



## A CANDLELIGHT SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

December 24, 2023

8:00 p.m.

OLD SOUTH CHURCH *in BOSTON*

It is Christmas time, a halting-of-hate time.  
On this platform of peace, we can create a language  
to translate ourselves to ourselves and to each other.  
At this holy instant, we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.  
—from Maya Angelou’s *Amazing Peace: A Christmas Poem*

\* Indicates all who are able may stand

## FOREST GREEN

## GREENSLEEVES

*Marche des Rois Mages*

## Away in a Manger

Richard Purvis, *arr.*

Théodore Dubois

Sue Mitchell Wallace

& John Head, *arrs.*

## \*CAROL

## O Come, All Ye Faithful

## ADESTE FIDELES



O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O  
 God of God, Light of Light e - ter - nal,  
 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion!  
 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem!  
 Lo! he dis - dains not the vir - gin's womb;  
 Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove:  
 Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry giv'n;



Come and be - hold him, born the King of An - gels!  
 tru - ly our God, be - got - ten, not cre - at - ed:  
 'Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est!  
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing.

## Refrain



O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him;



O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

Text: John Francis Wade, c. 1743; trans. Frederick Oakeley, 1841, alt.  
 Tune: ADESTE FIDELES, John Francis Wade, c. 1743

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION *adapted from Frederick Buechner*

One: Holy Jesus, O Son of the Most High, Prince of Peace, be born again into our world.

**Many: Wherever there is war in this world, wherever there is pain;**

One: Wherever there is loneliness, wherever there is no hope, come.

**Many: Come, O long-expected one, with healing in your wings.**

One: Holy Child, whom the shepherds and the kings and the dumb beasts adored, be born again.

**Many: Wherever there is boredom, wherever there is fear of failure;**

One: Wherever there is temptation too strong to resist, wherever there is bitterness of heart;

**Many: Come, O Blessed One, with healing in your wings.**

One: Savior, be born in each of us as we raise our faces to your face,  
not knowing fully who we are or who you are;

**Many: Knowing only that your love is beyond our knowing and that no other  
has the power to make us whole. Come, Lord Jesus, to each who longs for you  
even though we have forgotten your name. Come quickly. Amen.**

WELCOME

Ashley J. Popperson, *Associate Minister*

\*CAROL

### It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

CAROL



It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,  
Still through the clo - ven skies they come, with peace - ful wings un - furled,  
Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suf - fered long:  
And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,  
For lo, the days are has - t'ning on, by proph - et - bards fore - told,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:  
and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world:  
be - neath the heav'n - ly hymn have rolled two thou - sand years of wrong,  
who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow,  
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years comes 'round the Age of Gold,



"Peace on the earth, good - will to all, from heav - en's gra - cious King":  
a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov'r - ing wing,  
and we, at war on earth, hear not the tid - ings which they bring:  
look now! for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;  
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,



the world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.  
and ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.  
O hush the noise and cease the strife to hear the an - gels sing!  
O rest be - side the wea - ry road, and hear the an - gels sing!  
and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Text: Edmund Hamilton Sears, *Christian Register* [Boston], 1849, alt.

Tune: CAROL, Richard Storrs Willis, *Church Carols and Choir Studies*, 1850;  
adapt. Uzziah Christopher Burnap (1834-1900)

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 40:1-11

Laura Walker Dunn

*The prophet speaks of a world reconfigured by the coming of God's anointed one.*

ANTHEM

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Evelyn Simpson-Curenton, *arr.*

*Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.

THE SECOND LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

Rubén Bonilla-Santiago

*The angel Gabriel announces to Mary the fullness of time.*

ANTHEM

The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy

André J. Thomas, *arr.*

The Virgin Mary had a baby boy...  
...and they said that his name was Jesus.

*He come from the glory, he come from the glorious kingdom.  
Oh yes, believer! Born in Bethlehem!*

The angels sang when the baby was born...  
...and they said that his name was Jesus.

Wise men came from afar:  
they came following that star.  
They saw where the babe was born  
and they said that his name was Jesus.

