Old South Church

Copley Square, Boston

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Gathered 1669

April 12, 2026

The First Sunday After Easter

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

GATHER

PRELUDE — *Christ lag in Todesbanden* BWV 625 (choral and choralprelude) — Johann Sebastian Bach

*CALL TO WORSHIP — John M. Edgerton

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
In the gardens of our grief, he is risen.
Into the locked doors of our hearts, he comes.
Into the disappointment of empty nets, Christ is risen.
Christ comes to us, bearing wounds and offering peace.
Into our beautiful, broken world, Christ is rising.
Into every season of our lives, Christ is rising.
Let us worship the Risen One! Alleluia! Amen.

*HYMN 245 — **The Day of Resurrection** — LANCASHIRE

**Indicates all who are able may stand*

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

WELCOME

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Clara Rosina Gilham
Child of Charlotte and Cole Gilham
Godchild of Caleb Gilham and Jake Prince

BLESSING THE WATER John M. Edgerton

PRESENTATION AND INTRODUCTION

LITANY OF BAPTISM

We are gathered to present Clara Rosina Gilham to the Church
and to dedicate her to God. What can we affirm about her?
She is a child of God, made in God's image.
As Clara grows and matures, how will she know she is a child of God
and how will she learn of the Christian story?
We will tell her about Abraham and Sarah, the parents of our faith; about Moses and Miriam who led our ancestors out of bondage; about Mary and Joseph's openness to mystery; about the Savior, Jesus.
In turn, what will we expect of her?
We look forward to sitting with her at the Lord's Table, sharing with her the costs and joys of discipleship, learning and growing with her in the Christian pilgrimage, and declaring with one voice our faith in God and God's son, Jesus.
Do you, Charlotte and Cole, parents, assume your primary responsibility for fulfilling these expectations by growing with Clara in the Christian faith, helping her to become a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, and by offering her the nurture and support of the Christian church? And will you, Caleb and Jake, godparents, agree to guide Clara into becoming an engaged and complete human being, teaching her about personal sacrifice for a greater good, about grace and reconciliation at times of human weakness, and the power of unconditional love for all people?

Parents/Godparents: We happily and genuinely accept this serious duty.

And Old South Church,
do you pledge to maintain a nurturing and challenging Christian environment for Clara?
We do, for she belongs to us as well.
Then, may God be with us.
God help us. Amen.

BAPTISM

CONGREGATIONAL WELCOME — Amy Coe, *Baptismal Deacon*

We rejoice in God's empowering love, freely given to each and all. We welcome you, newly baptized, into the circle of love in Christ's Church. We promise to pray for you, to seek the depths of faith with you, to support you, and to love you. We covenant with you to love God with all our hearts, minds, souls, and strength, and our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.

LISTEN

SCRIPTURE — 1 Peter 1:3-9 — Ashton Gregor

*HYMN 473 — **Blessed Assurance** — ASSURANCE

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

SCRIPTURE — John 20:19-29 — Ashley J. Popperson

SERMON — Peace Be with You

*HYMN 238 — **Now the Green Blade Rises** — NOËL NOUVELET

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 — Beside the Tomb, a Man Appeared — 15th c. French; Calvin Hampton, *arr.*

Beside the tomb, a man appeared,
he spoke to Mary, drawing near;
she knew it was her Lord so dear. Alleluia.

His very presence comfort brought,
e'en though he warned her, "Touch me not."
"Say that you found the one you sought." Alleluia.

That night the apostles met in fear;
amidst them came their Lord most dear
and said, "My peace be on all here." Alleluia.

When Thomas first the tidings heard,
how they had seen the risen Lord,
he doubted the disciples' word. Alleluia.

"My pierced side, O Thomas, see;
my hands, my feet, I show to thee;
not faithless, but believing be." Alleluia.

How blest are they who have not seen
and yet whose faith has constant been,
for they eternal life shall win. Alleluia.

While casting nets one barren night,
the apostles saw a man in white
upon the shore in morning's light. Alleluia.

He bade them cast their nets once more;
they filled their boats as ne'er before.
And thus, they knew it was their Lord. Alleluia.

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 — Praise His Holy Name — Keith Hampton

Sing till the power of the Lord come down.
Shout hallelujah! Praise his holy name!

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a child like me;
I once was lost, but now I'm found, was blind, but now I see.
Jesus, Jesus, how I love thee...

Must Jesus bear the cross alone and all the world go free?
No, there's a cross for everyone and there's a cross for me.
Jesus, Jesus, how I love thee...

