

Old South Church *in* Boston  
**Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**

July 12, 2026 ❖ 11:00am

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

## GATHER

PRELUDE

Prelude in A major, BWV 536

J.S. Bach

\*HYMN 86

**When Morning Gilds the Skies**

LAUDES DOMINI

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Kat E. Woodard

To whom will we compare you?

Who is your equal, Holy One?

**Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens:**

**God who brings out the starry host one by one  
and calls forth each of them by name.**

Why do we complain?

Why do we say our cause is disregarded by our God?

**Have we not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.**

God will not grow tired or weary,

and Her understanding no one can fathom.

**They give strength to the weary**

**and increase the power of the weak.**

Even youths may grow tired and weary,

and young men stumble and fall;

**but those who hope in the Lord**

**will renew their strength. Alleluia. Amen.**

*Adapted from Isaiah 40*

\*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 score includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, quarter notes, and half notes, with some notes tied across bar lines.

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WELCOME

ANTHEM

Unity

Moone & Washington;  
Daniel M. Cason II, arr.

Behold, how good and pleasant it is  
for people to dwell together in unity.

Unity, unity; Lord, we pray for unity

## ATTEND

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kate M. Nintcheu

SCRIPTURE

Job 38: 1-7; 40: 1-4

Rory Razon

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

SERMON

Where were you when  
I laid the foundation of the earth?

Rachel J. Barton

\*HYMN 454

**Lord, I Want To Be a Christian**

I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

## RESPOND

\*CALL TO PRAYER

Kat E. Woodard

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 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

**Spirit, Open My Heart**

*(Refrain)*

Spir - it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of  
liv - ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing  
and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart.

*(Verse)*

Write your love up - on my heart as my law, my  
goal, my sto - ry. In each thought, word, and deed,  
may my liv - ing bring you glo - ry. *(to refrain)*

Text: Ruth Duck, 1994

Tune: WILD MOUNTAIN THYME, Irish melody; arr. Alfred V. Fedak

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Kat E. Woodard



*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

Peace Like a River

Jay Althouse, *arr.*

I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river in my soul;  
I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river in my soul.

I've got love like an ocean...

I've got joy like a fountain...

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*HYMN 388

**Help Us Accept Each Other**

AURELIA

\*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

Rachel J. Barton

SUNG RESPONSE *see next page*

**Go Now in Peace**

POSTLUDE

Fugue in A major, BWV 536

J.S. Bach



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

Old South welcomes a return visit from  
former Associate Organist and Choirmaster George Sargeant this morning,  
who provides our organ voluntaries and leads the summer choir in its offertory anthem.

The Flowers today are given by Elizabeth Pitcher  
on the occasion of her 89th birthday.

Close-Up, a twenty minute tour of the Sanctuary,  
begins following Worship. Please meet at the pulpit in the chapel.  
Led by docent Stephanie LaShoto-Westfield.

## 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.

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of four lines of music. The first line begins with an introduction of four measures, followed by the lyrics 'Go now in peace, ne-ver be a - fraid;'. The second line continues with 'God will go with you each hour of ev-'ry day. Go now in faith,'. The third line continues with 'stead-fast, strong and true, know God will guide you in all you'. The fourth line concludes with 'do. A - men, a - men, a - men.' and ends with a double bar line.

Text: Don Besig and Nancy Price, 1988  
Tune: Don Besig, 1988; adapt. Mitchell Crawford, 2022

## UPCOMING SPECIAL SERVICES

### **GODSPEED KAT WOODARD**

#### **August 13 and 16, 2026 | Thursday Night Church and Sunday's First and Festival Worship**

Join us as we wish godspeed and blessings to Kat Woodard who has served as our Taylor Fellow for Mission in the City.

### **MIDDLE PASSAGE SUNDAY**

#### **August 30, 2026 | First and Festival Worship**

Gathered in 1669, Old South Church in Boston continues to research, name and account for a history which includes radical abolitionists and the first anti-slavery tract on this soil (1700), AND many early ministers and members who were enslavers. Since 2015 the church has held an annual Sunday of remembrance in which the names of African members from the 1600s, 1700s and early 1800s are read aloud and their lives remembered.

