

## Old South Church

*Copley Square, Boston*

*A Congregation of the  
United Church of Christ*

*Gathered 1669*

September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023

## Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

*Warning! To enter into the life of this people of God is to encounter God's soul-challenging,  
life-changing, radicalizing love. Will you join us? Do you dare?*

## GATHER

PRELUDE

*Liebster Jesu, Wir Sind Hier*, BWV 731

J. S. Bach

\*HYMN 459

**Come O Fount of Every Blessing**

NETTLETON

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: When life is a lonely trek, the people of God say:

**Many: "Where you will go, I will Go."**

One: When home is unrecognizable and comfort flees away,  
the people of God say:

**Many: "Where you will dwell, I will dwell."**

One: To the one seeking community, to the one longing to be embraced,  
the people of God say:

**Many: "Your people shall be my people, and your God shall be my God."**

*\* Indicates all who are able may stand*

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

*Please greet those around you, offering "peace" or "the peace of Christ."*

**SUNG RESPONSE**

**Solo:** *Gathered in God's name 'round the living Word.  
Gathered as one family in the name of love.*

**Congregation:**

Gath-ered from near and far, gath-ered in this ho - ly place,  
gath-ered as stran-gers and friends, gath-ered and gift-ed by grace.  
Gath - ered in God's name, 'round the liv - ing Word.  
Gath - ered as one fam-'ly in the name of love,  
*slowing*  
in the name of love, in the name of love.

Text and Music: Michael Burkhardt, 2021

WELCOME

Rachel J. Barton

ANTHEM

I'm Building Me a Home    Anthony Trecek-King, *arr.*

I'm building me a home.  
This earthly house is gonna soon decay,  
and my soul gotta have somewhere to stay.

When you hear me moaning, I'm building me a home.  
When you hear me praying, I'm building me a home.  
When you hear me shouting, I'm building me a home.

## LISTEN

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kate M. Nintcheu

SCRIPTURE

Ruth 4:1-12, adapted

Rory Razon

\*HYMN 467

### **Mothering God**

ANDREW

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

SERMON

How it's Supposed to Work

John M. Edgerton

\*HYMN

### **Softly and Tenderly**

SOFTLY AND TENDERLY

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me;  
see, at the portals Christ waiting and watching,  
watching for you and for me.  
Come home, come home; all who are weary come home;  
earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, O sinner, come home!

Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you and for me?  
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies,  
mercies for you and for me?  
Come home, come home; all who are weary come home;  
earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, O wand'rer, come home!

Time is now fleeting, the moments are passing,  
passing from you and from me;  
shadows are gathering, deathbeds are coming,  
coming for you and for me.  
Come home, come home; all who are weary come home;  
earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, O mourner, come home!

O for the wonderful love Jesus promised, promised for you and for me!  
Though we have sinned, Jesus offers us pardon,  
pardon for you and for me.  
Come home, come home; all who are weary come home;  
earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, beloved, come home!

## RESPOND

### CALL TO PRAYER

Ashley J. Popperson

One: God be with you.

**Many: And also with you.**

One: May the peace of Christ dwell in your hearts.

**Many: Christ is our peace, our light, and our hope.**

One: Let us pray.

### PASTORAL PRAYER

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Creator in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Ecumenical Version (1988)

### PRAYER RESPONSE

*Mayenzive*

Lord's Prayer  
*South African trad.*

*Mayenzive 'ntando yakho.*  
Your will be done on earth, O Lord.

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Ashley J. Popperson



To give via ApplePay, GooglePay, or with a Credit Card,  
scan the QR code with your smartphone camera.  
You can also Text 44-321 and enter OSC to make a gift.

OFFERTORY

I've Just Come from the Fountain

André J. Thomas

*I've just come from the fountain,  
I've just come from the fountain, Lord.  
I've just come from the fountain, his name's so sweet!*

Sisters, you love Jesus? Yes, Lord, I do love my Jesus!  
Sisters, you love Jesus? His name's so sweet.

