



Old South Church *in* Boston ❖ August 16, 2026 ❖ 11:00am

Godspeed Kat Woodard

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

GATHER

PRELUDE

Prelude in E-flat

Alexandre Guilmant

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rachel J. Barton

Behold, for God meets us here,

in the mixed blessing of being alive.

In our deepest grief and our most profound joy,

the Spirit does not shy away.

In our shakiest steps forward and in every new direction,

Christ will meet us there.

In what we have known and in what we cannot yet see,

Our God is already at work.

Rejoice, for there is nowhere we can go where the love of God is not.

*HYMN 391

In the Midst of New Dimensions

NEW DIMENSIONS

*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

Christ is Made the Sure Foundation

Dale Wood

Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and cornerstone;
chosen of the Lord, and precious,
Binding all the church in one;
Holy Zion's help for ever,
and her confidence alone.

To this temple, where we call thee,
come, O Lord of hosts, today;
with thy wonted loving-kindness
hear thy people as they pray,
and thy fullest benediction
shed within its walls away.

Laud and honor to our maker,
laud and honor to God's son,
laud and honor to the spirit,
ever three and ever one:
one in might, and one in glory,
while unending ages run.

ATTEND

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kate M. Nintcheu

SCRIPTURE

1 Samuel 20:35-42

Larry Bowers

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

SERMON

Go In Peace

Kat Woodard

*HYMN

RESPOND

*CALL TO PRAYER

John M. Edgerton

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

He Hideth My Soul

A won - der - ful Sav - ior is Je - sus my Lord; he tak - eth my bur - den a - way.

He hold - eth me up, and I shall not be moved; he giv - eth me strength as my day.

He hid - eth my soul in the *cleft of the rock that shad - ows a dry, thirst - y land.

He hid - eth my life in the depths of his love, and co - vers me there with his hand,

and co - vers me there with his hand. *Exodus 33:22

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1890
Tune: KIRKPATRICK, William J. Kirkpatrick, 1890

GODSPEED KAT WOODARD

The Ministers

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

A Joyful Song to the Lord

Patti Drennan, *arr.*

Let every creature great and small proclaim God's holy name;
the mountains sing and the rocks cry out a jubilant refrain.

*Sing to the Lord, sing to the Lord,
all of creation join and sing to the Lord.*

In joyful song, let the chorus sound, creation's anthem raise;
the melody of the universe rings out in glorious praise.

O sing the mighty power of God that fills the earth and skies;
with heart and soul lift up your voice and let your praise arise!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN 81

God Be With You

GOD BE WITH YOU

*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

Kat Woodard

SUNG RESPONSE *see next page*

Go Now in Peace

POSTLUDE

Rondeau from the *Première Suite de Symphonies*

Jean-Joseph Mouret



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

The Flowers today are given
in memory of Malcolm and Geraldine Bacon
by their loving daughters Suzanne and Shelley.

Close-Up, a twenty minute tour of the Sanctuary,
begins following Worship and meets at the pulpit.
Led by docent David Story.

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 SERVICE

MIDDLE PASSAGE SUNDAY

August 30 | First & 3rd 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



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.

NEW AROUND HERE?

Sunday, August 16, 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.

THURSDAY NIGHT CHURCH SUMMER SUPPER CLUB

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

Summer is almost over, but the program year is 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.

RAINBOW TABLE

Next dinner Friday, September 11, 6pm

Sign up and get more info at tinyurl.com/RainbowTable2026

Rainbow Table is a queer dinner party, where we show up as our most authentic selves, and hold space for each other's unique queer identities and expressions. So that everyone feels comfortable, conversations at Rainbow Table are confidential. You are more than welcome to bring your secret home recipes whether they are simply ramen noodles or complicated like beef Wellington. If you love to cook or just eat, bring your appetite for good food and good conversations, bring your embarrassing stories and silly jokes, bring your music and songs, bring your date and friends, but most importantly bring your most authentic self.

WELCOME BACK SUNDAY BRUNCH

Sunday, September 13th at 10am, sign up to bring food at tinyurl.com/2026OSCWelcomeBack

Join us as we kick off the program year and welcome back familiar faces and those new to church. At 10a.m., we'll share a Potluck Brunch in Mary Norton Hall. Sign up to bring an item here.

SNACKS FOR WORSHIP

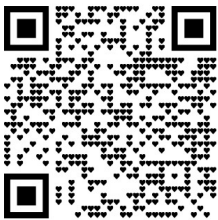
We love our snacks! Unfortunately, buying them week after week is quite expensive for the Church, so we need your help! Would you please buy some of our regular snacks and bring them with you to church every now and again? Every little bit will help us stay within our budget, while still providing snacks for our children, worshippers, and unhoused regulars. Please find the list of snacks at tinyurl.com/OSCSnackList.

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.

REGISTER FOR THE ALL-CHURCH RETREAT OCTOBER 2ND-4TH

Save your space by filling out the form at tinyurl.com/2026OSCRetreat

Join Old South for our annual intergenerational fall retreat. 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.

PARKING ON NEWBURY ST POSSIBLE - AUG 16TH

OPEN NEWBURY EVENT RETURNS AUG 23

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HEADLINES SUBMISSIONS

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

Does your committee need to advertise an event to the congregation? 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.

GREEN TIP: Compost Your Kitchen Scraps

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

Food waste is an enormous problem with a global impact. How often do you have food go bad in your kitchen before it gets eaten? If you're like most people, it's more often than you'd like to admit. If you don't have backyard chickens to feed the scraps to, consider composting. There are even plenty of ways to compost in apartments and urban areas.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE AND OUTREACH WEEKLY PUSHBACK

Mount Vernon Church

For more info and to donate: oldsouth.org

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

This week, as a part of our Weekly Pushback initiative, we are giving thanks for Mount Vernon Church, a congregation whose generosity continues to make the generosity of Old South possible.

Founded in 1842, Mount Vernon Church closed its building at Beacon Street and Massachusetts Avenue in 1970, when its congregation entered into a lasting relationship with Old South. Now, More than fifty years later, Mount Vernon's ministry continues to reach far beyond the building it once called home.

Today, Mount Vernon continues to support a wide range of charitable and educational work. Some of its scholarship funding helps students at the Benjamin Franklin Cummings Institute of Technology pursue practical training for careers in skilled trades and technical fields, while other gifts support food access, humanitarian relief, congregational ministries, and organizations serving people throughout Greater Boston and beyond.

We are grateful that Mount Vernon reminds us that a church has never been only the walls that contain it. Its generosity continues to feed, teach, shelter, and sustain others, while helping Old South do the same.

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



*To give online,
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