My Children, with My Blessing**

AR HYD Y NOS

\*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

SUNG RESPONSE

**Go Now in Peace**

*(Introduction)*



Go now in peace, ne-ver be a-fraid;  
God will go with you each hour of ev-'ry day. Go now in faith,  
stead-fast, strong and true, know God will guide you in all you  
do. A - men, a - men, a - men.

Text: Don Besig and Nancy Price, 1988

Tune: Don Besig, 1988; adapt. Mitchell Crawford, 2022

POSTLUDE

Etude-tebleaux Op. 33 No. 2

Sergei Rachmaninoff



Join us for Refreshments & Fellowship outside under the Portico following the Postlude.

The Flowers today are given by Judy Fisher  
in fond memory of her mom Shirley, her best friend.

*Close-Up*, a twenty minute tour of the Sanctuary, begins following Worship  
under the pulpit at the front of the Sanctuary. Led by docent Brad Swing.

## **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.oldsouth.org/your-first-visit) or see the front desk.

### **LEARN MORE**

Check out the church website [www.oldsouth.org](http://www.oldsouth.org) for more on the history and ministries of Old South. See [www.oldsouth.org/calendar](http://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., *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, June 21, 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](mailto:ashley@oldsouth.org).

## **SUMMER CHOIR**

*Contact Mitchell Crawford at [mitchell@oldsouth.org](mailto:mitchell@oldsouth.org) for more information*

The Old South Summer Choir is a welcoming and encouraging community of those who love to sing. This ensemble is an integral part of Festival Worship from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day, gathering at 10am to prepare for the am service. Summer Choir is a great opportunity to check out our music ministry, share your love of singing, grow your musical abilities, or try something new. No experience or preparation is necessary. Feel free to join us as your Sunday schedule allows!

## **SUMMER ART INSTALLATION**

Jamaica Plain artist activists created an art installation that is installed on the Dartmouth Street gates of the church and will remain throughout the summer. The sculptures honor the 123 individuals who have died in ICE detention since 2016, including Dorchester resident Emmanuel Damas. They also pay homage to the 6200 children who have been arrested since 2025, and the untold number of immigrants who have been flown to far-flung countries, far from the US and their native lands.

## **CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER**

*First Sundays, 10am, in the Columbarium, next session July 5*

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](mailto:ashley@oldsouth.org).

## **ONLINE SMALL GROUP**

*July 5 at 7:30pm EST and every first Sunday of the month*

*Go to [tinyurl.com/2025OSCOOnlineSmallGroup](https://tinyurl.com/2025OSCOOnlineSmallGroup) password 684963 to join*

Gather with other online members and Rev. Ashley for a time of fellowship, communion, and deepening our relationships with one another. Please bring something to eat (bread, cracker, cookie) and something to drink (juice, water, coffee) as your communion elements.

## OLD SOUTH MUSIC PRESENTS:

### DECLARATIONS – A World Premiere Choral Work

Saturday, June 27, 2026, 6:00pm pre-concert discussion, 7pm concert, Sanctuary

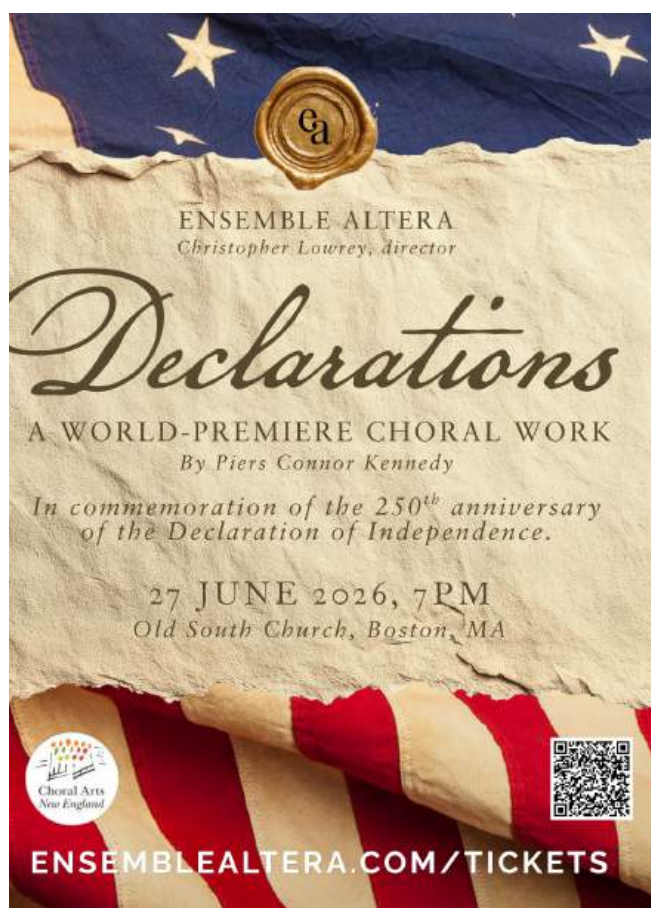
Tickets \$20 / \$40 / \$60 available at [www.ensemblealtera.com](http://www.ensemblealtera.com)