*I've just come from the fountain...*

Brothers, you love Jesus? Yes, Lord, I do love my Jesus!  
Brothers, you love Jesus? His name's so sweet.

Been drinking, my Lord! I've been drinking from the fountain.  
His name's so sweet!

*I've just come from the fountain...*

Backslider, do you know Him?  
Do you know that man from Galilee?  
The Prince of Peace, the Rose of Sharon!  
Mighty counselor! King Jesus!

Been drinking, my Lord! I've been drinking from the fountain.  
His name's so sweet!

*I've just come from the fountain...*

His name's so sweet! Oh Lord, my Lord!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*HYMN 472

**Precious Lord, Take my Hand**

PRECIOUS LORD

\*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Fugue in F Major, BWV 540b

J. S. Bach



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

The flowers today are given in loving memory of Barbara Hohler,  
who always gave the flowers on her birthday,  
by her son Bob.

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



## MUSIC NOTES

**Anthony Trecek-King** is President & Artistic Director of the **Boston Children's Chorus**, which received a National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award from the White House in 2013. Trecek-King has led the Chorus in performances at Boston Symphony Hall, the Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall, and the Royal Albert Hall in London. He is a frequent guest conductor for All State, Festival, and Honor Choirs. In addition to Trecek-King's work as a conductor, he frequently appears on the WGBH television series "Sing That Thing," and has given two TEDx Boston talks. He holds degrees from the University of Nebraska at Omaha (Cello Performance), Florida State University (Orchestral Conducting) and Boston University, where he received the Doctor of Musical Arts in Choral Conducting.

Speaking about "I'm Building Me a Home," Trecek-King notes it is "not a well known spiritual. In fact, when searching through the many collections of spirituals... very few references can be found." In his arrangement, Trecek-King's goal was to "produce something raw, and not to overly arrange or modernize it with contemporary choral language."

"I've Just Come From the Fountain" is another "not well known" spiritual, this time arranged by composer and conductor **André J. Thomas**, who for 35 years was Director of Choral Activities and Professor of Choral Music Education at Florida State University in Tallahassee. Beginning with an improvisatory solo derived from a snippet of the refrain, the piece formally begins with the more measured choral presentation of the same, which sees the melody gliding atop a rhythmic *ostinato* from the tenors and basses. Recurrences of this *ostinato* refrain help delineate the structure of the work; interspersed between are colorful episodes (affirming the choir's collective love for Jesus; warning against backsliding, etc.) wherein mostly independent Soprano-Alto and Tenor-Bass blocks continue to pass musical material between them.

—Mitchell Crawford, *Minister of Music*

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

**ALL SAINTS SUNDAY — November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023 | 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 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 | 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<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**FAMILY SERVICE WITH IMPROMPTU PAGEANT | 5PM**

**LESSONS AND CAROLS | 8PM**

**CAROLS AND COMMUNION | 11PM**

**HOLY WEEK 2024**

*Palm Sunday* — March 24<sup>th</sup> | 9AM & 11AM

*Maundy Thursday* — March 28<sup>th</sup> | 7PM

*Good Friday* — March 29<sup>th</sup> | 12PM & 7PM

*Easter Sunday* — March 31<sup>st</sup> | 9AM & 11AM

**MARATHON SUNDAY — April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024 | 9AM & 11AM**

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

**PHILLIS WHEATLEY SUNDAY — May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024 | 9AM & 11AM**

Old South honors and learns from one of the saints of this church who was stolen from Africa, suffered the Middle Passage, was sold into slavery, and triumphed through her awesome wit and the mighty power of her pen.



# WELCOME TO OLD SOUTH CHURCH

For LARGE print bulletins or children's bulletins, please ask an Usher.

Restrooms are available. Just ask!

An accessible, single-use restroom is available near Reception.