(entering sequentially, overlapping:)

[1] Holy Jesus, praise his name.
Oh! Hallelujah! Praise his holy name!

[2] Hallelujah! Let us praise his name.
Hallelujah, Lord! Praise his holy name!

[3] Hallelujah! Praise his name!
Hallelujah, Lord! Praise his holy name!

Praise his name, praise his holy name!
Oh, oh, praise his holy name.
Praise him!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN 253	**Yours Is the Glory, Resurrected One**	JUDAS MACCABEUS
*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION		Ashley J. Popperson
POSTLUDE	*Christ ist erstanden* BWV 627 (choralvariations - 3 verses)	Johann Sebastian Bach

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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 by the pulpit.
Led by docent Liz Morgan.

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 Tyler Dickerson, *Seminarian*

Donald A. Wells, *Theologian in Residence* ❖ June R. Cooper, *Theologian in the City*
James Harrison Jr. & 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*
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, *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 & guide.

OLD SOUTH CHURCH *in* BOSTON

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW AROUND HERE?

This Sunday, 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***.

KAT WOODARD ORDINATION

Sunday, April 12, 3pm, First Church in Somerville UCC, 89 College Ave.

Our Taylor Resident for Mission in the City, Kat Woodard, is being ordained to her position here at Old South Church! The ordination service will take place at Kat's home congregation. Kat would be delighted for any and all Old Southers to join her for this special milestone in ministry.

ONLINE SMALL GROUP

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

Go to ***tinyurl.com/2025OSCOnlineSmallGroup*** *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.

THE BLESSING OF THE ATHLETES

April 19, 2026 at 9:00am, 11:00am, & 1:00pm

Join us for our annual Marathon Sunday worship services, featuring the Blessing of the Marathon Athletes and "Highland Cathedral" for bagpipes, drum, and organ. As the "Church of the Finish Line," we salute one of the oldest and greatest races in the world. Marathoners join us for worship, where we pause to acknowledge the runners, their families, and volunteers. We'll ask God to bless them, to keep them safe from injury and harm, and pray, in the words of the prophet Isaiah, that they may "run and not grow weary, walk and not faint" (Isaiah 40:31).

MARATHON FAMILY FUN RUN

Sunday April 19, 10am, meet in the Gordon Chapel

The Church School will revive our very short but sweet OSC Fun Run at 10am between worship services on Marathon Sunday. After convening in the Gordon Chapel, we run, walk, or roll the half-mile course down Dartmouth to Comm Ave, and then back along Exeter to Boylston. We finish by crossing the official finish line - and will take a photo together. There will be ministers running in robes! There will be race numbers! There will be prizes! Come and enjoy - no RSVP needed! All are welcome. Questions? ***children@oldsouth.org***

ONE SUN, ONE EARTH, ONE PEOPLE CELEBRATION

Sunday, April 19, 1:30pm, Embrace Statue on Boston Common

On the cusp of a revolution's 250th, join us for this sacred celebration of One Sun, One Earth, One People as the Boston Interfaith Climate Allies welcome climate activist Bill McKibben who will invite us into a non-violent solar revolution.

RSVP FOR GBIO ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, April 21, 7pm, Charles Street AME Church

Old South will join with dozens of other faith communities to ratify our new agenda. What issues will we be working on as an organization? Come and be the first to know, and how to get involved. Co-chaired by John Edgerton, RSVP by emailing ***JME@oldsouth.org***.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY HOUR FORUMS | SUNDAYS AT 10AM

SOCK DRIVE PANCAKE BREAKFAST

April 12, 10am, Mary Norton Hall

Old South's Youth Group is hosting a Sock Drive Pancake Breakfast to benefit Cradles to Crayons on April 12 at 10:00am in Mary Norton Hall. Suggested contribution is a pack of new socks (toddler, kids, youth and adult sizes) per person or cash at the door. The collected cash will go towards buying more socks.

ALL CHURCH READ OF "ROUGH SLEEPERS"

May 3, Community Hour Forum Book discussion on Sunday May 3

Old South's Homelessness & Housing Insecurity Task Force has recently sponsored an all-church read of Tracy Kidder's book, "Rough Sleepers". The book profiles Dr. Jim O'Connell's work with people experiencing homelessness in Boston and his role in helping develop the Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program. The task force invites you to join them and Dr. Jim O'Connell at the Community Hour Forum, where he will answer questions about his efforts reaching out to Boston's unhoused population with individual care, compassion, and dedication. Though reading "Rough Sleepers" before the May 3rd discussion is not required to hear Dr. Jim's talk, doing so will provide greater insight into his medical and spiritual journey. Questions? Contact Paul Brouillette at brouillettepaul@gmail.com.

