



Old South Church *in* Boston ❖ September 20, 2026 ❖ 11:00am

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

GATHER

PRELUDE

I Need Thee Every Hour

Dale Wood, *arr.*

WELCOME

Dimitri Bawole

BELONG MESSAGE

BELONG Task Force

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The mountains may shake,

but God is our God, and we are God's people.

The waters may roar and rage,

but God's love is unfailing.

The earth may crumble,

but God builds us up.

The waves may crash,

but we will dance with joy!

There may be times of great trouble, but we have found grace in the wilderness.

The Lord is our strength and our salvation:

let us sing to the God who triumphs gloriously!

**Indicates all who are able may stand*

*HYMN 6

Sing Praise to God, Our Highest Good

MIT FREUDEN ZART

CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Dimitri Bawole

...we name silently or spoken aloud before God and these witnesses...

One word that describes how you feel as you begin this week:

One word that names a burden or worry you brought with you here:

One place you long for God's presence:

One place you look for hope:

Silence is kept.

Friends, hear and believe this good news:

Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

As recipients of Christ's grace, you, my beloved,

will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you.

We will be Christ's witnesses to the ends of the earth.

*PASSING THE PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

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

ANTHEM

The Storm Is Passing Over

Barbara Baker, *arr.*

Have courage my soul, and let us journey on,
though the night is dark, and I am far from home.

Thanks be to God, the morning light appears:
the storm is passing over, hallelu!

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

The storm is passing over, hallelu!

LISTEN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Pam Roberts

SCRIPTURE

Jonah 1:1-6

*HYMN 493

O Jesus, I Have Promised

ANGEL'S STORY

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

SCRIPTURE

Mark 4:35-41

John M. Edgerton

SERMON

Questions, questions...

*HYMN 441

Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me

PILOT

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Ashley J. Popperson

Holy God, we long to be your people.

Sometimes we are called to plan, to act, to protest, to march, to respond, to advocate.

And sometimes our witness is one of waiting and trusting you will speak.

As your people, we pause.

Trustworthy God, we long to be your people.

We look around for signs of your action and proof of your presence.

Open our eyes to the ways you are at work repairing the world before we can see it.

As your people, we wait.

Faithful God, we long to be your people.

We carry around the worries of the world,

the weight of injustice, the pain of your people.

When we feel stuck, help us surrender to your plan being prepared with love and mercy.

As your people, we pray.

Silence is kept.

Steadfast God, we are your people:

We trust that you go before us,

that you are here among us,

that you are calling us still.

Grant us clarity in where to turn for signs of hope and assurance of your steadfast love.

Equip us, inspire us, empower us, prepare us—as we breathe, pause, wait, and pray.

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

I Need You to Survive
Ida Kamrara, *soloist*

David Frazier

I need you, you need me: we're all a part of God's body.
Stand with me, agree with me: we're all a part of God's body.
It is his will that every need be supplied;
you are important to me. I need you to survive.

I pray for you, you pray for me.
I love you; I need you to survive.
I won't harm you with words from my mouth;
I love you. I need you to survive.

RESPOND

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

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms
Ida Kamrara, Geoff O'Hara, and Sara Mitnik, *soloists*

Aarmor, *arr.*

What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

*Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.*

O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
 leaning on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path grows from day to day,
 leaning on the everlasting arms.

What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
 leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my God so near,
 leaning on the everlasting arms.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God, you have given each of us gifts to use as members of the body of Christ. We offer in return the work of our hands, our hearts, and our lives. May they bring transformation and renewal through the ministry of your church, into which all are invited:

You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.
—UCC Statement of Faith, Doxology

*HYMN 444

We Are Often Tossed and Driven

BY AND BY

*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

John M. Edgerton

Who will be a witness for our Lord?

I will be a witness.

Who will be a witness for our Lord?

I will be a witness.

Who will be a witness for our Lord?

I will be a witness!

POSTLUDE

To God Be the Glory

Mark Hayes, *arr.*



Join us for Refreshments & Fellowship
In the chapel following the Postlude.

The flowers are given today in celebration of the life of
Janice S. Monsma by her family.

Close-Up, a twenty minute tour of the Sanctuary,
begins immediately following worship at the Pulpit.
Led by docent David Story.

Today's Instrumentalists:
Roberto Alaniz, *bass*
Adam Nazro, *percussion*



UPCOMING SPECIAL SERVICES

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.

