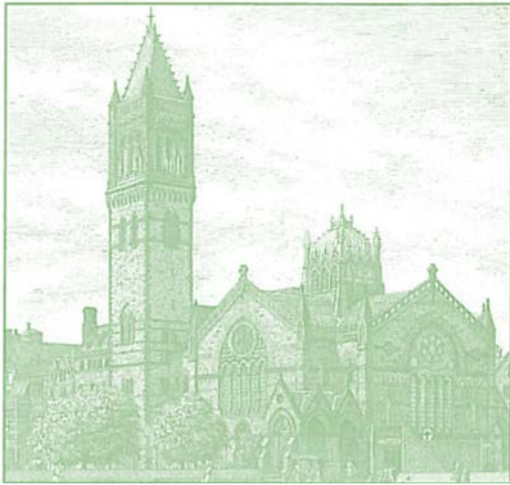




Old South Church

Copley Square, Boston

*A Congregation of the
United Church of Christ*

Gathered 1669

July 19, 2026 ❖ 11:00am

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

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

GATHER

PRELUDE

He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought!

Dale Wood, arr.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Ashley J. Popperson

We give thanks for God,
who calls us to care well for what has been entrusted to us.
We give thanks for community,
where the work is shared and we are not alone.
We give thanks for companions,
who remind us, that together, we have what we need.
For the work ahead,
for the people beside us,
and for the God who goes with us,
we give thanks.

*HYMN 89

Awake, Awake to Love and Work

MORNING SONG

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

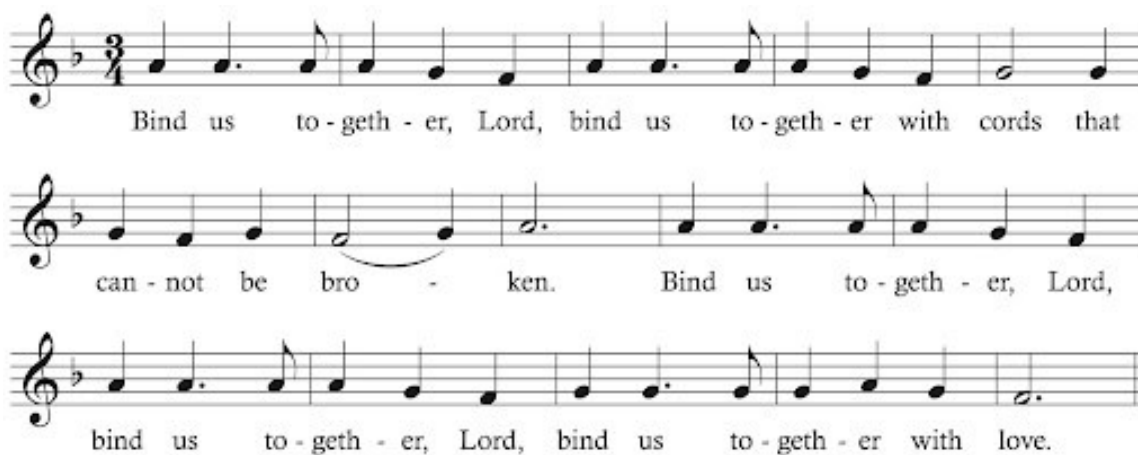
Please greet those around you, wishing them “peace” or “the peace of Christ.”

**Indicates all who are able may stand*

SUNG RESPONSE

Bind Us Together

Congregation: [refrain]



Choir:

*You are the family of God; you are the promise divine.
You are God's chosen desire; you are the glorious new wine. (refrain)*

WELCOME

ANTHEM

If God Is For Us

Bob Moore

*If God is for us, who can be against us?
Who can separate us from the love of Christ?*

We know that God desires good things for those who love God.
All things will work for good in those who have been called.

We know that there is nothing keeping us from God's love,
the love that comes to us through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

God calls us to reflect the image of Christ Jesus,
and in the image of Christ Jesus, we are one.

ATTEND

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kate M. Nintcheu

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 4:10-16, 27-31

Pam Roberts

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

SERMON

"Even Now, He Is Coming to Meet You"