## 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.



OLD  
SOUTH  
CHURCH  
in BOSTON

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## THIS SUNDAY AT OLD SOUTH

### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMON CATHEDRAL LUNCH**

*Sunday, July 12, 2026*

This is a great opportunity to volunteer to help our local community. Join us for any part of the day. All are welcome, including families.

- Make Bag Lunches in OSC Mary Norton Kitchen 9:00 -10:30am
- Meet at Boston Common (near Park St. Station) 11:45am-1pm to unload and hand out lunches to the *common cathedral* congregation and join for lunch
- Attend outdoor *common cathedral* service 1:00-2:00 PM

For more information, contact Mary Thurston at [Mthurston3@outlook.com](mailto:Mthurston3@outlook.com).

### **TOUR OF BUILDING AREAS NEEDING RENOVATION**

*Sunday, July 12 at 10am; and Sunday July 19 at 12pm*

Questions? Email Rebecca Pasipanodya at [rebecca@oldsouth.org](mailto:rebecca@oldsouth.org)

Meet in the elevator lobby and join Lois Corman, Chair of the Operations Committee, on a unique walkthrough of the building. She will take you to places you probably haven't seen before: the basement and the roof. Learn about the maintenance renovations we plan to tackle over the next 10 years. Bring binoculars if you wish and please wear flat shoes (no heels allowed on the roof.)

### **VESPERS HEALING WORSHIP - A Time for Discernment**

*Sunday, July 12 at 5pm, Zoom at [tinyurl.com/HealingWorshipZoom](https://tinyurl.com/HealingWorshipZoom)*

Please join Tony Rich and Rev. Rachel Barton for our next healing worship session. The first half of our time together will include our customary prayer and candle lighting, and in the second half, we will hold a discussion regarding the group's format and leadership in the season to come. Questions? Email Rev. Rachel at [rachel@oldsouth.org](mailto:rachel@oldsouth.org).

### **ONLINE SMALL GROUP FOR REMOTE OLD SOUTHERS**

*Date change to July 12 at 7:30pm, and every first Sunday of the month*

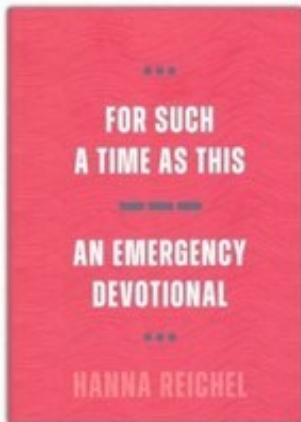
Go to [tinyurl.com/2025OSCOOnlineSmallGroup](https://tinyurl.com/2025OSCOOnlineSmallGroup) password 684963 to join

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.

## NEW AROUND HERE?

Sunday, July 19, 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).

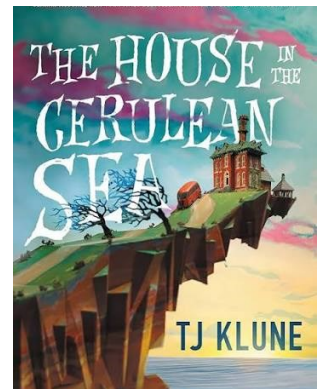


## THEOLOGICAL BOOK GROUP SUMMER READ

We are delving into a different kind of book! *For Such A Time As This; An Emergency Devotional* (paperback) provides key insights on how not only to survive, but to actively flourish in these turbulent times. In brief meditations, biblical reflections and historical analysis, Dr. Hanna Reichel, Professor of Theology at Princeton Theological Seminary, guides us into a fullness of life, as Christians, that both challenges and transcends authoritarianism of all kinds. For those who wish, there will be a one session zoom meeting in the fall to discuss the book. No need to join anything!! Questions? Contact Don Wells at [granwell@comcast.net](mailto:granwell@comcast.net).

