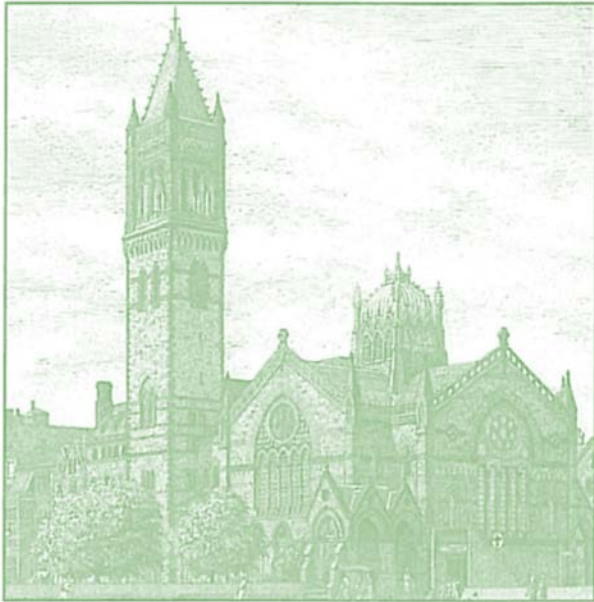




Old South Church

Copley Square, Boston

*A Congregation of the
United Church of Christ*

Gathered 1669

August 23, 2026 ❖ 11:00am

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

GATHER

PRELUDE

Air from “Water Music”

G.F. Handel

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Ashley J. Popperson

Happy are those
whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord their God:
**The God who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them;
who executes justice for the oppressed;
who gives food to the hungry.**
The Lord sets the prisoners free;
God opens the eyes of the blind.

**God lifts up those who are bowed down;
God loves the righteous
and brings the wicked to ruin.**
The Lord watches over the foreigner,
and upholds the orphan and the widow.
**Our God will reign forever,
for all generations.
Thanks be to God!**

**Indicates all who are able may stand*

*HYMN 69

Come God Creator, Be Our Shield

OLD FIRST

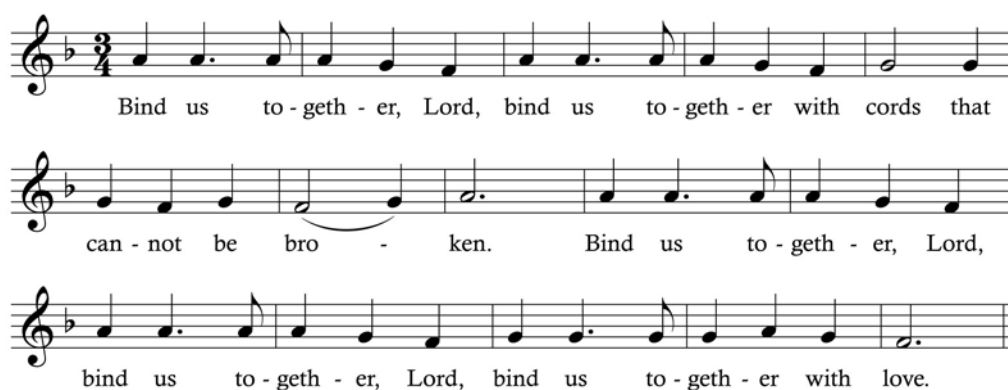
*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

SUNG RESPONSE

Bind Us Together

Congregation: [refrain]



Bind us to - geth - er, Lord, bind us to - geth - er with cords that
can - not be bro - ken. Bind us to - geth - er, Lord,
bind us to - geth - er, Lord, bind us to - geth - er with love.

Text: Bob Gillman, 1974

Tune: BIND US TOGETHER, Bob Gillman, 1974

Choir:

You are the family of God; you are the promise divine.

You are God's chosen desire; you are the glorious new wine. (refrain)

WELCOME

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Sebastian de Riva-Aznarez

Child of Andrew de Riva and Carlos Aznarez

Godchild of Maria-Jose Aznarez, Frederic Nicol, and Olivier Jamin Changeart

PRESENTATION AND INTRODUCTION

Rachel J. Barton

LITANY OF BAPTISM

We are gathered to present Sebastian de Riva-Aznarez to the Church and to dedicate him to God. What can we affirm about him?

He is a child of God, made in God's image.