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 outfit itself for mission and ministry in the 21<sup>st</sup> century as a thriving church in the heart of Boston. If you are interested in deepening your participation, or if you just love Old South, it's time to think about **membership**. Contact Interim Associate Minister Katherine Schofield at [katherine@oldsouth.org](mailto:katherine@oldsouth.org)

## HEARING ASSISTANCE

Our hearing loop works directly with devices equipped with a "T-Coil." The sound is best if you sit further inside the pews, away from the aisles. The loop does not work in the upper galleries. If you would like to borrow a device paired with our system, please ask an usher.

## GARAGE PARKING VALIDATIONS

We have arrangements for discounted parking with two nearby garages for Old South Church worship or church business (excluding weddings and concerts). For more information check out [www.oldsouth.org/your-first-visit](http://www.oldsouth.org/your-first-visit) or see the front desk.

## LEARN MORE

Check out the church website at [www.oldsouth.org/calendar](http://www.oldsouth.org/calendar) for a calendar of events, and the general website [www.oldsouth.org](http://www.oldsouth.org) for more on the history and other information about this storied ship of faith!

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* ❖ Katherine A. Schofield, *Interim Associate Minister*  
Donald A. Wells, *Theologian in Residence* ❖ June R. Cooper, *Theologian in the City*  
David Story, *Wedding Minister* ❖ Ken Orth, *Healing Worship Minister*  
Rachel Barton, *Nancy S. Taylor Fellow and Youth & Young Adult Leader*  
Madison Chau, *Seminary Fellow*  
James W. Crawford, *Senior Minister Emeritus* ❖ Nancy S. Taylor, *Senior Minister Emeritus*  
Mitchell Crawford, *Minister of Music*  
George Sargeant, *Associate Organist & Choirmaster*  
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*  
Amelia Gerrard, *Church Administrator* ❖ John Braught, *Director of Operations*  
Kathleen Steen, *Staff Accountant*  
Emily Ross, *Archivist* ❖ Karen Hand, *Wedding Coordinator*  
Jamie Garuti, *Multimedia Director*  
Rémy Hatfield-Gardner and William Wei, *Livestream Production Assistants* ❖ Ava Welling, *Sound Technician*  
Elias Perez, *Senior Sexton* ❖ Ozo Nwodo, Richard Serebour, and David Brode, *Sextons*  
Corey Spence, *Weekday Receptionist*  
Shirley Bivins, Shelia Randolph, and George Sargeant, *Evening & Weekend Receptionists*  
Phil Stern, *Moderator* ❖ Rob Gabler, *Clerk* ❖ Bill Bulkeley, *Treasurer*  
Debby Kuenstner, *Chair, Board of Trustees* ❖ Kate Silfen, *Historian*  
Christine Del Favero and Tony Rich, *Senior Deacons* ❖ Vicki Newman, *Pledge Secretary*

### 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

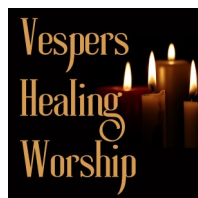
# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## COMMUNITY HOUR FORUMS

Sundays, 10 a.m. in Mary Norton Hall on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Zoom at [tinyurl.com/OSC23-24Forum](https://tinyurl.com/OSC23-24Forum)

- **September 10<sup>th</sup>** - Welcome Back Potluck Brunch and Program Overview.  
Join us for an informal potluck breakfast, plenty of fellowship, and a short orientation to church school / adult programs for Fall 2023. (bring food to share - something breakfast-y)
- **September 17<sup>th</sup>** - Meet Rachel: Our New Taylor Fellow and Youth and Young Adult Ministry Leader
- **September 24<sup>th</sup>** - Meet Madison: Our New Graduate Student Intern!

## VESPERS HEALING WORSHIP



Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 5 p.m. on Zoom, go to [tinyurl.com/OSCHealing](https://tinyurl.com/OSCHealing)

Please join us to take a moment for rest and renewal in the presence of God and other spiritual companions gathering by Zoom. All are welcome to share this quiet space and lift up our concerns, our losses, our hurts, and our celebrations in the Healing Presence of God and one another.

