



Old South Church

Copley Square, Boston

*A Congregation of the
United Church of Christ*

Gathered 1669

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

January 25, 2026 ❖ 11:00 a.m.

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

GATHER

PRELUDE

Élévation

F. A. Guilmant

*HYMN 170

Your Ways Are Not Our Own

SCHUMANN

*CALL TO WORSHIP

John M. Edgerton

At the break of day and at the edge of evening, God goes out:

Calling people into the vineyard of justice, mercy, and grace.

We come by different paths and at different hours;

And still, God gathers us as one.

In God's vineyard, no hierarchy of belonging is known:

All are made equal by God's abundant grace.

Come, let us worship the God whose generosity

exceeds all keeping of account.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

**Indicates all who are able may stand*

ANTHEM

You Are the Light

Ruth Elaine Schram

THE OLD SOUTH CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Jamie Chelel, interim director ❖ *Yuxuan Joyce Wang, accompanist*

You are the light that helps me see,
fountain of life that's guiding me.

You are the light of the world:
I will follow you.

You are the light that shows the way,
Lord of my life and I'll obey.

Whoever follows you will not walk in darkness.
Whoever follows you will have the light of life.

WELCOME

LISTEN

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 20:1-16

Stephanie LaShoto-Westfield

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kate M. Nintcheu

*HYMN 89

Awake, Awake to Love and Work

MORNING SONG

*During the hymn, children that wish may meet childcare staff
in the back of the sanctuary and proceed to the 3rd floor.*

SERMON

"Come Into the Vineyard"

Kat Woodard

*HYMN 562

Take My Gifts

TALAVERA TERRACE

RESPOND

*CALL TO PRAYER

Justin Tyler Dickerson

God be with you.

And also with you.

May the peace of Christ dwell in your hearts.

Christ is our peace, our light, and 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 Thousand Different Colors

Tim Harbold, *arr.*

The silver-white waves wash up and bathe my feet,
I look out but cannot see the other side.
The surface water sways, azure, gold and green,
glittering the full spectrum of light.
The sea is not blue, the sea is like you:

A thousand different colors, moving all together,
more beautiful than words.
It's a symphony of sound singing subtly but loud,
more beautiful than words.

The sun goes down and disappears,
the clouds wave their goodbyes,
in a masterpiece of light and melody.
Wind whispers in my ears and sings a lullaby,
as seagulls call and surf the evening breeze.
The sky is not blue, the sky is like you:

A thousand different colors...

How great is the expanse of all you are to me,
I try, but still I can't describe all your diversity.
How you love, how you lead: like the sky, like the sea.

LAY REFLECTION

Curtiss Reed, Jr.

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Rachel J. Barton



*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.*



OFFERTORY

Ain'-a That Good News!

William Dawson, *arr.*

I got a crown up in-a the Kingdom, ain'-a that good news!
I got a crown up in-a the Kingdom, ain'-a that good news!
I'm-a gonna lay down this world, gonna shoulder up-a my cross,
gonna take it home-a to my Jesus, ain'-a that good news!

I got a harp up in-a the Kingdom...

I got a robe up in-a the Kingdom...

I got a Savior in-a the Kingdom...

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN 23

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

IN BABILONE

*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

Kat Woodard

POSTLUDE

Fugue in g minor, BWV 578

J.S. Bach



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

Close-Up, a twenty minute tour of the Sanctuary,
begins immediately following worship near the pulpit
Led by docent Brad Swing.

Old South Church *in* Boston invites you
to its *Signature Services and Events* during the coming year.

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 18, 2026 | 12PM & 6PM

At noon, a simple service of prayer, silence, confession, & imposition of ashes.

At 6PM, a special musical service featuring the Old South Festival Choir & incorporating
“Holden Evening Prayer” by composer Marty Haugen.

HOLY WEEK 2026

Palm Sunday — March 29 | 9AM & 11AM

Maundy Thursday — April 2 | 6PM

Good Friday — April 3 | 7PM

EASTER SUNDAY

April 5, 2026 | 9AM & 11AM

The triumph of the Christian story of resurrection informs a service of worship that is
characterized by joyous celebration.

