



# Old South Church *in* Boston

## A Service of Story and Song

**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
December 24, 2025 ☆ 5:00 PM

GREETING

Ashley J. Popperson, *Associate Minister*

\*CAROL

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come and behold him, born the King of Angels!

*O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above:  
'Glory to God, all glory in the highest!'

*O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!*

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Kate M. Nintcheu,  
*Director of Children & Family Ministries*

**THE STORY OF CHRISTMAS**

SETTING THE SCENE

*\*Indicates all who are able may stand*

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

## SCENE 1: JOSEPH, MARY, AND THE BABY JESUS

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay  
close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

## SCENE 2: SHEPHERDS, SHEEP, AND ANGELS

CAROL

**Angels We Have Heard on High**

GLORIA

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.**

*Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

**Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?**

*Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

**Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.**

*Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

SCENE 3: TELLING THE GOOD NEWS

CAROL

**Joy to the World!**

ANTIOCH

**Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive her King!  
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing!**

**Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns: let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.**

SCENE 4: THE MAGI COME BEARING GIFTS

OFFERING

*In thanksgiving to God and giving witness to generous hearts,  
our financial gifts support ministries of mercy, justice, and beauty.*



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.



We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

*O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!*

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,  
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign. (*refrain*)

Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a deity nigh;  
prayer and praising voices raising, worshiping God on High. (*refrain*)

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. (*refrain*)

Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! sounds through the earth and skies. (*refrain*)

## A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

John M. Edgerton, *Senior Minister*

## 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.

## PASSING THE LIGHT

CAROL *remain seated***Silent Night! Holy Night!**

STILLE NACHT

Silent night! Holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright 'round yon virgin mother and child;  
holy infant so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace!  
Sleep in heavenly peace!

Silent night! Holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight; glories stream from heaven afar,  
heav'nly hosts sing: "Alleluia! Christ the Savior is born!  
Christ the Savior is born!"

**Silent night! Holy night!**  
**Son of God, love's pure light, radiant, beams from thy holy face**  
**with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth!**  
**Jesus, Lord, at thy birth!**

BENEDICTION

Ashley J. Popperson, *Associate Minister*

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*Our special thanks to costume wranglers and cajolers!*

THE HOLY FAMILY

The Nackel Family

MAGI

The Farmer Family

STAR OF BETHLEHEM

Henry R.

MUSICIANS

Jamie Chelel & Sara Mitnik, *song leaders*

Dr. Jonathan Reddix, *pianist*

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## **NEW YEAR'S AT OLD SOUTH**

### **BOSTON FIRST NIGHT: PIPES AND POPS CONCERTS**

*Wednesday, December 31, 6:30 and 8 pm, Old South Church in Boston*

The best of Boston's brass and percussion artists join organist Mitchell Crawford in a supersonic program of popular classics. Featuring fun and engaging programming for the whole family, this concert includes a seasonal sing of "Let There Be Peace on Earth." Experience Old South's incredible E. M. Skinner organ, with over 7,000 room-shaking pipes! Free and open to the public.

### **PAJAMA CHURCH**

*Sunday December 28, Single Worship Service at 10am*

Come for a relaxed celebration of Christmastide as we worship God who is with us, Emmanuel. Come in your pajamas or coziest of clothes, bring a loved one and settle in with us to experience the love of God coming into our world.

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

## **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 26, 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.

## **CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE**

**December 24, 2026**

*Family Service with Impromptu Pageant* | 5PM

*Lessons and Carols* | 8PM

*Carols and Communion* | 11PM

## **WEEKLY WORSHIP**

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

**FIRST Worship** Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

**FESTIVAL Worship** Sundays at 11:00 a.m.

**THURSDAY NIGHT CHURCH** Thursdays at 6:00 p.m.

**HEALING Worship**, the second Sunday at 5p.m. via Zoom

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## **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! 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

### **LEARN MORE**

Check out the church website [www.oldsouth.org](http://www.oldsouth.org) for more on the history and ministries of Old South. See [www.oldsouth.org/calendar](http://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, & M.D. 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



## DECK THE HALL

1. Deck the hall with boughs of holly, Fa-la-la-la-la, La-la-la-la!  
    'Tis the season to be jolly: Fa-la-la-la-la, La-la-la-la!  
    Don we now our gay apparel, Fa-la-la, La-la-la, La-la-la!  
    Troul the ancient yuletide carol, Fa-la-la-la-la, La-la-la-la!