Kat Woodard

*HYMN 531

God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak

CANONBURY

RESPOND

*CALL TO PRAYER

Ashley J. Popperson

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

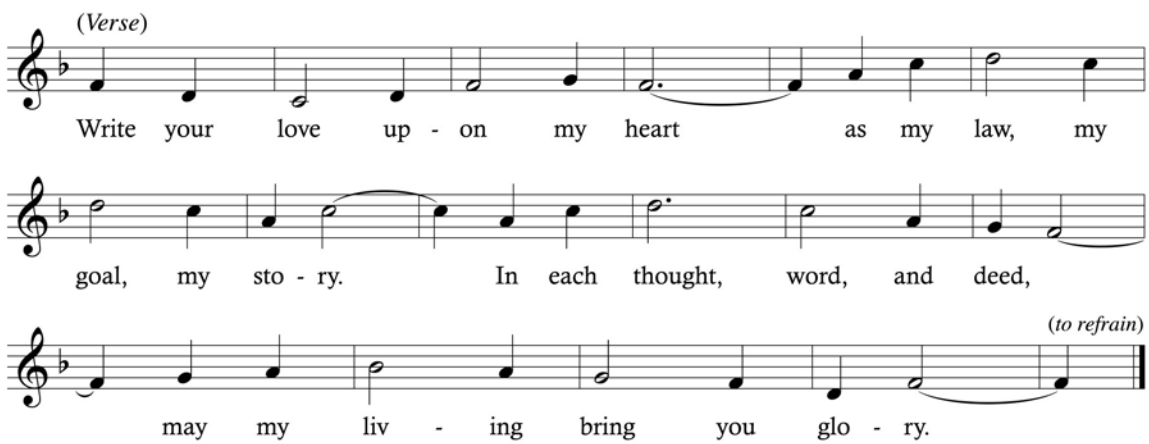
Spirit, Open My Heart

(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

Ashley J. Popperson



*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

What Does the Lord Require

Andrew Bruhn

What does the Lord, our God require of you?
Be kind, and just, and walk humbly with God.

O God of mercy, God of light, in love and mercy infinite,
teach us, as ever in your sight, to live our lives in you.

You sent your Son to die for all, that our lost world might hear your call;
O hear us lest we stand and fall: we rest our hope in you.

And may your Holy Spirit move all those who live to live in love,
till you receive in heaven above all those who live in you.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN 495

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

BEECHER

*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

Kat Woodard

SUNG RESPONSE *see next page*

Go Now in Peace

POSTLUDE

Festal March

E. R. Kroeger



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

The Flowers today are given by Marcia Imbrescia
in fond memory of her mom, Norma Lee Carlson

Close-Up, a twenty minute tour of the Sanctuary,
begins following Worship at the pulpit in front of the Chapel.
Led by docent Kate Silfen.

Go Now in Peace

(Introduction)

The musical score is written on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It begins with an introduction of four measures. The lyrics are: '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 melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final cadence on the word 'men'.

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

UPCOMING SPECIAL SERVICES

GODSPEED KAT WOODARD

August 13 and 16, 2026 | Thursday Night Church & Sunday's First & 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.

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., *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?

This 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.

TOUR OF BUILDING AREAS NEEDING RENOVATION

This Sunday, July 19, 12pm

Questions? Email Rebecca Pasipanodya at 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.)

QUEER SHORTS FESTIVAL AT RAINBOW TABLE



Friday, July 24, 5:30-7:30pm in Mary Norton Hall

Sign up and more info at tinyurl.com/OSCRainbowFilmFest

Join Rainbow Table for a cinematic night full of fun, stories, and the magic that only queer dinners and movies can bring. We'll eat dinner together and watch a variety of queer short films. All are welcome at this free and inclusive event.

QUEER BOOK GROUP

Gathering and discussion on Zoom on August 4

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. Email Mary Thurston at mtkurzton3@outlook.com for more info.



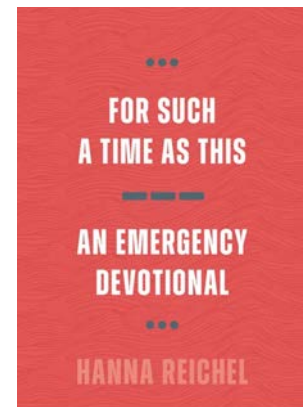
INTERACTIVE TOUR OF THE SANCTUARY

Sunday, August 9, 10am

Come explore Old South's sanctuary with member Kathleen Simone on this interactive tour. Learn about the history of the building's art and architecture (what does Gothic Revival mean, anyway?) and how to "read" historic spaces and art (did you know that stained glass artists were story tellers?). Meet by the pulpit.

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.



SAVE THE DATE: ALL-CHURCH RETREAT IS OCTOBER 2ND-4TH

Join Old South for our annual intergenerational fall retreat, October 2nd-4th. Grow in community with us as we find rest, connection, and play games at stunning Craigville Retreat Center in Centerville, MA on Cape Cod.

GREEN TIP: SAY NO TO PLASTIC STRAWS FOR PLASTIC FREE JULY

Plastic straws may seem harmless but we use and throw away a lot of them. 500 million a day, to be exact. Next time you're at a restaurant or the cafeteria, order your drink without a straw. If you really love straws consider investing in a reusable option like a metal or glass straw. Make this change as part of Plastic Free July, a global movement that empowers us to be part of the solution to plastic pollution. Take the pledge at www.plasticfreejuly.org.

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/29tat4ce

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 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

Native American LifeLines

For more info and to donate: nativeamericanlifelines.org/

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

Native American LifeLines promotes health and social resilience within urban American Indian communities. Grounded in principles of trauma-informed care, the organization provides culturally centered behavioral health, dental, outreach, and referral services.

Located in Dorchester, the Boston chapter of Native American LifeLines offers monthly programming, including an Indigenous-focused sobriety group. They also compile a resource guide of care providers with experience supporting Indigenous people in areas such as health insurance enrollment, HIV testing and counseling, domestic violence support, and suicide prevention. This week, Old South's Christian Service and Outreach Committee is grateful to support Native American LifeLines' work of building pathways toward healing and culturally responsive care with a \$1,000 Weekly Pushback grant.

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

VESPER HEALING Worship, Second Sundays at 5:00 pm 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