



Old South Church

Copley Square, Boston

*A Congregation of the
United Church of Christ*

Gathered 1669

August 2, 2026

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

GATHER

PRELUDE [III.] RICHMOND from “20 Hymn-Tune Preludes,” Op. 90 C. S. Lang

*CALL TO WORSHIP Rachel J. Barton

Siblings in Christ, arise!

Let us lift our hearts, our eyes, our voices.

The Living God,
the living, moving Spirit of God,
has called us together:

In witness, in celebration, in struggle.

Reach out toward each other.

Our God reaches out toward us.

Let us worship God!

—Elizabeth Rice, 20th c. American church leader

*HYMN 400 **Christ is Made the Sure Foundation** REGENT SQUARE

**Indicates all who are able may stand*

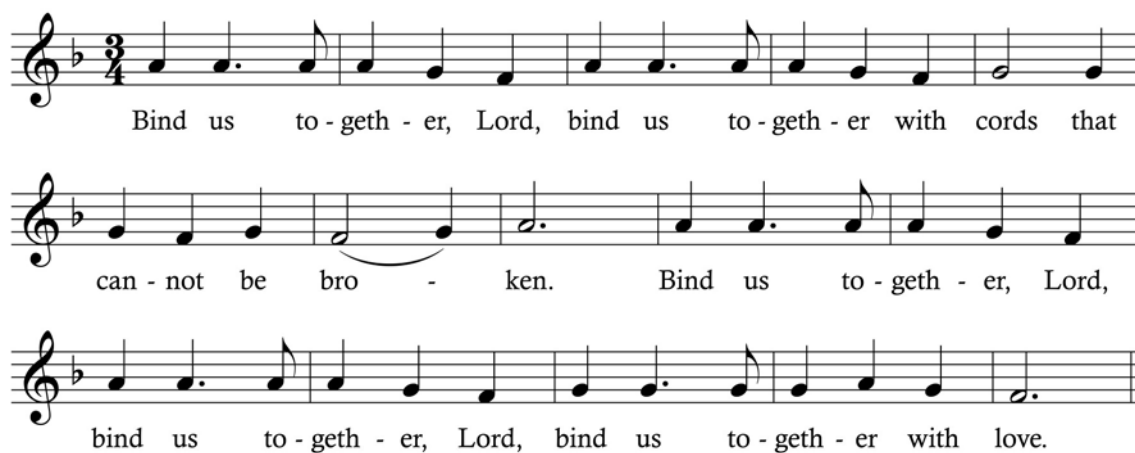
*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

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

Christ Has Broken Down the Wall

Mark A. Miller

Christ has broken down the wall:
let us join our hearts as one.

Cast aside your doubts and fears,
peace and love, freely offered here.

We're accepted as we are:
through God's love all is reconciled.

We will tear down the walls!
We will tear down every wall.
God has called us, one and all;
Christ has broken down the wall.

ATTEND

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kate M. Nintcheu

SCRIPTURE

Ecclesiastes 4:7-12

Ashton Gregor

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

SERMON

One in Five

Ashley J. Popperson

*HYMN 506

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

ERIE

RESPOND

*CALL TO PRAYER

Rachel J. Barton

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.*

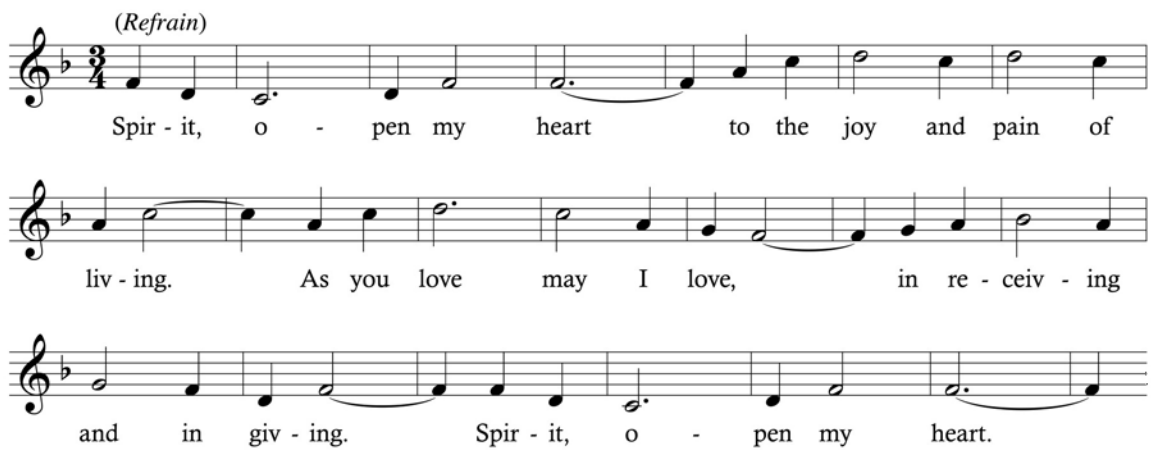
PASTORAL PRAYER

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.