2. See the blazing yule before us, strike the harp and join the chorus! Follow me in merry measure, while I tell of yuletide treasure.	3. Fast away the old year passes, hail the new, ye lads and lasses: sing we joyous all together, heedless of the wind and weather.
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## JINGLE BELLS

1. Dashing through the snow in a one-horse open sleigh,  
    o'er the fields we go, laughing all the way!  
    Bells on bobtail ring, making spirits bright.  
Oh, what fun to ride and sing a sleighing-song tonight!

*Oh, jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way.*  
*Oh, what fun it is to ride in a one-horse open sleigh!*  
*Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way.*  
*Oh, what fun it is to ride in a one-horse open sleigh!*

2. Now the ground is white: go it while you're young,  
    take a friend tonight and sing this sleighing song;  
    just get a bobtailed bay, two-forty as his speed,  
then hitch him to an open sleigh and crack! you'll take the lead.

*Oh, jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way...*

## RUDOLPH, THE RED-NOSED REINDEER

You know Dasher and Dancer and Prancer and Vixen,  
    Comet and Cupid and Donner and Blitzen,  
    but do you recall the most famous reindeer of all?  
Rudolph, the red-nosed reindeer had a very shiny nose,  
    and if you ever saw him, you would even say it glows.  
All of the other reindeer used to laugh and call him names;  
    they never let poor Rudolph join in any reindeer games.

Then one foggy Christmas Eve Santa came to say,  
"Rudolph, with your nose so bright, won't you guide my sleigh tonight?"

Then all the reindeer loved him as they shouted out with glee,  
"Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer, you'll go down in history!"

## FROSTY THE SNOWMAN

1. Frosty the Snowman was a jolly happy soul  
with a corn-cob pipe and a button nose,  
and two eyes made out of coal.

Frosty the Snowman is a fairy tale they say.  
He was made of snow but the children know  
how he came to life one day.

*(bridge:)* There must have been some magic in that old silk hat they found,  
for when they placed it on his head he began to dance around.

Frosty the Snowman was alive as he could be,  
and the children say he could laugh and play  
just the same as you and me.

2. Frosty the Snowman knew the sun was hot that day,  
so he said, "Let's run, and we'll have some fun  
now, before I melt away."

Down to the village with a broomstick in his hand  
running here and there all around the square  
sayin', "Catch me if you can!"

*(bridge:)* He led them down the streets of town right to the traffic cop  
and he only paused a moment when he heard them holler, "Stop!"

Frosty the Snowman had to hurry on his way,  
but he waved goodbye, sayin' "Don't you cry—  
I'll be back again some day!"

*(coda:)* Thumpity-thump-thump, thumpity-thump-thump,  
look at Frosty go!  
Thumpity-thump-thump, thumpity-thump-thump,  
over the hills of snow!

## WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS

1. We wish you a Merry Christmas, we wish you a Merry Christmas,  
we wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!  
Good tidings we bring to you and your kin;  
good tidings for Christmas and a happy New Year!

2. Now bring us a figgy pudding, now bring us a figgy pudding,  
now bring us a figgy pudding, and bring it right here!  
Good tidings we bring to you and your kin;  
good tidings for Christmas and a happy New Year!

3. We wish you a Merry Christmas, we wish you a Merry Christmas,  
we wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!  
Good tidings we bring to you and your kin;  
good tidings for Christmas and a happy New Year!