

Old South Church *in* Boston ❖ March 9, 2025 ❖ 11:00a.m.

First Sunday in Lent

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

GATHER

PRELUDE

Carillon [*excerpt*]

Leo Sowerby

*VOTUM *votum is the Latin word for "vow."*

Ashley J. Popperson

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth. Amen.

*HYMN 198

Lift High the Cross

CRUCIFER

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

**Indicates all who are able may stand*

WELCOME

ANTHEM

Al Shlosha D'varim

Allan E. Naplan

*Al shlosha, al shlosha d'varim haolam kayam,
al haemet v'al hadin v'al hashalom, hashalom.*

The world is sustained by three things:
by truth, by justice, and by peace.

LISTEN

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kate M. Nintcheu

SCRIPTURE

1 Kings 17:2-16

Paul Brouillette

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

*HYMN 331

Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life

THE CALL

SCRIPTURE

Luke 4:1-13

SERMON

Until an Opportune Time

John M. Edgerton

*HYMN 205

Forty Days and Forty Nights

HEINLEIN

RESPOND

*CALL TO PRAYER

Rachel J. Barton

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

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Ashley J. Popperson



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

If you're new to Old South, scan the QR code with your smartphone camera to tell us more about yourself.



OFFERTORY

III. [Psalm 131; Psalm 133, v. 1]
from *Chichester Psalms*

Leonard Bernstein

<p>יְהוָה, לֹא־גִבַּה לְבִי— וְלֹא־רָמוּ עֵינַי; וְלֹא־הִלַּכְתִּי, בְּגִדְלוֹת וּבְנִפְלְאוֹת מִמֶּנִּי. אִם־לֹא שׁוֹיִתִּי, יְדוּמָמְתִי— נִפְשִׁי: כְּגַמֵּל, עָלַי אִמּוֹ; כְּגַמֵּל עָלַי נִפְשִׁי. יִחַל יִשְׂרָאֵל, אֶל־יְהוָה— מֵעַתָּה, וְעַד־עוֹלָם.</p>	<p><i>Adonai, Adonai, Lo gavah libi, V'lo ramu einai, V'lo hilachti Big'dolot uv'ni'flaot Mimeni. Im lo shiviti V'domam'ti, Naf'shi k'gamul alei imo, Kagamul alai naf'shi. Yahel Yis'rael el Adonai Me'atab v'ad olam.</i></p>	<p>Lord, Lord, my heart is not haughty, nor mine eyes lofty, neither do I exercise myself in great matters or in things too wonderful for me to understand. Surely I have calmed and quieted myself, as a child that is weaned of his mother; my soul is even as a weaned child. Let Israel hope in the Lord from henceforth and forever.</p>
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<p>הִנֵּה מַה־טוֹב, וּמַה־נִּיְעִים— שִׁבְתַּת אַחִים גַּם־יִחַד.</p>	<p><i>Hineh mah tov, Umah na'im, Shevet aḥim Gam yaḥad.</i></p>	<p>Behold how good, and how pleasant it is, for family to dwell together in unity.</p>
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THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

John M. Edgerton

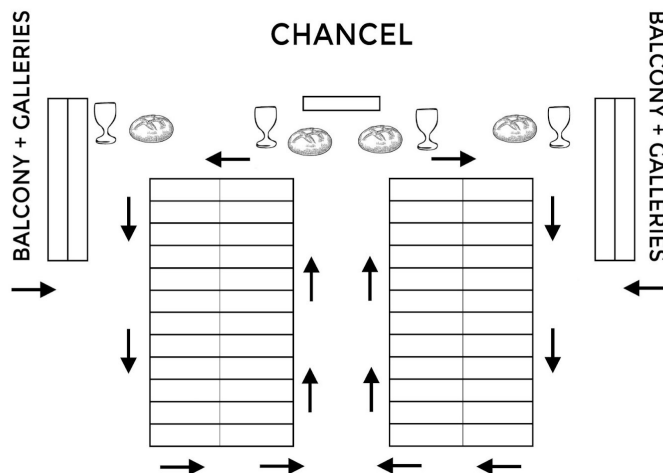
THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

INVITATION

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

Our communion table is open to all. Communion is served by intinction. Please come forward at the direction of the ushers to receive a piece of bread. Dip the bread into the cup and partake. The cups contain non-alcoholic grape juice. Gluten-free crackers are available at a separate station. If you are unable to come forward, please signal an usher and the elements will be brought to you.



MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Lenten Processional

Jeremy Young

*Parce, Domine, parce populo tuo:
ne in æternum irascaris nobis.*

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.

Spare, O Lord, spare your people:
let not your wrath be kindled against us forever.

Where there is charity and love, God is there.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy God, the bread and the cup remind us how good you are. You nourish us in our journey of faith, reminding us that you are always with us. As we journey through Lent, prepare us to hear your call.

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

As we receive your peace, may we see where we can share it with others. Guide us in our words and actions.

Where there is hatred, let us sow love.

We give you thanks for who you are and the blessing of being called your people.

Amen.

*HYMN 347

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

LINSTEAD

*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

John M. Edgerton

POSTLUDE

Four Spiritual Preludes
I. Oh! What a Beautiful City

David Hurd



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

The flowers today are given by Steve Dutton
in loving memory of Valerie Papillo.

Close-Up, a twenty minute tour of the Sanctuary,
begins immediately following worship at the front of the Sanctuary.
Led by docent Liz Morgan.



NOTES ON THE SILVER BEING USED TODAY

1) Second Church & Society Goblet (1844)

Goblet, 8" high, with handles.

Presented to the Old South Church by the Second Church and Society
"in memorial of their Christian hospitality"

The Second Church of Boston, founded in 1649, was a Puritan church, then Congregational until 1802, when it became Unitarian. It began in North Square, then moved to Hanover St in 1779, merging with New Brick Church that was on the site. In 1844, the brick church was demolished and a new building at that location was completed in 1845. Given the timing of their renovation and the wording of the inscription, it seems likely that Old South Church extended hospitality to the Second Church during their time of transition.

2) The Salem St. Church Breadbasket (1848)

This breadbasket is a curved plate with handles and feet, 11.5" in diameter.

Made by Palmer Bachelers, an American silversmith based in Boston.

Inscribed "I am the living bread which came down from heaven."

3) Ruth Manning Gordon Beaker (1900)

Beaker, 5" diameter with handles.

Made by Gorham, an American silversmith,
and marked with his Lion Anchor G symbol.

Donated by Rev. George Warren Field D. D.
in honor of Ruth Manning Gordon.

Ruth Manning Gordon (1895-1985) was the daughter of George Angier Gordon (1853-1929) and Susan Manning Gordon (1857-1936). Rev. George Gordon was the pastor of Old South Church 1884-1927. Ruth Manning Gordon joined Old South in 1909. Rev. George Warren Field (1818-1900) was a pastor at the Central Church, Bangor, Maine. George Gordon and George Warren field both attended Bangor Theological Seminary and Gordon's first pastorate was in Temple, Maine, so the two men may have been peers. The timing of the gift coincides with the year of death of Rev. Fields, so may have been a bequest in his will.

4) Leah Wells Candelabra (c.1962)

Candelabra, 3 branches, Empire brand, Sterling 377.

Inscribed "In loving memory of Mrs. Leah Wells".

Leah Elizabeth Pike Wells joined Mt Vernon Church in 1948 and remained a member until her death in 1962. The candelabra was donated in her memory in 1962 or shortly after and would have come to Old South when Mt Vernon merged in 1970.

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

HOLY WEEK 2025

Palm Sunday — April 13 | 9AM & 11AM

Maundy Thursday — April 17 | 6PM

Good Friday — April 18 | 7PM

EASTER & MARATHON SUNDAY

April 20, 2025 | 7AM, 9AM, 11AM, & 1PM

The triumph of the Christian story of resurrection informs a service of worship that is characterized by joyous celebration. Our celebration continues with hundreds of marathoners joining 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 2, 2025 | 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 23, 2025 | 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, 2025

Family Service with Impromptu Pageant | 5PM

Lessons and Carols | 8PM

Carols and Communion | 11PM

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's 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

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 & concerts). 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, *Assistant Minister*
Gracie Paterson, *Nancy S. Taylor Leadership Fellow* ❖ Kat Woodard, *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*

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* ❖ Juniper Mai, *Children's Choir Accompanist*

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*

Rémy Hatfield-Gardner & William Wei, *Livestream Production Assistants* ❖ Ava Welling, *Sound Technician*

Elias Perez, *Senior Sexton* ❖ Ozo Nwodo, Richard Serebour, & David Brode, *Sextons*