## CHANGING JUSTICE FROM THE GROUND UP:

### Addressing Urban Violence and its Root Causes

### Using the Principles and Values of Restorative Justice

Monday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 6 - 7 p.m. followed by Q&A

To register go to [sneucc-reg.brtapp.com/changingjustice](https://sneucc-reg.brtapp.com/changingjustice) or scan the QR code

Want an end to trauma and the school to prison pipeline? Prevent



violence in our communities? How do restorative and transformative justice address systemic harm and conflict? · Why are these more effective than the punitive discipline model? To find answers to these questions and more, attend this webinar presentation by Valleria Miranda-Ferrick, Executive Director of Unity Circles, and Tha Thai, Assistant Director of Roca Boston.



## JP/ROX/ROZZIE GET TOGETHER

Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2-4pm,

Daisy Field at Olmstead Park, 217 Jamaica Way in JP

Join us for the first of several neighborhood get-togethers! We'll gather at Daisy Field at Olmstead Park on Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> from 2-4pm for games, fun, & fellowship! Bring a snack or beverage to share

## CONNECTIONS LUNCHEON

*Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, following Festival Worship, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Guild Room*

To be a member of Old South Church is to enter the company of Revolutionary Era heroes, abolitionists, suffragettes, anti-poverty crusaders, and poets. Our saints include Benjamin Franklin, Samuel Adams, Phillis Wheatley... and maybe you! Want to learn more about the life of this community of faith and break bread with other newcomers and church members? Join our Connections Info Session! Contact Rev. Katherine Schofield [katherine@oldsouth.org](mailto:katherine@oldsouth.org) for more info.

## ALL-CHURCH RETREAT

*Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup> - Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, Craigville Retreat Center, Cape Cod*

Go to [tinyurl.com/OSC2023Retreat](https://tinyurl.com/OSC2023Retreat) to register, go to [oldsouth.org/all-church-retreat](https://oldsouth.org/all-church-retreat) to learn more

Get excited! It's time for the All-Church Retreat -- our yearly weekend on the Cape. This intergenerational opportunity to connect, relax, play, and learn together is unique - and we hope you will join in! This year we are ecstatic that our special guest will be Rev. Dr. Mary Luti, world-renowned author, professor and theologian - and long time member of Old South Church. Online registration is now open. Adult price for the weekend is \$190 - which includes 2 nights lodging, 5 meals, and the program. Teens and children are free. Day visitors may join in for \$40. Scholarships are available - please reach out to Kate Nintcheu at [children@oldsouth.org](mailto:children@oldsouth.org).

## SNEUCC JUSTICE SUMMIT: Trans and Nonbinary Belonging in the Church

*Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 10am-5pm, in person at Old South and online*

Go to [tinyurl.com/2023SNEUCCJustice](https://tinyurl.com/2023SNEUCCJustice) to register by September 16<sup>th</sup>

The Justice Summit on Trans & Nonbinary Belonging in the Church is a chance for worship, learning, and connection for people on all stages of their journey of trans-affirmation. These conversations will help us explore how we can deepen our Open & Affirming commitments as a church and bring those values into our wider communities. Youth & Adults welcome!

## HOSPITALITY FOR JUSTICE SUMMIT

Go to [tinyurl.com/SummitHospitality](https://tinyurl.com/SummitHospitality) to sign up

We need you to help fling wide Old South's Open Door on October 7, as UCC folks throughout our region gather to worship, learn, and connect about expanding our Open & Affirming commitments to intentionally include trans and nonbinary people. There are a variety of short (about an hour) volunteer shifts from 8:45am-5pm on October 7th, which means you're also able to join the rest of the program. If you haven't already, be sure to register at [tinyurl.com/2023SNEUCCJustice](https://tinyurl.com/2023SNEUCCJustice), and check that you're an Old South volunteer so that your registration fee is covered.



## CHURCH SCHOOL BEGINS

Go to [oldsouth.org/children-youth-families](https://oldsouth.org/children-youth-families) to learn more about Old South's offerings to students of all ages. Email Kate Nintcheu for more information at [children@oldsouth.org](mailto:children@oldsouth.org).

