



Old South Church

Copley Square, Boston

*A Congregation of the
United Church of Christ*

Gathered 1669

September 6, 2026

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

GATHER

PRELUDE

Andante,
“Chœur de Voix humaines”

Louis-J. A. Lefébure-Wély

*HYMN 66

O Day of Radiant Gladness

ES FLOG EIN
KLEINS WALDVÖGELEIN

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Ashley J. Popperson

We believe God still creates—
we want to see more clearly.
We believe God still speaks—
we want to listen more carefully.
We believe God still guides—
we want to walk more faithfully.

We believe God
still breathes life into the world—
we want to inhale more deeply.
May this be a time of
seeing, hearing, walking, breathing.
May this be a time of true worship.
Amen.

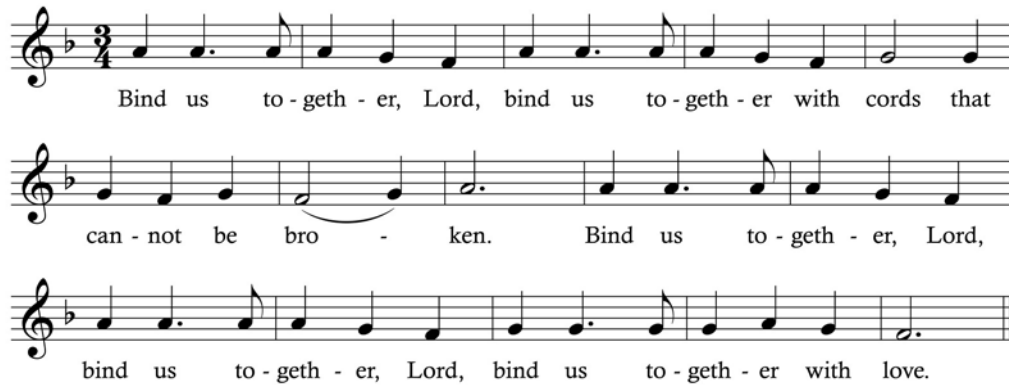
—Joanna Harader, *Spacious Faith*

**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



Text: Bob Gillman, 1974
Tune: BIND US TOGETHER, Bob Gillman, 1974

WELCOME

ANTHEM

Within the Vale of Eden

James E. Clemens, *arr.*

Within the vale of Eden a long, long time ago,
God placed our father Adam because he loved him so;
and God created woman to be by Adam's side,
they lived in perfect pleasure and never tasted woe.

But then the serpent entered and tempted Adam's wife,
he spoke about the apple upon the tree of life;
he promised her the knowledge to make her as a god,
she reached and plucked the apple, and peace was turned to strife.

Then Eve returned to Adam, her story to relate,
he followed her example, forbidden fruit he ate;
then came knowledge that man would suffer death,
God turned them from the garden, and exile was their fate.

Through Adam did we suffer and feel the weight of sin,
till Jesus came to save us, our happiness to win;
he came as our Redeemer, to bring eternal life:
now Paradise is open, and we may enter in.

ATTEND

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-10

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

SERMON

Love from the Start

Rachel J. Barton

*HYMN 33

God Created Heaven and Earth

TŌA-SĪA

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



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

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

Steal Away

Patrick Dupré Quigley, arr.

*Steal away, steal away,
steal away to Jesus!
Steal away, steal away home,
I ain't got long to stay here.*

My Lord, he calls me,
 he calls me like the thunder;
 the trumpet sounds within a-my soul;
 I ain't got long to stay here.

Green trees are bending,
 and sinners stand a-trembling;
 the trumpet sounds within a-my soul;
 I ain't got long to stay here.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN 31

All Things Bright and Beautiful

ROYAL OAK

*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

Rachel J. Barton

SUNG RESPONSE

(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.

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

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Voluntary

Jeremiah Clarke



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

The flowers today are given by Elizabeth and Betty Pitcher
in loving memory of those who have gone before.

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



UPCOMING SPECIAL SERVICES AND EVENTS

WELCOME BACK SUNDAY

September 13 | 10am, sign up at tinyurl.com/2026OSCWelcomeBack

Join us as we kick off the program year and welcome back both familiar faces and those new to church. The 9am First Worship service will feature the Blessing of the Backpacks, a touching tradition that encompasses the hopes and aspirations of students and all who carry life's journey with them. If you are or have a student in your life, be sure to bring a backpack. At 10am plan on brunching with us on the 2nd floor as we enjoy a Potluck Welcome Back Brunch. Bring something to share, and enjoy the bounty of community and cuisine.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

November 1, 2026 | 11AM

In a solemn service of sacred music, we gather to name and remember our own beloved dead who now rest from their labors in the arms of God.