CARE OF CREATION COMMUNITY HOUR

April 26, 10am, Mary Norton Hall

It is easy to despair about the future of the planet. Climate progress is happening much more slowly than we hoped, and the policies emanating out of Washington are making things worse. But exciting and inspiring climate developments are happening in many parts of the world that give us hope. Join members of the Climate Crisis Task Force Steering Committee for the showing of "Is There Good News About Climate Change?" a 20 minute documentary that presents a picture of what we've achieved and how we've achieved it. The showing will be followed by small and large group conversations about climate change and possibilities for action, led by Task Force members.

***common cathedral* ZOOM WORKSHOP**
Wednesday April 22, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
The Christian Service and Outreach committee is going to hold workshops covering the steps involved in a successful Common Cathedral Sunday luncheon. We prepare lunches for the unhoused community that meets every Sunday for a service on the Boston Common. We want to broaden our organizing team so that we can offer our help more than 2 times a year. They could use our assistance more often. Please reply to Carolyn Clark if you are interested in attending our Zoom workshop on April 22 or if you have any questions.

JAMES W. CRAWFORD LECTURE
Friday, May 8, 7pm, in the Gordon Chapel
Exploring the theme of *The Dancing Mind: Phillis Wheatley, Imagination and Christian Social Witness*, the evening will bring together members of Boston's faith community to explore what Wheatley, as both a poet and a figure in American history, offers Christians regarding social responsibility in matters of justice and equity. More info? Email Justin Tyler Dickerson at ***justin@oldsouth.org***.

THEOLOGICAL BOOK GROUP ANNOUNCES NEW BOOK
How We Learn to Be Brave: Decisive Moments in Life and Faith, by the Right Rev. Mariann Budde, Episcopal Bishop of Washington, D.C. Blending autobiography, biblical texts and popular literature, she examines key moments of challenge in her life, using them as a template for us to examine our own journey toward courage. The book includes her 2025 sermon at the Inaugural Prayer Service. Sound interesting? Contact Don Wells at ***granwell@comcast.net*** for more information.

OLD SOUTH MUSIC PRESENTS: DECLARATIONS
June 27, 2026,7pm concert
Old South Music presents Ensemble Altera in a major new choral work by Piers Connor Kennedy. A reflection on the ideals of liberty and equality, placing Thomas Jefferson's words in dialog with those of Langston Hughes, Tracy K. Smith, and others.

HEARD IT AT COUNCIL
Read the full report at ***oldsouth.org/news/heard-it-council-march-2026***
Church Historian Kate Silfen reports on March's meeting covering topics as finances, the Micah Fund, and a candidate for the BELONG consultancy project at the church.

JUNE COOPER AND NANCY TAYLOR LEAD PILGRIMAGES TO ALABAMA
Rev. June Cooper, Theologian in the City, and Rev Dr. Nancy Taylor, Senior Minister Emeritus, Old South Church, will lead two Pilgrimages to Montgomery and Selma, Alabama. The dates for the Pilgrimages are October 9-14 and October 15-20, 2026. The Pilgrimage, which is conducted at the epicenter of the Civil Rights Movement, offers a chance to build community, reflect on the past, address intergenerational racial trauma, and find ways to pursue healing and advance racial justice. For additional information, visit ***www.bostonfaithjustice.org***.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE AND OUTREACH WEEKLY PUSHBACK—*Transgender Law Center*

Learn more about their work and ministry at ***transgenderlawcenter.org/***

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

In the past couple of weeks, the Trump administration has stopped enforcing civil rights protections for trans students and the supreme court has struck down bans on conversion therapy. March 31st was Trans Day of Visibility and we share openly that we stand with our trans members and the broader community of beloved children of God. This week's weekly pusback supports the Transgender Law Center with a $1,000 grant to continue their work to keep gender nonconforming people alive, thriving, and fighting for liberation. They run workshops, do research, and pursue litigation to support these essential rights. We are glad to stand with them and support them this week.

GREEN TIP—Reduce Palm Oil Use

Palm oil has been and continues to be a major driver of deforestation of some of the world's most biodiverse forests, destroying the habitat of already endangered species like the Orangutan, pygmy elephant and Sumatran rhino. In foods it is also high in saturated fats. To avoid palm oil, choose products that contain clearly labeled oils, such as 100 percent sunflower oil, corn oil, olive oil, coconut oil, or canola oil.

WEEKLY WORSHIP

Join us in person, on Facebook, and YouTube

Thursday Night Church, Thursdays at 6:00 p.m

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

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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.