THE THIRD LESSON

Luke 2:1-20

Manuel Navia

*When the time is come, the holy birth is revealed first to shepherds.*



“Come,” they told me, “our newborn King to see.”  
Our finest gifts we bring to lay before the King,  
so to honor him when we come.

Baby Jesus, I am a poor boy, too.  
I have no gift to bring that’s fit to give our King.  
Shall I play for you on my drum?

Mary nodded. The ox and lamb kept time.  
I played my drum for him; I played my best for him.  
Then he smiled at me, me and my drum.

## THE FOURTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1–12

Paula Hammond

*Sages led by a star encounter the power of evil and the Epiphany of Love.*

## \*CAROL

**We Three Kings of Orient Are**

KINGS OF ORIENT

*n.b.: The choir alone sings verse 4; the refrain is sung by all.*



We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we trav - erse a - far,  
Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain,  
Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I, in - cense owns a de - i - ty nigh;  
(choir only) Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom;  
Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice:



field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.  
King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.  
prayer and prais - ing voic - es rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God on High.  
sorrow - ing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.  
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! sounds through the earth and skies.



O star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright,



west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light.

Text: John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1857, alt.

Tune: KINGS OF ORIENT, John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1857

## \*CAROL

**Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

MENDELSSOHN



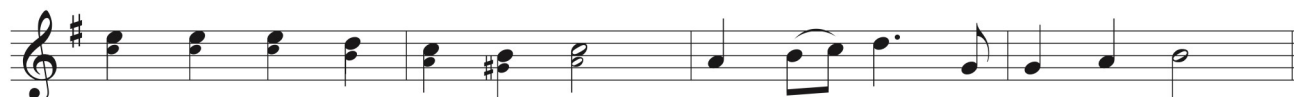
Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;  
 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of right - eous - ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
 Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful all ye na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate de - i - ty,  
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
 pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - ma - nu - el.  
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.

Tune: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1840;  
adapt. W. H. Cummings, 1855

## THE FIFTH LESSON

John 1:1-16 *selections*

Pamela Roberts

*John ponders the mystical convergence of God's holy time and human time.*

## ANTHEM

Jesus Christ the Apple Tree

Elizabeth Poston

The tree of life my soul hath seen,  
 laden with fruit and always green;  
 the trees of nature fruitless be,  
 compared with Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel,  
 by faith I know but ne'er can tell

the glory which I now can see,  
in Jesus Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought,  
and pleasure dearly I have bought;  
I missed of all but now I see  
'tis found in Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,  
it keeps my dying faith alive;  
which makes my soul in haste to be  
with Jesus Christ the apple tree.

## CALL TO THE OFFERING

Rachel J. Barton

*Assistant Minister & Nancy S. Taylor Fellow*



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

In the Bleak Midwinter

Dale Wood, *arr.*

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan;  
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;  
heaven and earth shall pass away when he comes to reign:  
in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed  
the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