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*
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

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

First Sundays, 10am, Ashley's Office, next session September 6

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

ONLINE SMALL GROUP

First Sundays, 7:30pm, Zoom, next session September 6

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.

RAINBOW TABLE

Next dinner Friday, September 11, 6pm,

Sign up and more info at tinyurl.com/RainbowTable2026

Rainbow Table is a queer dinner party, where we show up as our most authentic selves. If you love to cook or just eat, bring your appetite for good food and conversation, your embarrassing stories & silly jokes, your music & songs, your date & friends, but most importantly bring yourself.

WELCOME BACK SUNDAY

Next Sunday, September 13,

sign up to bring food at tinyurl.com/2026OSCWelcomeBack

Join us as we kick off the program year and welcome back both familiar faces and those new to church. The 9am First Worship service will feature the Blessing of the Backpacks, a touching tradition that encompasses the hopes and aspirations of students and all who carry life's journey with them. If you are or have a student in your life, be sure to bring a backpack. At 10am plan on brunching with us on the 2nd floor as we enjoy a Potluck Welcome Back Brunch. Bring something to share, and enjoy the bounty of community and cuisine.

JAN MONSMA MEMORIAL SERVICE

Sunday, September 20, 1pm

Live streamed at tinyurl.com/JanMonsmaMemorial

Jan, a member of Old South Church for 44 years, passed away on August 13th, at the age of 91. She led by example, placing care of others and of God's creation at the top of her to do list. Jim, her husband of nearly 70 years, and her family have been involved in the church in many ways throughout the years, including her leadership in the Congregational Care and Support Committee. Many Old Southerners received and cherished the cards and notes that Jan wrote us in times of celebration, grief, and uncertainty. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial contributions be made in Janice's memory to Old South.



HELP TO LEAD AND MANAGE *common cathedral* LUNCH

Sunday, October 4, 9am, Mary Norton Hall Kitchen and Boston Common

Questions? Want to sign up? Help lead the event?

Email Paul Brouillette at brouillettepaul@gmail.com by September 1

The Homelessness + Housing Insecurity Task Force is offering OSC members the opportunity to host a *common cathedral* luncheon. We are specifically encouraging church members who have previously participated to lead and manage volunteers in preparing sandwich lunches and distributing them on the Boston Common to folks experiencing homelessness. Volunteers have already experienced the camaraderie that develops in the Mary Norton kitchen, a community effort of good will. Know that your time will greatly benefit our neighbors who might otherwise go hungry that day.

REGISTER FOR THE ALL-CHURCH RETREAT OCTOBER 2-4

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.

OLD SOUTH RINGERS RESUME REHEARSALS

Beginning September 1, Tuesdays, 6-7:30pm, Sanctuary balcony

Curious about our handbell ministry? Ever wanted to learn to play? The Old South Ringers fall season rehearsals resume this Tuesday. There is space at the tables for you! Contact Peter Coulombe at handbells@oldsouth.org or at 617-406-8253 for more info.

HEARD IT AT COUNCIL

Read the whole report at oldsouth.org/news/heard-it-council-august-2026

Old South Historian Kate Silfen reports on a Council Meeting that included discussion about finances, The BELONG Taskforce, a Search Committee, and supporting a young Palestinian man studying to be a minister.

GREEN TIP: Check Your Tires

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

Cooler temperatures can lower tire pressure and under-inflated tires reduce your car's fuel efficiency. It takes just a few minutes to inflate your tires to the proper pressure and it's well worth the grimy fingers. And while you're at it, check your car service records; is it time to rotate your tires yet? By regularly rotating your tires, you make sure your tires wear evenly. Regular rotation can extend your tire life and improve your gas mileage.

SNACKS FOR WORSHIP

We love our snacks! Unfortunately, buying them week after week gets expensive, 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. Find the list of snacks at tinyurl.com/OSCSnackList.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE AND OUTREACH WEEKLY PUSHBACK BREAKTIME

To volunteer, donate, or receive services: breaktime.org

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

Breaktime is a Boston-based non-profit dedicated to ending young adult homelessness through purposeful employment and empowerment. By hiring and offering support to young people experiencing housing insecurity, they help build income, confidence, and community by offering financial support, employment, and wraparound services. Breaktime works to ensure every youth served has tools needed to achieve job, financial and long-term housing security. This week, Old South is proud to support their work with a \$1,000 Weekly Pushback grant.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HEADLINES SUBMISSIONS

Go to tinyurl.com/OSCNewsSubmission 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. 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.

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 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