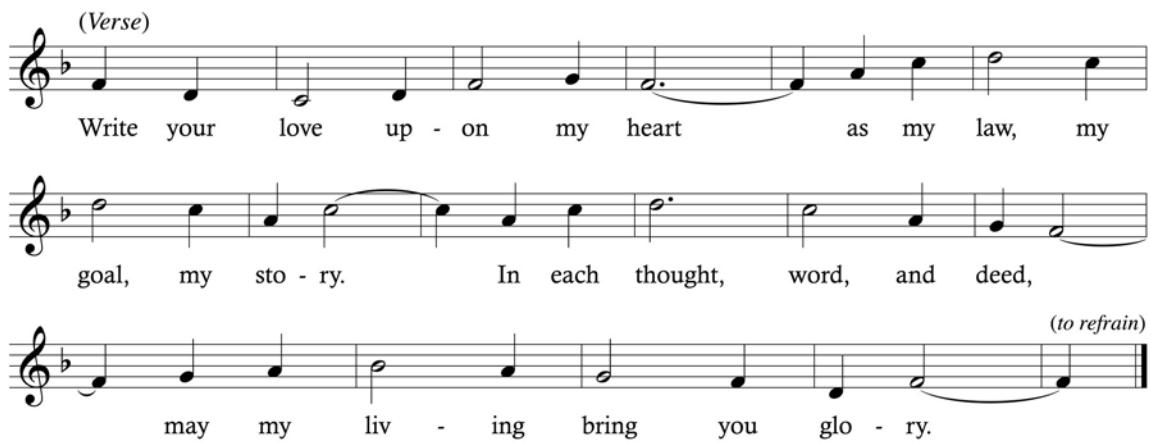
PRAYER RESPONSE

(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

Come, Ye Sinners

David Ashley White, *arr.*

Come, ye sinners, poor and needy, weak and wounded, sick and sore;
Jesus ready stands to save you, full of pity, love, and power.

*I will arise and go to Jesus, he will embrace me in his arms;
in the arms of my dear Savior, O there are ten thousand charms.*

Come ye weary, heavy laden, lost and ruined by the fall;
if you tarry till you're better, you will never come at all.

Let not conscience make you linger, nor of fitness fondly dream;
all the fitness he requireth is to feel your need of him.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN 537

Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed

INNOCENTS

*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

Ashley J. Popperson

SUNG RESPONSE *see next page*

Go Now in Peace

POSTLUDE

Rigaudon from *Idoménée*

André Campra



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

The Flowers today are given by Martha Niden Coleman
in fond memory of my parents Barbara and George Niden

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

Go Now in Peace

(Introduction)

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. 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 score includes a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The melody is written on a single staff with a treble clef. The lyrics are written below the staff. The score is divided into four lines of music, each with its own set of lyrics. The first line is the introduction, followed by the main body of the song. The final line is 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

TAKE THE 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.

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

First Sundays, 10am, Ashley's Office, next session this Sunday, 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 this Sunday, 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

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

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.

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.

SUPPORT FOOD SECURITY IN OUR COMMUNITY AT ABFP

Saturday, August 15, Doors open 10:30, Formal event 11:00, 404 Washington St. Brighton

After months of setbacks, uncertainty, and hard work, the Allston Brighton Food Pantry (ABFP) is thrilled be up and running and serving our community. To celebrate this new chapter and thank everyone who supported us along the way, ABFP is hosting a Re-Opening Celebration on August 15!

- Enjoy refreshments prepared by our amazing Chef Ana
- Take a tour of our newly renovated spaces
- Connect with staff, volunteers, and community members

Interested in joining fellow Old Southerners as a volunteer at the pantry on Saturdays from 9:30-12:30? Email Esther Seguin esther.seguin@verizon.net to learn more.

THURSDAY NIGHT CHURCH SUMMER SUPPER CLUB

Thursday, August 20, 7pm, in the Crawford Library

Summer's almost over, but the program year's about to start! Join us for a special edition of Thursday Night Supper Club in the Gordon Chapel. We'll catch up with each other, and do some dreaming for the year ahead. Questions? Email Rachel Barton at rachel@oldsouth.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HEADLINES SUBMISSIONS

Go to tinyurl.com/OSCNewsSubmission to fill in the form

Fill out the form at the link to ensure that your submissions to the church publications arrive on time and to the right emails. The deadline is Wednesday morning at 8am the week you would like your announcement to begin appearing in our publications. Announcements are subject to approval and may be edited for length or clarity.

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. Questions? Email Kate Nintcheu at children@oldsouth.org.

NEWBURY STREET CLOSED ON SUNDAYS

10am-6pm, 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.

GREEN TIP: EVALUATE YOUR KITCHEN STORAGE

Learn more at earth911.com/living-well-being/reduce-waste-8-ways/

How do you currently store food in your kitchen? Do you use disposable plastic containers and zip-top bags? Switch to reusable silicone bags and glass containers to store your food. They cost more upfront but can be reused endlessly. Mason jars and other glass food jars also work well and can often be recycled.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE AND OUTREACH WEEKLY PUSHBACK

GREATER BOSTON INTERFAITH ORGANIZATION CELEBRATING RECENT SUCCESSES

For more info and to donate: www.gbio.org/

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

GBIO is our most important organizing partner. A multi-faith, multi-racial, diverse organization, GBIO is how we most directly work to make an impact in public life. This week our Weekly Pushback grant will go to GBIO to honor our win in the Citizens Bank campaign.

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