## 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. For July, we will be reading *The House in the Cerulean Sea* by T.J. Klune and gather on Zoom for discussion on August 4th. Email Mary Thurston at [mtkurzton3@outlook.com](mailto:mtkurzton3@outlook.com) for more info.



## SAVE THE DATE: ALL-CHURCH RETREAT IS OCTOBER 2<sup>ND</sup>-4<sup>TH</sup>

Join Old South for our annual intergenerational fall retreat, October 2nd-4th. Grow in community with us as we find rest, connection, play games at stunning Craigville Retreat Center in Centerville, MA on Cape Cod. Pay what you can - kids under 18 are free.

## CONGREGATIONAL BELONGING SURVEY

*Survey closes August 31, 2026*

Over the past several months, Old South Church has been engaging in conversations about belonging as part of our commitment to becoming a more radically inclusive congregation—one where every person can experience genuine welcome, connection, and belonging.

Many members and friends have already participated in listening sessions, and we are grateful for the thoughtful perspectives that have been shared. If you have not been able to attend a listening session—or if you would simply prefer to share your thoughts in writing—we invite you to complete our anonymous Congregational Belonging Survey.



Scan the QR code or visit [tinyurl.com/z9tat4ce](https://tinyurl.com/z9tat4ce)

Your responses will help us better understand the experiences, hopes, and ideas of our congregation as we continue this important work together. The survey should take approximately 10–15 minutes to complete.

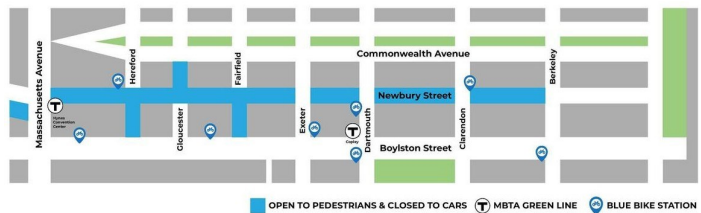
While the survey is anonymous, you will have the option to provide your contact information if you would like a follow-up conversation.

## NEWBURY STREET CLOSED ON SUNDAYS

*10am–6pm, July 12, 19, and 26 and most Sundays through October 11. Plan more time to find on street parking or park at the Back Bay Garage. Visit [tinyurl.com/opennewbury2026](https://tinyurl.com/opennewbury2026) for dates and more information.*

Whether you're shopping, dining out, or just going for a walk, pedestrian-only days on Newbury Street are a Boston summer staple. Newbury Street is a mile-long, eight block stretch of shops, salons, galleries and restaurants.

This famous Boston street becomes a pedestrian-only walkway on Sundays in the summer. The street is closed to vehicles to allow the use of the full width of the street, from Berkeley Street to Massachusetts Avenue.



## CHRISTIAN SERVICE AND OUTREACH WEEKLY PUSHBACK

### North American Indian Center of Boston

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

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

This week, the Christian Service and Outreach Committee is honored to support the North American Indian Center of Boston's work with a \$1,000 Weekly Pushback grant. NAICOB was originally established in 1969 as the Boston Indian Council (BIC) when it served as the hub of social and civil rights activities for the American Indian/Alaska Native and First Nations urban Indian community in Boston.

The BIC reorganized as the North American Indian Center of Boston in 1991 and offered innovative programs such as a drop-in recovery facility, Native American head start, and on-site job training. To this day, they continue to provide a wide range of cultural, social, educational, and professional services to Native peoples in the Commonwealth, guided by the expressed needs of their community members.

As we usher in the 250th year of American independence, Old South is grateful to affirm the enduring presence and resilience of Native communities whose histories are too often overlooked in the telling of our nation's founding.

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### WEEKLY WORSHIP

Join us in person, on Facebook, and YouTube

**Thursday Night Church**, Thursdays at 6:00 pm

**FIRST Worship** Sundays at 9:00 am

**FESTIVAL Worship** Sundays at 11:00 am

**VESPERS HEALING Worship**, Second Sundays at 5:00 pm 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)