## MUSIC AT OLD SOUTH

Visit [oldsouth.org/music](https://oldsouth.org/music) to learn more.

Old South is home to a vibrant array of vocal, choral, and instrumental ensembles, and no matter your age or ability, there is a place for you in our music ministry. This Fall, we're delighted by the return of our First Singers!

**First Singers** — rehearse Sundays at 8:30 a.m.

**Festival Choir** — rehearse Thursdays at 7 p.m. and Sundays at 10 a.m.

**Children's Choir** — rehearse Sundays at 9 a.m.

**Old South Ringers** — rehearse Tuesdays at 6 p.m.

**Gospel Choir** — rehearse once monthly; visit [oldsouth.org/music](https://oldsouth.org/music) to see the full schedule.

## SMALL GROUP SIGN UPS

Fill out the interest form at [oldsouth.org/seasonal-small-groups](https://oldsouth.org/seasonal-small-groups)

Do you seek to deepen your experience of community at Old South Church, cultivate spiritual friendships, and grow in your faith? Consider joining a Small Group! We are currently forming groups for the fall season (September through December). Some groups are meeting online while others meet in person (or a mix of both).

## SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

Sundays, 10am, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Phillis Wheatley Room,

go to [tinyurl.com/OSC23-24BibleStudy](https://tinyurl.com/OSC23-24BibleStudy) to join via Zoom, password: BibleStudy

Delve into the day's scripture passage heard in worship. This no-homework Bible study delights in taking a scholarly look at ancient texts. Don't leave your questions at the door; we need them. For more information contact Katherine Schofield.

## THROUGH THE BIBLE

Thursdays, 7pm, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Phillis Wheatley Room, go to [tinyurl.com/OSCThroughBible](https://tinyurl.com/OSCThroughBible) for Zoom link

Join us as we journey at a reflective and thorough pace through the Hebrew Bible. We are about to begin studying the Book of Isaiah. For more information contact Katherine Schofield.

## GREEN TIP

A Hopeful Story from Minnesota. In the first ruling of its kind nationwide, a Montana state court decided in favor of young people who alleged the state violated their right to a "clean and healthful environment" by promoting the use of fossil fuels.

## HOSPITALITY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

*Scan the QR code with your phone camera to sign up*

Fall 2023 is almost upon us, and we are looking forward to all the activity at OSC. Our church's open door is a big part of who we are, and we are looking for Ushers, Welcomers and Coffee Hour Volunteers to swing it open wide. Thank you in advance for signing up to assist with hospitality at one or more Sunday or Thursday services! We are looking forward to seeing you this fall!

Christine Del Favero and Tony Rich, Co-Senior Deacons



## IN MEMORIAM

### NANCY MARTTILA MEMORIAL SERVICE

*Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 12 p.m. in the Chapel*

Nancy was a regular at First Worship and was known for her quick wit and friendliness. To read her obituary go to [tinyurl.com/MarttilaObituary](https://tinyurl.com/MarttilaObituary).

### ANNA YODER MEMORIAL SERVICE

*Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 1pm*

Anna was a very active and faithful member and leader at Old South having served as a deacon and leading and participating in numerous committees, including as co-chair of the inaugural congregational care and support committee. To read her full obituary, go to [tinyurl.com/YoderObit](https://tinyurl.com/YoderObit)

## WEEKLY WORSHIP

**Join us in person, on Vimeo,  
Facebook, and YouTube**

**All-Church Worship** Sundays at 10 a.m.

**Summertime Jazz** Thursdays at 6 p.m. with communion

**Vespers Healing Worship** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays at 5 p.m.



*To give via ApplePay, GooglePay, or with a Credit Card,  
scan the QR code with your smartphone camera.*

*You can also Text 44-321 and enter OSC to make a gift.*

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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.

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Old South Church in Boston ❖ 645 Boylston Street, Boston 02116 ❖ [www.oldsouth.org](http://www.oldsouth.org)