MARATHON SUNDAY

April 19, 2026 | 9AM & 11AM

Hundreds of marathoners join us for worship, where we will pause to acknowledge the
runners, their families, and volunteers in a special “Blessing of the Athletes.”

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.

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* ❖ Justin Dickerson, *Seminarian*

Donald A. Wells, *Theologian in Residence* ❖ June R. Cooper, *Theologian in the City*

David F. Story, *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*

Audrey Woodhams, *Creative Director for Thursday Night Church*

Tim Harbold, *Director, Gospel Choir* ❖ Peter Coulombe, *Director, Old South Ringers*

Kate Nintcheu, *Director, Children & Family Ministries*

Summer Marsh, *Director, Old South Preschool*

Aislin Kate Anderson, *Children's Choir Director* ❖ Yuexuan Joyce Wang, *Children's Choir Accompanist*

Rory Razon, *Youth Group Co-Leader*

Amelia Gerrard, *Director of Administration* ❖ Rebecca Pasipanodya, *Director of Operations*

Rémy Hatfield-Gardner, *Administrative Assistant* ❖ Kathleen Steen, *Staff Accountant*

Emily Ross, *Archivist* ❖ 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*

Sarah Acheson-Field, Shirley Bivins, & Shelia Randolph, *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

GBIO LISTENING SESSION

Sunday, January 25, 12:15-1:15pm, Mary Norton Hall

Questions or for Zoom Link, contact Alliea E. Group at aegroupp@gmail.com

Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) Listening Session: Democracy is rooted in our stories. Together, we are working to build a movement that is Relational, Equitable, Actionable, and Led by the people. For 25 years, GBIO has organized thousands of people across lines of faith, class, race, and culture in order to fight and win on issues like housing, criminal justice reform, and healthcare. Your voice, your story, matters, and we want to hear it. The stories told across the 50-member organizations of GBIO during these sessions will help shape organizational priorities and enable us to utilize our collective power to address shared challenges.

WINTER WALK TO END HOMELESSNESS

Sunday, February 8, 10am

Questions? Email Kat Woodard at kat@oldsouth.org

Old South is once again participating in the **Winter Walk to End Homelessness**, a two-mile walk around Boston Common during the coldest month of the year. Winter Walk raises both awareness and critical funds to support organizations working to prevent homelessness and provide care, accompaniment, and resources for our unhoused neighbors. This year, Old South will be walking as part of the *common cathedral* team and **all funds raised by individual Old Southers will go directly to common cathedral commoncathedral.org**. To further amplify this impact, an anonymous donor from Old South has generously committed to **matching up to \$5,000 in individual donations!** To register for the walk, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/OSC2026WinterWalk> and select "Walk With Us" if you would like for the proceeds from your registration fee to go to our partners at *common cathedral*. If the registration cost would be a financial barrier for you, you are welcome to use Old South's sponsor code: select "I have a promo code" and enter **OSC26**. If you're unable to walk but would still like to support this important work, you can donate directly to the *common cathedral's* Winter Walk team here: <https://tinyurl.com/commoncathedralWinterWalk>.

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

February 1 and each First Sunday, 10am, in the Columbarium

Need some space to breathe? Time to rest in the spacious silence of God's presence? Please join us for Contemplative Prayer. Together, we'll engage in practices of contemplative prayer, share from our hearts, and find strength and solace in God's abiding love. Questions? Email ashley@oldsouth.org.

ONLINE SMALL GROUP

February 1 at 7:30pm EST and every first Sunday of the month

Go to tinyurl.com/2025OSOnlineSmallGroup 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.

REVOLUTIONARY GENEROSITY— 2026 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Questions? Contact Amelia Gerrard at amelia@oldsouth.org or 617-536-1970

Our 2026 stewardship campaign, Revolutionary Generosity, is underway! Old South revolutionaries of today practice radical change in our society, serve neighbors, and open doors wide to the city. Join us in practicing revolutionary generosity by pledging online at: tiny.oldsouth.org/pledge2026. At the end of the month, we will lift up our communal generosity at our Stewardship Celebration services, as well as a celebration lunch on February 1.