As Sebastian grows and matures, how will he know he is a child of God and how will he learn of the Christian story?

We will tell him 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 him?

We look forward to sitting with him at the Lord's Table, sharing with him the costs and joys of discipleship, learning and growing with him in the Christian pilgrimage, and declaring with one voice our faith in God and God's son, Jesus.

Do you, Andrew and Carlos, parents, assume your primary responsibility for fulfilling these expectations by growing with Sebastian in the Christian faith, helping him to become a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, and by offering him the nurture and support of the Christian church? And will you, Maria-Jose, Frederic, and Olivier, godparents, agree to guide Sebastian into becoming an engaged and complete human being, teaching him 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 & challenging Christian environment for Sebastian?

We do, for he belongs to us as well.

Then may God be with us.

God help us. Amen.

BLESSING THE WATER

BAPTISM

CONGREGATIONAL WELCOME

Ted Wade, *Baptismal Deacon*

We rejoice in God's empowering love, freely given to each and all. We welcome you, Sebastian, 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.

ATTEND

SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:39-57

Stephanie LaShoto-Westfield

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

ANTHEM

The Annunciation and Magnificat
from "Holden Evening Prayer"

Marty Haugen

An angel went from God to a town called Nazareth
to a woman whose name was Mary.
The angel said to her, "Rejoice, O highly favored,
for God is with you.
You shall bear a child and his name shall be Jesus,
the Chosen One of God Most High."
And Mary said, "I am the servant of my God,
I live to do your will."

My soul proclaims your greatness, O God,
and my spirit rejoices in you,
You have looked with love on your servant here,
and blessed me all my life through.
Great and mighty are you, O Holy One,
strong is your kindness evermore.
How you favor the weak and lowly one,
humbling the proud of heart.

You have cast the mighty down from their thrones,
and uplifted the humble of heart,
You have filled the hungry with wondrous things,
and left the wealthy no part.
Great and mighty are you, O Faithful One:
strong is your justice, strong your love,
As you promised to Sarah and Abraham,
kindness forevermore.

My soul proclaims your greatness, O God...

SERMON

A Barbie World?

Rachel J. Barton

*HYMN 123

Mary, Woman of the Promise
Verses 1-4 only

QUEM PASTORES

RESPOND

*CALL TO PRAYER

Ashley 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

He Hideth My Soul

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.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1890

Tune: KIRKPATRICK, William J. Kirkpatrick, 1890

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

City of God

Dan Schutte

Awake from your slumber! Arise from your sleep!
A new day is dawning for all those who weep.
The people in darkness have seen a great light:
the Lord of our longing has conquered the night.

*Let us build the city of God.
May our tears be turned into dancing!
For the Lord, our light and our love,
has turned the night into day!*

We are sons of the morning; we are daughters of day.
The One who has loved us has brightened our way.
The Lord of all kindness has called us to be
a light for all people, to set their hearts free.

God is light; in them there is no darkness.
Let us walk in God's light, as children, one and all.

"O comfort my people; make gentle your words.
Proclaim to my city the day of her birth.
O city of gladness, now lift up your voice:
proclaim the good tidings that all may rejoice."

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN 312

We Love Your Realm, O God

ST. THOMAS

*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

Rachel J. Barton

SUNG RESPONSE *see next page* **Go Now in Peace**

POSTLUDE

Finale from "Music for the Royal Fireworks"

G.F. Handel



Join us for Refreshments & Fellowship
outside under the Portico following the Postlude.

The Flowers today are given by Elizabeth Morgan in honor and appreciation of our longstanding and deep relationship with the Doshisha Schools and University. Old South welcomed visitors from Doshisha Elementary to First Worship today.

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



Go Now In Peace

(Introduction)

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with an introduction of eighth and sixteenth notes. The lyrics are: 'Go now in peace, ne-ver be a-fraid;'. The second staff continues the melody with the lyrics: 'God will go with you each hour of ev-'ry day. Go now in faith,'. The third staff continues with the lyrics: 'stead-fast, strong and true, know God will guide you in all you'. The fourth staff concludes with the lyrics: 'do. A - men, a - men, a - men.' and ends with a double bar line.

