



Old South Church

Copley Square, Boston

*A Congregation of the
United Church of Christ*

Gathered 1669

July 26, 2026

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

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

GATHER

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Kat E. Woodard

O give thanks to God!

Remember the wonderful things God has done!

Glory in God's holy name!

Sing of God's acts and promises!

We will seek God's presence;

let the hearts of those who seek God rejoice.

*HYMN 12

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

ELLACOMBE

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

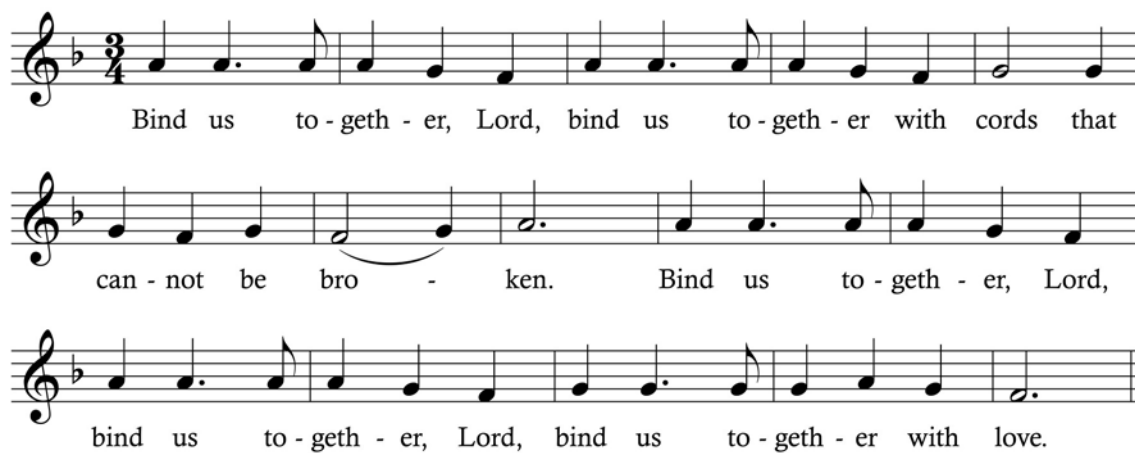
Please greet those around you, wishing them "peace" or "the peace of Christ."

**Indicates all who are able may stand*

SUNG RESPONSE

Bind Us Together

Congregation: [refrain]



Bind us to - geth - er, Lord, bind us to - geth - er with cords that
can - not be bro - ken. Bind us to - geth - er, Lord,
bind us to - geth - er, Lord, bind us to - geth - er with love.

Text: Bob Gillman, 1974

Tune: BIND US TOGETHER, Bob Gillman, 1974

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

Open Your Ears, O Faithful People

Hasidic melody

Open your ears, O faithful people;
open your ears and hear God's word.
Open your hearts, O royal priesthood;
God has come to you.

God has spoken to the people, hallelujah!
God has spoken words of wisdom, hallelujah!

They who have ears to hear the message,
they who have ears, now let them hear;
they who would learn the way of wisdom,
let them hear God's word.

ATTEND

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kate M. Nintcheu

SCRIPTURE

Numbers 27:1-11

Stephanie LaShoto-Westfield

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

SERMON

Nancy Drew Would Beg to Differ

John M. Edgerton

*HYMN 393

Blessed Be the Tie That Binds

DENNIS

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

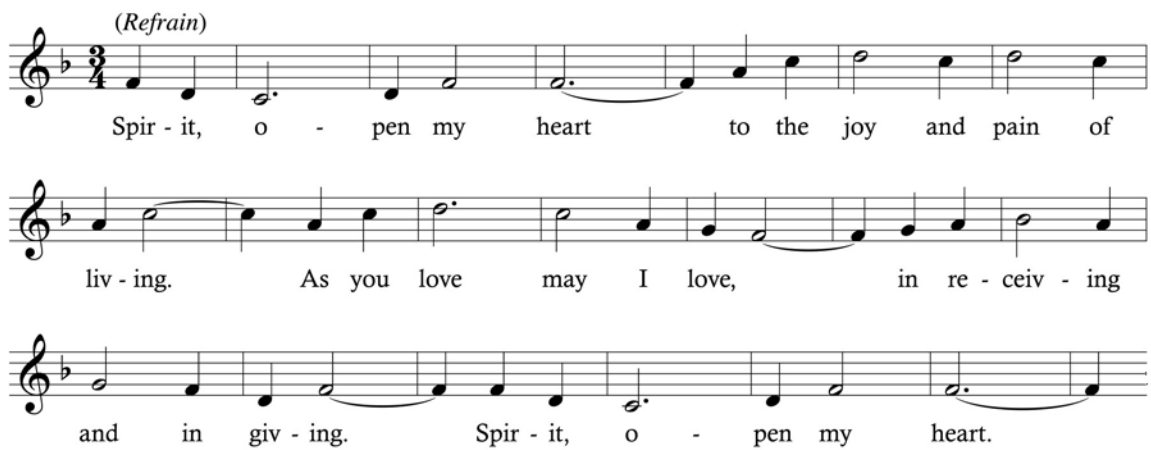
THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