Ensemble Altera and Christopher Lowrey, director

Music by Piers Connor Kennedy ❖ Libretto supervised by Will Ashford

This June, Ensemble Altera presents a newly commissioned work that reflects on the American experiment 250 years on: where it began, how it has evolved, and what it asks of us today. At a time when the language of the founding feels both distant and urgently present, *Declarations* offers a space to listen with fresh ears, through music, for clarity, complexity, and perhaps even common ground. The texts will be fascinating. Thomas Jefferson in dialog with his own contradictions. Competing views of freedom in dialog with each other. *Declarations* from Langston Hughes, former Poet Laureate Tracy K. Smith, dg nanouk okpik, and others. An unspoken last word for Sally Hemings. Learn about the texts and the musicians at [ensemblealtera.com/tickets](http://ensemblealtera.com/tickets).

- **6:00 pm Pre-Concert Discussion:** Before the concert, join us for a "Meet the Creators" discussion and exploration of the poems.
- **Complimentary Tickets:** As a concert sponsor, Old South has a limited number of complimentary tickets (B-tier), available to any Old Souther by request. Limit of 2 tickets per requestor. Contact [tim@oldsouth.org](mailto:tim@oldsouth.org). To purchase A-tier tickets, or to support Altera financially, you may purchase tickets directly on the Ensemble Altera website.



## WRITING OUR LIVES: WRITING WORKSHOP

June 28, 10am, Mary Norton Hall

Us as individuals, our families, our communities, and our ancestors all have stories. We have thoughts and ideas, experiences and tales of love, hate, woe and triumph. It is these stories that give us inspiration, comfort, guidance and a reflective lens for us to view life through. How do we tell these stories? How can we turn our stories into art? This is what we explore this in our Old South Church Writer's Workshop. We explore poetry, short stories, biographies, histories and use a variety of styles including Narrative, Creative, Expository and Descriptive styles to craft our stories. Join us as we dive deep into our creative spirit and bring our stories, experiences and imaginations to life. Questions? email Ashton Gregor at [agregor312@gmail.com](mailto:agregor312@gmail.com).

## QUEER BOOK GROUP

Do you enjoy reading? Are you interested in LGBTIA literature? If so, please consider joining Old South's Pride Book Club where we pick a book, read a book, and then get together via Zoom to discuss the book. We will pick one book a month and then meet the following month to discuss. This guarantees that everyone has time to finish their book in plenty of time. We will begin with reading *The Sweetness of Water* by Nathan Harris and gather on Zoom for discussion on June 30th. Questions? Email Mary Thurston at [mthurston3@outlook.com](mailto:mthurston3@outlook.com)

## RAINBOW STORIES IN THE SANCTUARY



This summer we're sharing stories of our LGBTQIA+ community through an exhibition of tales, photos, poems, and history. Check out our first installation June 11 through 21, and possibly a second iteration in July. Does this inspire you to share a story of your own? Let us know, it's not too late to be a part of the tale. Kate Nintcheu is curating these items, provided by many of our Old Southerners. [kate@oldsouth.org](mailto:kate@oldsouth.org)

## GET YOUR PRIDE MERCH NOW!

New pride merch just dropped! Get your shirt, tank, or sweatshirt today and let the world know that God loves trans people Buy yours at [tinyurl.com/OSC2026PrideShirts](https://tinyurl.com/OSC2026PrideShirts).



## CHRISTIAN SERVICE AND OUTREACH WEEKLY PUSHBACK

### MASSACHUSETTS TRANSGENDER POLITICAL COALITION

For more info and to donate: [www.masstpc.org/](http://www.masstpc.org/)

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

This week, Old South is proud to support the Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition with a \$1,000 Weekly Pushback grant. Founded in 2001, MTPC is the only statewide advocacy organization in Massachusetts focused solely on transgender, nonbinary, and gender expansive communities. Led by trans people, for trans people, MTPC works to strengthen safety, dignity, leadership, and access to care for trans and nonbinary people across the Commonwealth. Their programs include leadership development, employment support, identity document assistance, and emergency financial assistance for housing, utilities, medical expenses, mental health care, and other basic needs. MTPC also provides free access to gender-affirming garments, products, and resources that help people live more fully as themselves. In this Pride season, we give thanks for MTPC's work to help trans and nonbinary people live with safety and joy into the fullness of who they are.

### GREEN TIP: Boston Zero Waste Directory

Boston's Zero Waste Directory provides different resources where you can recycle, donate, resell, repair, and properly dispose of items in your home. Browse the directory and find an option that works for you! Learn more at [tinyurl.com/BostonZeroWaste](http://tinyurl.com/BostonZeroWaste).

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### 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

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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.



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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.

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Old South Church in Boston ❖ 645 Boylston Street, Boston 02116 ❖ [www.oldsouth.org](http://www.oldsouth.org)