



September 27, 2026
11:00am
Old South Church *in* Boston

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

GATHER

PRELUDE Prelude, Op. 16, No. 1 in B Major Alexander Scriabin

WELCOME Rachel J. Barton

BELONG MESSAGE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

You call us, O Christ, to live as your disciples:
with new life, by way of new paths, seeking new ways.
 In your call toward deep waters,
grant us faith.
 In your command not to fear,
grant us courage.
 In your invitation to follow,
grant us surrender.
 Restore to us the joy of living as your disciples,
that we might travel with you all the days of our lives.
 We worship the Living God!

***HYMN 22** **Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped** LOBE DEN HERREN

**Indicates all who are able may stand*

CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF PARDON

...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 disciples 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

Thixo Onothando

Michael Barrett, *arr.*

*Thixo onothando, ndimi phambi kwakho
Thixo onothando, ndiph'uthando ndifakaze ngawe.*

*Hosanna phezulu, hosann'enyangweni
Thixo ndila namhla, hosanna.*

God of love, I stand before you.
God of love, give me love so I may testify about you.

Hosanna above, Hosanna in the highest.
God, I am here today; Hosanna.

LISTEN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

David Story

SCRIPTURE

Psalms 85:4-13

*HYMN 174

Hear the Voice of God, So Tender

RAQUEL

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

SCRIPTURE

Mark 6:7-13

Ashley Popperson

SERMON

Wear Sandals

*HYMN 171

Jesus Calls Us, o'er the Tumult

ST. ANDREW

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

John M. Edgerton

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.**

RESPOND

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Rachel J. Barton



*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

The Spirit of the Lord
from "The Apostles," Op. 49

Edward Elgar

The spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he hath anointed me to preach the Gospel to the poor:

He hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted,
to preach deliverance to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind—
to preach the acceptable year of the Lord;

To give unto them that mourn a garland for ashes,
the oil of joy for mourning,
the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness;
that they might be called trees of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified.

For as the earth bringeth forth her bud,
and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth;
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring forth before all the nations.

The spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he hath anointed me to preach the Gospel.

*(Though often ascribed masculine or feminine pronouns in prose and poetry,
God is unbound by human concepts of gender.)*

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 495

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

BEECHER

*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

Ashley J. Popperson

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

Trumpet Tune and Chorale in D Major

David V. Hufford



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

The flowers today are give by Debbie and Reid Leonard
in honor their son Ryan's 40th birthday .

Close-Up, a twenty minute tour of the Sanctuary,
begins immediately following worship at the pulpit,
Led by docent George Delianides.



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* ❖ Jonathan Reddix, *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, & Isaiah Wilkerson, *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

LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER

FOR THE ALL-CHURCH RETREAT OCTOBER 2nd-4th

Save your space at tinyurl.com/2026OSCRetreat by Sunday, September 27

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.

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 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.

INTRODUCING TAYLOR FELLOW: DIMITRI BAWOLE



We are excited to introduce you to our Nancy S. 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. Dimitri is excited to serve, learn, and grow alongside the Old South Church community. Dimitri will serve primarily at Thursday Night Church.

VOLUNTEER FOR THE common cathedral LUNCH

Sunday, October 4, 9am, Mary Norton Hall Kitchen and Boston Common, All are welcome!

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.

- 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.

BELONG SURVEY RESULT DISCUSSIONS

The results are in from our recent Old South Church Congregational Belonging Survey. We are offering two opportunities to learn about preliminary findings and to begin to imagine what they can suggest for the future at Old South Church. Follow oldsouth.org/belong for future events, videos, and information

Sun, Oct 4, 12:30-1:30pm, Mary Norton Hall & Zoom
Zoom Link tinyurl.com/OSCBelong10-4
Led by John Edgerton, Tim Harbold, & Laura Dunn

Thurs, Oct 8, 12:00-1:00pm, Zoom
Go to tinyurl.com/OSCBelong10-8 for Zoom
Led by Roeshana Moore-Evans

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

Monday, October 5, Gather at 6:00pm for drinks and light snacks, program follows

Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington Street,

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

Old South Church members of all ages are invited to an exclusive evening at Old South Meeting House that features a private screening of Ruckus! It is Revolutionary Spaces' immersive experience that brings 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.

COMMUNITY HOUR FORUMS: SUNDAYS AT 10AM

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 get to know each other, and to get in on the discussions. *There will be no Community Hour Forum on October 4.*

FAITH FORMATION AND EDUCATION LISTENING SESSION | September 27

This session will be available online with a link at oldsouth.org/sundays

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.

SUPPORTING UNHOUSED NEIGHBORS WITH *common cathedral* | October 11

In support of World Homeless Day and our unhoused neighbors, Old South Church is pleased to welcome Rev. Cristina Rathbone, executive director of common cathedral, to speak about common cathedral's ministry and ways we, as a church and as individuals, can offer caring support. This will be a casual and informative conversation led by Rev. June Cooper with Rev. Tina. Please join us to learn about our long-time partnership and consider putting faith into action in support of our unhoused neighbors in need.

SMALL GROUPS AT OLD SOUTH CHURCH

THE SPIRITUAL REBELS

Mondays, beginning September 28, 7-9, Gordon Library,

Questions? Interested in joining? Contact Jenny Keenan at jenniferhkeenan@gmail.com

The Spiritual Rebels, a Monday night, in person Small Group will read *The Warmth of Other Suns* by Isabel Wilkerson, as our 2026 Fall read. This acclaimed 2010 masterwork that chronicles the decades-long exodus of six million Black citizens who fled the Jim Crow South for freedom in Northern and Western cities between 1915 and 1970. This was a dispersal of 50% of the black southern population into other parts of the US. Many left looking for a safer environment for their families; others greater freedom of speech; and still others ambition to seek careers of their choosing—all left everything they knew behind. This was an unrecognized immigration, a leaderless revolution against oppression towards opportunity.

OLD SOUTH'S CHRISTIAN CENTURY COMMUNITY READING CIRCLE

Tuesdays, beginning September 29, 7pm, Zoom.

Questions? Email Steve: smh00a@gmail.com or Jim: 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.

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

Begins Wednesday, September 30, at 7:00 p.m., on Zoom. Contact Rich Nelson: richnelson28@gmail.com

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.)

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 a transgender perspective. It's a deep dive into trans culture, and a look at the complex nature of relationships and stereotypes in general, as well as what it means to be a parent.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE AND OUTREACH WEEKLY PUSHBACK



BRIDGE

To volunteer, donate, or receive services: <https://bridgeotw.org/>

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

Old South Church is proud to support Bridge, dedicated to transforming the lives of runaway, homeless and high-risk youth between the ages of 14-24 by offering safe, supportive, and encouraging relationships and effective services guiding youth towards self-sufficiency. Each year, Bridge serves over 2000 at-risk youth by providing critical services that include street outreach, mobile medical education, survival kits, a runaway hotline, counseling, educational/career development, and emergency housing with the goal to move into longer-term housing.

CHURCH GARDEN SPRUCE UP

Friday, Oct. 16 and Saturday, Oct. 24 at 10:00am. RSVP to rebecca@oldsouth.org by October 12 and 19

Are you an avid gardener or are you interested in learning and getting your hands dirty? Come join us as we spruce up our church gardens! We'll be clearing out the old and planting bulbs for next spring. We need your help, whether you know every plant by name or can't tell a weed from a flower. Snacks and drinks will be provided.

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