



January 14th, 2024 ❖ 11:00 a.m.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday

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

I Love the Lord
Eren Brooks, *soloist*

Richard Smallwood

I love the Lord, who heard my cry and pitied every groan.
Long as I live and troubles rise, I'll hasten to God's throne.

*HYMN 514

Over My Head

African American trad.

We'll sing the following verses:

1. Over my head I **hear music** in the air...
2. Over my head I **hear singing** in the air...
3. Over my head I **see trouble** in the air...
4. Over my head I **see freedom** in the air...

This African-American spiritual was widely sung during the 1960s folk-song movement. It was also a freedom song for the civil rights struggle and sometimes included the stanza: "Over my head I see freedom in the air." —New Century Hymnal

** Indicates all who are able may stand*

WELCOME

Ashley J. Popperson

INVOCATION *adapted from Rev. James Lawson*

One: You have to plan and scheme
if you are going to exercise the power of truth and love.
That won't happen by accident.

**Many: There are millions of people around the world
who exercise daily care for life, for their children, for their village,
for the street where they live, for their community, for their nation.**

One: Far more millions of people faithfully follow the life of love than we know.

**Many: Yet, we have inherited a world that is largely dominated
by power-brokers of one kind or another.**

One: Part of the nonviolent revolution is to struggle
against those power-brokers who want the world under their domain
rather than under the will of God.

Many: That is a struggle that goes on and on.

Rev. Lawson is a titan of the nonviolence movement. A colleague of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Rev. Lawson has continued in the work of nonviolent social change his whole life. He is 95 years old.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

ANTHEM

I Dream

Flo Roach

Vester and Murdock, *arrs.*

OLD SOUTH CHURCH GOSPEL CHOIR

Eren Brooks and Ida Kamrara, *soloists*

Tim Harbold, *director*

I dream of a world with no hatred or strife.
I dream of a world that respects human life.
Oh, I dream of a world, dream of a world full of love.

I dream of a world with no hurt and no pain.
I dream of a world where we all are the same.
Oh, I dream of a world, dream of a world full of love.

I dream of a world with no terror or fear.
I dream of a world where God wipes every tear.
Oh, I dream of a world, dream of a world full of love.

LISTEN

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kate M. Nintcheu

*HYMN 293

There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit

SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT

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

SERMON

A Little Lower than the Angels

John M. Edgerton

*HYMN 35

O Mighty God, When I Survey in Wonder

O STORE GUD

RESPOND

*CALL TO PRAYER

Madison Chau

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. *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

Done Made My Vow to the Lord

Kenneth W. Louis, *arr.*

*Done made my vow to the Lord, and I never will turn back,
I will go, I shall go to see what the end will be.*

Sometimes I'm up, sometimes I'm down,
sometimes my soul feels heavenly bound.

If you get there before I do
tell all my friends I'm coming, too.

LAY REFLECTION

Katie Studer

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

Mighty Long Way

Joe Pace

COMBINED FESTIVAL AND GOSPEL CHOIRS

Ida Kamrara and Eren Brooks, *soloists*

Mighty long way, mighty long way,
Lord, you brought me from a mighty long way.
Oh, mighty long way, mighty long way,
Lord, you brought me, brought me,
brought me from a mighty long way.

I've cried many tears down through the years,
almost lost my mind but I'm still here.
Dangers seen and unseen,
Lord, you kept me from every little thing.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN 437

We Shall Not Give Up the Fight

ONLY STARTED

*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

John M. Edgerton

POSTLUDE

Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me 'Round

Spiritual



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

The flowers today are given
in loving memory of loving memory of
Barbara and Howard Luckenbach
By Beth Luckenbach and Kathleen Carey.