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

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

WELCOMING DOSHISHA INTEGRATED SCHOOLS

Sunday, August 23

Doshisha University, which has expanded to include schools from kindergarten through graduate school, was founded in 1875 by Rev. Niijima Jo. He stowed away to Boston and was taken in by an Old South Church family and was the first Japanese person ordained to Christian ministry. Each year students from Doshisha schools come to Boston to visit Old South and other locations important to his early life. This Sunday we welcome students from Doshisha Elementary to First Worship, & will hold a reception afterwards on the 2nd floor.

DONATE BACKPACKS FOR JUSTICE4HOUSING

Go to tinyurl.com/J4HBackpackWishList for the Amazon Link, donate by August 28

Questions? Email Karen Bogle at karenbogle80@gmail.com

It's back to school time and Justice4Housing, an OSC grantee, needs backpacks. Justice4Housing is a Boston-based grassroots organization that provides housing and family reunification to individuals impacted by incarceration and to victims of domestic violence. Use the link above to donate, upon checkout, the order should list an address in Jamaica Plain. Thank you for supplying a child with a needed backpack!

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.

SIGN UP FOR OUR COLLEGE STUDENT WELCOME TABLE

September 6, under the Portico, sign up at tinyurl.com/2026OSCCollegeWelcome

Tens of thousands of college students move to Boston every September. Help us welcome them and invite them to join us at Old South by volunteering to staff a Welcome Table outside after Festival Worship. Questions? Email Rachel Barton at rachel@oldsouth.org.

THEOLOGICAL BOOK GROUP'S SUMMER READ DISCUSSION

Wednesday, September 9, 6pm via Zoom

Each participant will share 2-3 of the meditations in 'For Such a Time as This' that were of challenge to them on their faith journey, looking at both the biblical text used in the piece as well as Professor Reichel's commentary. We will learn from each other! Contact Don Wells at granwell@comcast.net to sign up for this one session event and get the zoom code.

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

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.

SNACKS FOR WORSHIP

We love our snacks! Unfortunately, buying them week after week is quite expensive for the Church, 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. Please find the list of snacks at tinyurl.com/OSCSnackList.

REGISTER FOR THE ALL-CHURCH RETREAT OCTOBER 2ND-4TH

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.

TAKE THE CONGREGATIONAL BELONGING SURVEY

Survey closes August 31, 2026, Scan the QR code or visit tinyurl.com/29tat4ce

Over the past several months, Old South Church has been engaging in conversations about belonging as part of our commitment to becoming a more radically inclusive congregation—one where every person can experience genuine welcome, connection, and belonging.



Many members and friends have already participated in listening sessions, and we are grateful for the thoughtful perspectives that have been shared. If you have not been able to attend a listening session—or if you would simply prefer to share your thoughts in writing—we invite you to complete our anonymous Congregational Belonging Survey.

Your responses will help us better understand the experiences, hopes, and ideas of our congregation as we continue this important work together. The survey should take approximately 10–15 minutes to complete. While the survey is anonymous, you will have the option to provide your contact information if you would like a follow-up conversation.

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. The 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.

GREEN TIP: Bring Your Own Reusable Container

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

If you eat out, you're probably very familiar with the good ole' doggy bag. While taking your leftovers home is a good practice to reduce food waste, too many restaurants and food carts still use plastic and foam containers, which are hard to recycle and bad for the environment. Next time, consider bringing your own reusable container for your leftovers to avoid packaging waste.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE AND OUTREACH WEEKLY PUSHBACK

FRIENDSHIP WORKS

To volunteer, donate, or receive services: fw4elders.org/

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

For the second year in a row, Old South is proud to support FriendshipWorks with a \$1,000 Weekly Pushback grant. FriendshipWorks works to reduce social isolation, enhance quality of life, and preserve the dignity of older adults across Greater Boston by building meaningful relationships and connections. What began as an interfaith movement meeting here at Old South has grown into a nationally recognized model for addressing social isolation among older adults. We are grateful to continue supporting a ministry whose roots are close to home and whose reach now extends far beyond our walls.

OPEN NEWBURY EVENT RESUMES

10am-6pm, Most Sundays through October 11.

Plan more time to find on-street parking or park at the Back Bay Garage.

Visit tinyurl.com/opennewbury2026 for dates and more information.

This famous Boston street becomes a pedestrian-only walkway on Sundays in the summer. The street is closed to vehicles to allow the use of the full width of the street, from Berkeley Street to Massachusetts Avenue.

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