THE SPIRITUAL REBELS: In-Person Small Group

Monday Nights, 7pm, Crawford Library

The in-person Monday Night Small Group, The Spiritual Rebels, will be reading and studying the 1st Century (CE) from the perspective of the Romans and Nero, the Roman ruler. We'll be reading *The Splendor Before the Dark: A Novel of the Emperor Nero*. This is the time when the early Christians were being persecuted by Roman authorities. We've studied the time of Jesus from the early Christian perspective; this will look at what's going on in 1st Century from the perspective of the ruling Romans, gaining insight into what made them tick so to speak. Interested? Email Jenny Keenan at JenniferHKeenan@gmail.com.

DONATE FLOWERS FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP IN 2026

Email Amelia Gerrard at amelia@oldsouth.org to sign up for a Sunday

Every week, the church has beautiful flowers in front of the pulpit. Would you like to give the flowers one Sunday - in memory or in honor of a special person or event? It is quite meaningful every Sunday to read the flower message. The price is \$100. If cost is prohibitive, please reach out to Amelia Gerrard for more information. Please send your message along with your payment. You can drop it off, send a check, or donate online at oldsouth.org/donate.

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, March 8, Mary Norton Hall, RSVP at tinyurl.com/Annualmeeting26

Mark your calendars! Our Annual Meeting will take place on March 8th. Together, we will vote on our Officers, Trustees, and Committee Chairs; review the Budget; and engage in the work of the church.

This year, our Annual Meeting will include important conversations about our finances and the work of the church in the years to come. Lunch will be served. **Save the date!**

UPCOMING COMMUNITY HOUR FORUMS | SUNDAYS AT 10AM

WHY WINTER WALK | January 25

Join Kat Woodard (Nancy Taylor Resident) and Meag Shaffer (Winter Walk) to learn more about the origins of Winter Walk, discuss why Old South believes in this immersive experience, and reflect together on the realities of urban homelessness in our present moment.

OLD SOUTH CHURCH FINANCES | February 1

Join Old South lay leaders Maren Batalden, Christine Del Favero, Paul and Debby Kuenstner, and Donna Matson for an open discussion about Old South Church finances as we anticipate our 2026 budget discussion at the upcoming Annual Meeting. Get a basic introduction to Old South finances, learn about sources of revenue and categories of expense. Understand the guiding principles underlying the development of the budget and engage with others in understanding some of the challenges we are facing.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT- Open Forum about current events | February 8

Join Rev June Cooper and fellow Old South folks for an open conversation about how our current news cycles are affecting you and how your faith is motivating and sustaining you.

THE WEEKLY PUSHBACK—Christian Service and Outreach

common cathedral

Learn more about their work and volunteer opportunities commoncathedral.org

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

To get involved or ask questions email Kat Woodard at kat@oldsouth.org

On Sunday, February 8th at 10 AM, folks from Old South will be participating in the Winter Walk to End Homelessness in support of our partners at *common cathedral*. *common cathedral* exists to build community and bridge the gap between unhoused and housed individuals by gathering weekly on the Boston Common for a time of food and worship. In their 26 years as an organization, *common cathedral* has provided over 6,000 hot and healthy meals to Bostonians in need. Old South is proud to support our longstanding partnership with *common cathedral* as we walk together at Winter Walk on February 8

GREEN TIP—Shovel Snow Before It Turns To Ice

Once snow becomes compacted, or when snow partially melts then freezes again, it turns to ice. Not only does ice pose a safety hazard for pedestrians (and pets) but getting rid of ice causes its own set of problems.

WEEKLY WORSHIP

Join us in person, on Facebook, and YouTube

Thursday Night Church, Thursdays at 6:00 p.m., no service 12/25 and 1/1

FIRST Worship Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

FESTIVAL Worship Sundays at 11:00 a.m.

VESPERS HEALING Worship, Second Sundays at 5:00 p.m. 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