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

Many thanks to today's band:
Willie Sordillo, *saxophone*
Doug Rich, *bass*
Phil McGowan, *percussion*



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

HOLY WEEK 2024

Palm Sunday — March 24th | 9AM & 11AM

Maundy Thursday — March 28th | 7PM

Good Friday — March 29th | 12PM & 7PM

Easter Sunday — March 31st | 9AM & 11AM

MARATHON SUNDAY — April 14th, 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 12th, 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.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY — November 3rd, 2024 | 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 24th, 2024 | 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 24th, 2023

Family Service with Impromptu Pageant | 5PM

LESSONS AND CAROLS | 8PM

CAROLS AND COMMUNION | 11PM

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 21st 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 Associate Minister Ashley Popperson for more info at ashley@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 or see the front desk.

LEARN MORE

Check out the church website at www.oldsouth.org/calendar for a calendar of events, and the general website 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.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

STEWARDSHIP AT OLD SOUTH CHURCH

Go to tinyurl.com/2024OSCpledge to make your pledge

In this year's Stewardship campaign, we invite you to join us down a new road brimming with possibilities. Like vibrant rainbows adorning the sky, our collective efforts illuminate the path ahead. Join us in sharing the treasures of community, commitment, and collaboration, including the invaluable contribution of your financial support as we forge a brighter future together. During Stewardship month, each member of Old South Church is encouraged to commit annually, or pledge, a certain financial donation to Old South Church. Together, our dollars fuel the church's ministries. We ask members to consider giving a meaningful amount for them. Or, by pledging a percentage of their income: 1%, 2% up to 10%. We ask members to "Give until it feels good!"



STEWARDSHIP CELEBRATION LUNCH

Sunday, January 28th, following Festival Worship, in Mary Norton Hall, 2nd floor

Go to tinyurl.com/2024Stewardshiplunch to RSVP

We will lift up our communal generosity at Stewardship Celebration services on Thursday, January 25th and Sunday, January 28th and celebrate our shared belonging to this faithful community of givers who support all that Old South Church has to offer. Everyone is invited to a joyful Stewardship Celebration Lunch following Festival Worship on January 28th. Let us know you are coming by going to tinyurl.com/2024Stewardshiplunch.

THE COMMUNITY HOUR FORUM

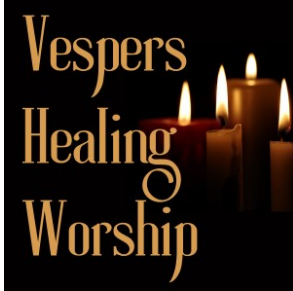
Sundays, 10 a.m., 2nd floor Mary Norton Hall and online,

go to tinyurl.com/OSCF forums for Zoom link, password: Community

This casual, no-commitment, come-when-you-can forum hosts series on a variety of topics. Clergy, lay, and special guests share in leading sessions.

Sunday January 14th

Ever wonder what it means when we talk about the "wider church?" Join Area Conference Minister, and Old South Member, Alex Shea Will, for a brief introduction to and conversation about the United Church of Christ in the Boston area and Beyond. We'll talk about the structure of our denomination, how we work together to share the love and justice of Jesus, and what ministry your financial support of the wider church makes possible.



VESPERS HEALING WORSHIP

Next service January 14th, 5pm on Zoom,
go to tinyurl.com/OSCHHealing 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.

TWILIGHT WORSHIP: EXPECT CREATIVE DISRUPTION

Thursdays, 6 p.m., in the Gordon Chapel

Our Thursday evening worship service is undergoing some creative change. You'll notice these changes over the next few months. We'll be trying out various orders of worship, styles of music, and working toward a more formal launch of a renewed service in the months to come. If you have feedback, we'd love to hear it! Email ashley@oldsouth.org.

LEARN MORE ABOUT GBIO'S HOUSING JUSTICE CAMPAIGN

Sunday, January 21, following Festival Worship

Join us for a teach-in about the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) Housing Justice Campaign! Come to learn more about the work we're doing to impact current legislation on affordable housing and justice for those returning from incarceration, and to hear about ongoing events being held with state legislators. Snacks will be provided.