Corey Spence, *Weekday Receptionist*

Shirley Bivins, Shelia Randolph, & William Wei, *Evening & Weekend Receptionists*

Maren Batalden, *Moderator* ❖ Rob Gabler, *Clerk* ❖ Bill Bulkeley, *Treasurer*

Debby Kuenstner, *Chair, Board of Trustees* ❖ Kate Silfen, *Historian*

Christine Del Favero & 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

FORUM: OLD SOUTH AND THE WORLD: A PANEL Q&A

Sunday, March 9, 10am, 2nd floor Mary Norton Hall

& Zoom tinyurl.com/2025ForumOSC password community

Are you curious about how the church is responding to the state of the nation? Want to know more about how you can get involved? Join us on Sunday for a panel discussion with our Ministers and representatives from G(Race) Speaks, the Climate Crisis Task Force, and the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization. We're looking forward to an engaging and insightful conversation.

THE ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

International aid is a hallmark of the Christian faith. As people who believe in a God who transcends all borders, we are called to embrace those in need who are divided from us by human-made boundaries. The One Great Hour of Sharing offering is an opportunity to contribute to international aid. In partnership with multiple Protestant denominations, this offering makes a life saving difference in the lives of the most vulnerable. You can contribute to this offering in worship during Lent, or through our online portal at tinyurl.com/OSCGiving.

SHELTERING OUR NEIGHBORS: SIX HOST HOMES BY EASTER

As federal and state immigration policies change, refugees and migrants in Mass. remain in need of shelter. The New Neighbors Task Force, along with an ecumenical coalition led by the Massachusetts Council of Churches, has set a goal of six host homes by Easter. Working with trusted social service agencies, Old Southerners are stepping forward to host new neighbors (both families with children and individuals) in their homes for stays as short as an overnight and as long as several months. We are forming circles of support around each of these hosts to offer emotional support, transportation, babysitting, and other assistance as needed. If you are interested or want more information, please email ashley@oldsouth.org.

GODLY PLAY FOR FAMILIES

Sundays, once a month; 10am, 3rd floor

Upcoming Sundays: March 16, April 6, and May 18th.

Our family-based church school gathering returns! Families of preschoolers, infants, and toddlers are invited to our once a month class during the 10am hour in the regular childcare room on the 3rd floor. We'll hear a Godly Play story together, wonder a bit about the story, and then have work time to play around with the ideas and stories we heard. Families of any age are welcome - though this is geared towards preschool age 4 and under. In addition -- parents are not required to attend, but we suspect most will want to.

LENT

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL READING

Get your copy at the church or at

Living in a time of such chaos and outrage, we need spiritual discipline to stay grounded and to live out God's call of love and liberation for all. This Lent, Old South has created a devotional booklet to accompany you through these 40 days. Each week offers a reflection and a spiritual practice drawn from the scripture of Galatians 5. "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."

ALL-CHURCH LENTEN BOOK READ: An Altar in the World

Four Sundays, beginning March 16, 2nd Floor Mary Norton Hall

We invite you, as part of your Lenten practice this season, to read Barbara Brown Taylor's book *An Altar in the World: a Geography of Faith*. This 2009 publication presents a compelling invitation to intentionally bring more holiness to our everyday lives. Grounded in gratitude and wonder, Brown Taylor's writing is accessible and inspiring, as well as honest and funny. To take part in discussions you do not need to have read the book to participate (but we hope you do) - we'll have materials each week.

- March 16: Waking up to God, Paying Attention, and Wearing Skin
- March 23: Walking on the Earth, Getting Lost, and Encountering Others
- March 30th: The Practice of Living with Purpose, Saying No and Carrying Water
- April 6: Feeling Pain, Being Present to God, and Pronouncing Blessings

POEMS FOR THE JOURNEY:

A LENTEN/HOLY WEEK GATHERING OF VERSE

Sunday, April 13, 10am,

Mary Norton Hall or Zoom tinyurl.com/2025ForumOSC password community

Join Theologian in Residence Don Wells to share poems and short verses celebrating the roads we journey through life and through faith. This new event is similar to our annual Advent Poetry Fest -- only thematically Lenten / Holy Week inspired. Please let Don Wells know if you would like to share a poem, and if you need ideas! We encourage listeners as well.

OUR LENTEN JOURNEY....to Bethany.....Bethany?