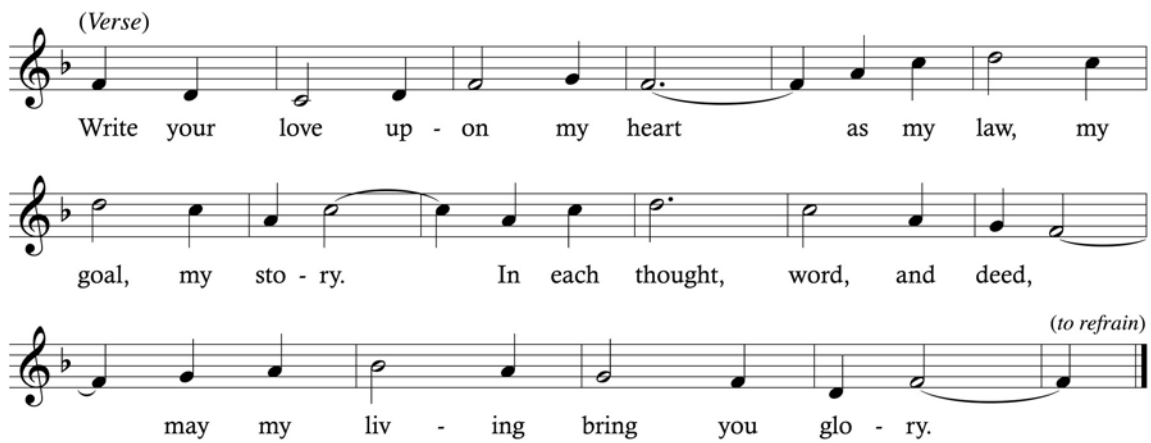
Spirit, Open My Heart

(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



*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

Song of Praise

Richard A. Nichols

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
In this temple God be praised;
in the high and heavenly places
be the sounding anthem raised.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Praise God's name.

Hallelujah! Praise Jehovah
with the trumpet's joyful sound;
praise with harp and praise with organ,
let God's glorious praise abound.
Praise Jehovah for their mighty acts of fame;
Hallelujah! Praise God's holy name.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
All that breathe, Jehovah praise;
let the voices God has given
joyful anthems to God raise.
Hallelujah! Praise God's name.
Hallelujah! Sing a song of praise.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN 383

Come, Let Us Join with Faithful Souls

AZMON

*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

John M. Edgerton

SUNG RESPONSE *see next page*

Go Now in Peace

POSTLUDE



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

The flowers today are given by Elizabeth and Betty Pitcher
in celebration of Elizabeth's 89th birthday and Betty's 91st Birthday.

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

Go Now in Peace

(Introduction)

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with an introduction of four measures, followed by the lyrics 'Go now in peace, ne-ver be a-fraid;'. The second staff continues with 'God will go with you each hour of ev-'ry day. Go now in faith,'. The third staff continues with 'stead-fast, strong and true, know God will guide you in all you'. The fourth staff concludes with 'do. A - men, a - men, a - men.' and ends with a double bar line.

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 | 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 | 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 and guide.



OLD
SOUTH
CHURCH
in BOSTON

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIFTH THURSDAYS: A TNC OPEN MIC NIGHT

Thursday, July 30, 7:20pm, Gordon Chapel

After Thursday Night Church, join us for our Fifth Thursdays TNC Open Mic Night. All are welcome to gather after worship for an informal sharing of poetry, music, story, and art hosted by our Creative Director, Audrey Woodhams and accompanist, Liz Sinn. Contact Audrey at audrey@oldsouth.org to sign up, or just show up and there's a spot for you!

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

First Sundays, 10am, Ashley's Office, next session August 2

Need some space to breathe? Time to rest in the spacious silence of God's presence? Please join us for Contemplative Prayer. Questions? Email ashley@oldsouth.org.

ONLINE SMALL GROUP

First Sundays, 7:30pm, Zoom, next session August 2

Go to 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.

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*. 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.

NEWBURY STREET CLOSED ON SUNDAYS

10am-6pm, July 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.



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.

GREEN TIP: SAY NO TO FREEBIES

Freebies are everywhere, from promotional pens and bags to party favors, to those annoying packets of junk you get at the dentist's office. Do we really need them? Probably not. But when we accept these things it increases the demand for more to be made. If you don't need it, refuse it. 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.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE AND OUTREACH WEEKLY PUSHBACK

NDN Collective

For more info and to donate: <https://ndncollective.org/>

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

NDN Collective is an Indigenous-led organization dedicated to building Indigenous power nationwide. They provide funding, training, and resources to grassroots movements led by and for Indigenous communities. In particular, their work supports campaigns to protect Native lands, waters, and human rights.

This week, Old South's Christian Service and Outreach Committee is supporting NDN Collective's work of advancing Indigenous self-determination 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