SAVE THE DATE FOR HUGE GBIO GATHERING

Sunday, March 3rd, exact time and location TBD,

tinyurl.com/March24GBIOAction to register

On the afternoon of Sunday, March 3, GBIO will be coming out to bring our Housing Justice Campaign home. Register now for this huge and important action. Starting with 300 of us at the State House, then 1,400 together at Temple Israel in June, and 100s so far with our legislators in ongoing In-District Meetings, we have demanded affordable housing through the real estate transfer fee, full funding of public housing, and key supports for our reentering citizens. We will continue to raise our voices as one. Everyone deserves a home.



REGISTER FOR THE OLD SOUTH TEAM AT THE 8th ANNUAL WINTER WALK

Sunday, February 11th, meet at at 8:30 a.m. for registration

On the Common at the corner of Beacon and Charles Streets

The Winter Walk is an initiative that believes ending homelessness is within our reach. Their mission is to raise awareness and funds towards that goal, and to support organizations that are working on prevention, support, and care for our homeless community. Join the Old South team as we take this 2 mile walk through the streets of Boston during the coldest month of the year, beginning and ending on Boston Common on Sunday, February 11th, 2024 from 9 a.m.-11 a.m.! To register, go to tinyurl.com/winterwalk2024 and select either fundraise or donate (your registration fee is already covered because OSC is a sponsor), then select Join a Team and find Old South's team. From there you may choose to donate extra money if you choose! Questions? John Edgerton jme@oldsouth.org.



NEW PARKING POLICIES FOR 100 CLARENDON GARAGE

Effective this month, the 100 Clarendon Garage increased their rates from \$7 to \$10 for 3-hour parking validation for Old Southerners on Saturdays and Sundays only. They no longer offer weekday parking discounts. Please see the front desk to get your parking validated.

SNACKS FOR FESTIVAL WORSHIP COFFEE HOUR

Go to tinyurl.com/OSC2024hospitality to sign up

Join us in spreading joy through snacks! We're on the lookout for volunteers, individuals or families, to whip up delicious treats and bring them to OSC for coffee hour. Whether you're a whiz at picking treats from the store, a baking aficionado, or prefer assembling fruit plates, your talents are welcome. Each volunteer will bring enough snacks for around twenty people, and we usually need three volunteers per Festival service. If you're ready to serve and satisfy taste buds, sign up at the link above and drop off your creations in the Crawford Library with David Brode just before the Festival Service.

REQUEST FROM (G)RACE SPEAKS

If you are a person who identifies as BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color), we want to hear from you! As we create future programming, we seek your input. To provide ideas, please contact Anne Scholder anne.scholder@gmail.com or Deb Washington nelldarnell@outlook.com.



Old South Church in Boston

DONALD A. WELLS PREACHING PRIZE WINNER ANNOUNCED



The Donald A. Wells Preaching Prize is awarded yearly to a student in any of the theological schools in the Southern NE Conference of the UCC. The prize was established in 2007 by the Massachusetts Bible Society in honor of retiring Executive Director Donald Wells honoring the best social justice sermon based on Biblical texts. This year's recipient is Andrea Barton Reeves, who is a Social Justice Scholar working toward her Master of Arts in Religion degree at Yale Divinity School. Reeves is the Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Social Services and a member of Faith Congregational Church in

Hartford, CT. "The question posed in the title of her sermon, Jesus Loves the Little Children. Do We? was an invitation to interpret Matthew 18:1-5 in a new way, as well as a call to action," said Rev. Margret Hofmeister, Area Conference Minister, who staffed the contest review committee. Reeves' sermon will be presented during the Conference's online Martin Luther King, Jr. Day worship service on Monday, Jan. 15th.

GREEN TIP: Turn Off the Lights

Living a more green life can be as simple as remembering to turn off your lights in the home. You probably do not need every light on, so why not think to turn them off when not in use? Another trick is to plug your appliances and electronic devices into a power bar. That way, just flick the switch on the bar to stop the "phantom energy" from being sucked from the power grid. Believe it or not, energy is still being used even when your electronic devices are off.

WEEKLY WORSHIP

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

TWILIGHT Worship, 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 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.

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