A Blog from Don Wells, Theologian in Residence, read the full blog at tinyurl.com/WellsLentBlog2025

For us in the Church, while not a 'day' of tranquility, Lent can provide a different rhythm from the ordinary. It gives us a time frame in which to reflect, study, pray and perhaps engage in a new practice that will help us on our journey. It gives us a chance to hear again Jesus' invitation to 'come, follow me', and to assess how we are doing.

VESPERS HEALING WORSHIP

Sunday, March 9, 5 p.m. on Zoom, tinyurl.com/OSCHealing to join

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.

BANISHED TO THE BALCONY: A TALK ON THE HISTORY OF RACE AT OSC

Monday, March 10, 6pm, Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St

Also available on Zoom at tinyurl.com/2025Balcony, meeting id 842 1439 0693, passcode:399043

Have you ever wondered what it was like for Phillis Wheatley to worship upstairs at the Old South Meeting House? Or about the worship life of the other members of African descent whose names are etched on the leaves of our Memorial Tree in the Columbarium? Join us as historian Richard Boles, author of *Dividing the Faith: The Rise of Segregated Churches in the Early American North*, talks about the 18th c. circumstances of Native Americans and enslaved African Americans in New England who worshipped, were baptized, and took communion in predominantly white churches with segregated seating and other race-based proscriptions.

JOIN THE MARY NORTON SOCIETY

Every one of us, no matter our age or financial circumstances, needs a plan for what will happen to our resources after we pass on. Many members and friends of Old South have included the church in their estate plans- "a way to support Old South from heaven. Here's how Mary Norton Society member, Larry Mynatt, describes his reasons for joining the society:

I remember Old South Church in my bequest to continue the legacy that began over 350 years ago. This church was critical in the abolitionist movement during the times of slavery. Old South Church has been at the forefront of so many other social issues: racism, women's suffrage, LGBTQ+ rights, immigrants, the homeless and un-housed. Every time I enter the doors of Old South Church I am deeply humbled by those who have preceded me there, many of whom were nationally historical figures. Our current beautiful building has been in service since 1875 and has been thoughtfully maintained all these years. It is my hope this bequest can help in continuation of that effort.

Those who provide for Old South in their estate plans become members of the Mary Norton Society. Won't you join them, as a way of insuring that the things that have mattered most to you will be here for coming generations? Contact cathryngriffith@mac.com for more information.

VOLUNTEER TO READ SCRIPTURE

Go to tinyurl.com/2025OSCScriptureReaders, Questions? Email Rev. Ashley at ashley@oldsouth.org

Reading the Bible in community is an essential Christian spiritual practice. Each week at Festival Worship a volunteer reads scripture before the sermon. People of all ages are encouraged to volunteer! Questions? Email Ashley Popperson.

REGIONAL POTLUCK IN BACK BAY

Tuesday, March 18, at 6pm, RSVP at tinyurl.com/OSCBayPotluck by March 16

Questions? Email cathryngriffith@mac.com

Join Cathryn Griffith and Curtiss Reed, Jr. at their home in Back Bay on March 18th at 6pm for a potluck! They'll make a big pot of vegetarian chili and cornbread, you can bring a beverage or a dessert to share. It will be a time to relax, chat, and enjoy each other's good company! Questions? Email Cathryn.

EASTER FLOWER DONATIONS

requested contribution \$20, make your donation by March 30

Go to tinyurl.com/OSCGiving and choose "Easter Flowers" to make your gift. Messages in honor or memory of loved ones or special occasions can be entered on the second page of the donation screen or you can give anonymously. Questions? Contact Rémy Hatfield-Gardner at remy@oldsouth.org.

GREEN TIP: Save Water While Washing Dishes

When you need to wash dishes by hand, fill up the sink with the water you need rather than letting it constantly run while you wash and rinse. You'd be surprised how much water you can end up using when you just let it run. You can also do something similar when you rinse off fruits and vegetables, putting water in a bowl and using that to rinse them off or scrub them.

HEARD IT AT COUNCIL FEBRUARY 2025

Go to tinyurl.com/councilreport2-2025 to read Old South Historian Kate Silfen's article about the February Council Meeting. Topics included finances, human resources, leadership slate, and Annual Meeting.

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, the second Sunday at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom



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

If you're new to Old South, scan the QR code with your smartphone camera 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