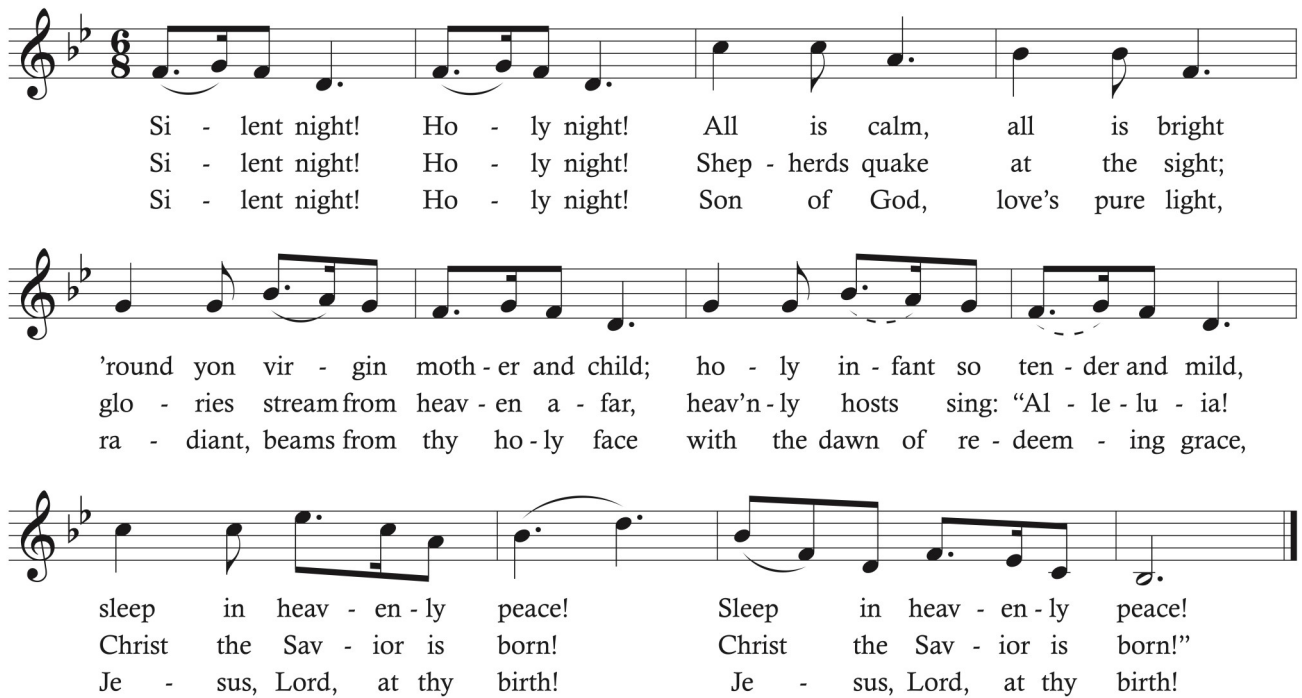
Angels and archangels may have gathered there;  
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;  
only his mother, in her maiden bliss,  
worshiped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

CAROL *seated*

**Silent night! Holy night!**

STILLE NACHT



Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright  
 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight;  
 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light,

'round yon vir - gin moth - er and child; ho - ly in - fant so ten - der and mild,  
 glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav'n - ly hosts sing: "Al - le - lu - ia!  
 ra - diant, beams from thy ho - ly face with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,

sleep in heav - en - ly peace! Sleep in heav - en - ly peace!  
 Christ the Sav - ior is born! Christ the Sav - ior is born!"  
 Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth! Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth!

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1816; English trans. John Freeman Young, 1863  
 Tune: STILLE NACHT, Franz Xaver Gruber, 1818

BENEDICTION

John M. Edgerton





Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth  
 Joy to the earth! the Sav - ior reigns: let all  
 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns  
 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes



re - ceive her King! let eve - ry heart pre - pare him  
 their songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
 in - fest the ground: he comes to make his bless - ings  
 the na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous -



room, and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing!  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.

Tune: ANTIOCH, attr. George Frederick Handel, 1742;  
 arr. Lowell Mason, 1836

# MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Donations have been made by Old South members and friends in honor and memory of loved ones. A listing of gifts is available at the back of the Sanctuary.



## **OLD SOUTH CLOSED DECEMBER 25<sup>th</sup> THROUGH 30<sup>th</sup>, and JANUARY 1<sup>st</sup>**

The staff of Old South has been running at top speed this fall creating and carrying out our signature services. To allow them time to rest and prepare for the start of the new year, the church will be closed the week between Christmas and New Year's Eve. May you and yours have a blessed Christmas and a most joyous New Year!

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

### **SIMPLE NEW YEAR'S SERVICE**

*Sunday, December 31st, at 10 a.m. in the Chapel*

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

*Sunday, December 31st at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary*

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



# 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*

Rachel Barton, *Assistant Minister and Nancy S. Taylor Fellow*

Donald A. Wells, *Theologian in Residence* ❖ June R. Cooper, *Theologian in the City*

David Story, *Wedding Minister* ❖ Ken Orth, *Healing Worship Minister*

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*

Rémy Hatfield-Gardner, *Administrative Assistant* ❖ Kathleen Steen, *Staff Accountant*

Emily Ross, *Archivist* ❖ Karen Hand, *Wedding Coordinator*

Jamie Garuti Sage, *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