MEETING HOUSE SUNDAY

November 22, 2026 | 11AM

We return to our ancestral home, the Old South Meeting House at Washington & Milk Streets, to give thanks for God's many blessings and the rich history of our faith.

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2026

Family Service with Impromptu Pageant | 5PM

Lessons and Carols | 8PM

Carols and Communion | 11PM

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*
Dimitri Bawole, *Taylor Fellow*

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

FALL SERMON SERIES: The Good News for a World in a Hurry

The Gospel of Mark is in a great big hurry, as we will explore in worship throughout the Fall. A hurry to tell good news, a hurry to talk about Grace, a hurry to tell stories of wonder. When you have good news, why wait?

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION IN PASTOR ASHLEY'S OFFICE

*September 20th at 10am and 12pm and September 27th and October 11 at 10am
meet in Elevator Lobby*

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 friends! Questions? Email ashley@oldsouth.org.

JAN MONSMA MEMORIAL SERVICE

Sunday, September 20, 1pm, Live streamed at tinyurl.com/JanMonsmaMemorial

Jan, a beloved member of Old South Church for 44 years, passed away on August 13th, at the age of 91. Old Southerners are invited to attend her Memorial Service this Sunday at 1pm in the Chapel and on livestream.

EASTIE FARM TENTH ANNIVERSARY

Tuesday, September 22, 5:30-8pm, 6 Chelsea Terrace

The Christian Service and Outreach Committee and the Climate Crisis Task Force invite you to celebrate the fall equinox with us and our friends at Eastie Farm with food, music, and fun! Eastie Farm provides critical access to fresh produce for the East Boston community. Meet us there, or meet OSC member Steve Holt outside the church at 5:00 pm to take the T over together. RSVP not required but appreciated - email Steve at smhooa@gmail.com.

HONORING HISTORY INSPIRING ACTION - A BELONGING TASK FORCE OUTING

Saturday, September 26, 5-6pm Reception, Kings Chapel Parish House, 64 Beacon Street

Followed by a 6:30pm program at King's Chapel, 58 Tremont Street

All are welcome to attend, register at tinyurl.com/kingschapelevent

Last year King's Chapel unveiled the statue Unbound, a memorial sculpture honoring the 219 children, women, and men who were enslaved by past ministers and members of the church, as part of their ongoing Journey Toward Reconciliation. Their event, "Honoring History. Inspiring Action." explores where their work is headed next, and includes a keynote conversation with Dr. Kellie Carter-Jackson and music by the Boston Arts Academy Spirituals Ensemble. This journey is aligned with much of Old South's work investigating our own enslaved/enslaver members, the provenance of our heritage items, and our conversations around Belonging. The BELONG Task Force, our consultant Roeshana Moore-Evans, and our ministers invite you to join them at this thought-provoking event. We hope to see you there!

VOLUNTEER FOR THE common cathedral LUNCH

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

Questions? Want to sign up? RSVP with Paul Brouillette at brouillettepaul@gmail.com.

There are many ways to participate in this Day of Service! Join us for any part of the day. All are welcome!

- Make bag lunches in OSC Mary Norton kitchen. 9:00-10:30 AM.
- Meet at Boston Common (near Park St. station) to unload and hand out lunches to the Common Cathedral congregation. Join for lunch. 11:45 AM -1:00 PM.
- Attend outdoor Common Cathedral service. 1:00-2:00 PM.

AN EVENING AT RUCKUS • a private screening hosted by the Mary Norton Society

Monday, October 5, 2026, 6:00 PM, Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington Street

RSVP by October 3 to Rebecca at rebecca@oldsouth.org, more info at tinyurl.com/OSCRuckus

Old South Church members of all ages are invited to join us for an exclusive evening that features a private screening of Ruckus!, Revolutionary Spaces' immersive experience bringing Boston's revolutionary history to life. The evening will include a conversation about the work of preserving the Old State House and the Old South Meeting House and the evolving story that connects the Meeting House to Old South Church. Gather before the event for drinks and light refreshments.

COMMUNITY HOUR FORUMS

Come early or stay late to connect with and learn other Old Southerners on Sunday mornings at 10am on the 2nd floor. Programs change week to week, and are led by other Old South folks who want to invite you into what fires them up! This is a great way to know each other, and to get in on the discussions! *There will be no Community Hour Forum on October 4.*

BELONG PROGRAMMING | September 20

The results are in from our recent Old South Church Congregational Belonging Survey. The Belong Task Force members thank you for your feedback and are eager to share the information with you at a Community Hour Forum in Mary Norton Hall. Please join Rev. June Cooper and consultant Roeshana Moore-Evans who will lead us in discussing what we have learned and ways we might look to the future here at Old South.

FAITH FORMATION AND EDUCATION LISTENING SESSION | September 27

What can Old South Church do to help deepen your faith? How can the church help deepen your and your family's relationship with God? Join the Christian Formation Task Force for a collaborative listening session to help us answer these big questions together. Got questions? Reach out to Rev. Rachel Barton or Co-Senior Deacon Rebecca Bowen.

SMALL GROUPS AT OLD SOUTH CHURCH

OLD SOUTH'S CHRISTIAN CENTURY COMMUNITY READING CIRCLE

Tuesday, September 29, 7pm on Zoom

Questions? Want to sign up for Zoom link?

Reach out to Steve at smh00a@gmail.com or Jim at jamesjumper80@gmail.com

Want to build community with other Old Southerners, think theologically, and put your faith in action?

You're invited to join Steve Holt and Jim Jumper for a small, monthly reading group they are co-facilitating reflecting on select theology- and social justice-themed articles from Christian Century magazine. As part of the virtual reading circle, all participants will receive a fully subsidized magazine subscription for the year and our group will be fully supported with discussion guides and opportunities to share ideas with participating congregations nationwide. This is a great opportunity for Old Southerners with a heart for rooting their progressive social action in solid theology. We hope you'll stop by!

GOD'S BIG BOOK OF FAITH: BIBLE STUDY ON THE SYNOPTIC GOSPELS

Begins Wednesday, September 30, at 7:00 p.m., on Zoom.

A "synopsis" is a summary or outline of a longer, more detailed account of something – in this case Jesus' life and work on this planet. The gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke are similar, historical narratives, while John's gospel is a more personal "diary" of Jesus' ministry. Our study will center on Mark's gospel but we will also compare and contrast the way Matthew and Luke deal with the events and Jesus' teaching. (And, yes, we will study John's gospel following this effort.) Contact Rich Nelson at: richnelson28@gmail.com.

QUEER BOOK CLUB'S NEXT BOOK DISCUSSION: *Detransition, Baby* by Torrey Peters

Tuesday, October 6, 7:15 on Zoom

RSVP to Mary Thurston for link at mthurston3@outlook.com

The book explores modern womanhood, gender identity and an unconventional co-parenting arrangement from the transgender perspective. It's a deep dive into transgender culture, but also a look at the complex nature of relationships and stereotypes in general, as well as what it means to be a mother or father.

THEOLOGICAL BOOK GROUP'S FALL BOOK:

The Land is Not Empty: Following Jesus in the Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery

The author, Sarah Augustine, of Pueblo descent, looks at the laws stemming from the fifteenth century that gave Christian governments the moral and legal right to seize lands they 'discovered' despite already being populated by Indigenous Peoples. These laws were legitimized by the church and justified by a misreading of scripture. Writing in a narrative fashion, she describes her own experiences with this 'doctrine' as well. In it all, her deep Christian faith is ever present. Sound challenging? Ready to discuss some tough issues? We meet Monday evenings at 6pm, via zoom. Contact Don Wells to see if spaces are still available at granwell@comcast.net.

INTRODUCING TAYLOR FELLOW: DIMITRI BAWOLE

We are excited to introduce you to our Taylor Fellow for the 2026-2027 program year, Dimitri Bawole! Dimitri (he/him) recently earned his Master of Theological Studies from Boston University School of Theology. Originally from Indonesia, he is passionate about queer theology, lived religion, and social justice. As the Nancy S. Taylor Leadership Fellow, he is excited to serve, learn, and grow alongside the Old South Church community. Dimitri will serve primarily at Thursday Night Church.



CHRISTIAN SERVICE AND OUTREACH WEEKLY PUSHBACK

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

To volunteer, donate, or receive services: www.lwv.org/

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

Old South Church is pleased to provide a \$1,000 grant to the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts in support of its work strengthening informed participation in our democracy. At a time of heightened concern about the integrity of elections and public confidence in the democratic process, access to accurate, trustworthy voter information is especially important. The League is a nonpartisan organization that works across Massachusetts to educate and engage voters, provide voter resources, and expand participation in elections without endorsing political parties or candidates. We are grateful for its commitment to helping voters understand their rights, responsibilities, and choices and to ensuring that all voices can be heard in our democracy.

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