Meeting House Worship
Old South Church *in* Boston

November 22, 2026 ❖ 11:00 a.m.

WELCOME TO THIS 71st ANNIVERSARY
of the return of Old South Church to our ancestral home.
While we left the Meeting House in 1872 for our current location in Copley Square,
we return annually to honor our forebears in the faith —
they who still rejoice with us, but upon a farther shore and in a greater light.
Join us next Sunday back home at 645 Boylston Street.

GATHER

PRELUDE

Fanfare for the Common Man — Aaron Copland
Fanfare for the Inauguration of John F. Kennedy — Leonard Bernstein

Plain-Chant for America — William Grant Still

For the dream unfinished out of which we came,
we stand together, while a hemisphere darkens
and the nations flame!

Our earth has been hallowed with death for freedom;
our walls have been hallowed with freedom's thought.

Concord, Valley Forge, Harper's Ferry
light up with their flares our sky of doubt.

We fear tyranny as our hidden enemy:
the black-shirt cruelty, the goose-step mind.
No dark signs close the doors of our speaking.
No bayonets bar the doors to our prayers.
No gun butts shadow our children's eyes.

Our earth has been hallowed...

If we have failed — lynchings in Georgia,
justice in Massachusetts undone,
the bloody fields of South Chicago! —
still a voice from the bruised and the battered
speaks out in the light of a free sun, saying,
"Tell them again, say it, America;
say it again till it splits their ears;
freedom is salt in our blood and its bone shape;
if freedom fails we'll fight for more freedom!"

Our earth has been hallowed...

Tell them, America! Say it again!
Our star, once acclaimed, will not wane!

—Katherine Garrison Chapin, 1941

INTROIT CHESTER William Billings (1778)

William Billings was a singing teacher and trainer of choirs for several churches in colonial Boston, including the Brattle Street Church and Old South Church.

Let tyrants shake their iron rod, and slavery clank her galling chains;
we fear them not, we trust in God: New England's God forever reigns.

Howe and Burgoyne and Clinton too, with Prescot and Cornwallis joined,
together plot our overthrow, in one infernal league combined.

When God inspired us for the fight, their ranks were broke, their lines were forced,
their ships were shattered in our sight, or swiftly driven from our coast.

The foe comes on with haughty stride; our troops advance with martial noise,
their veterans flee before our youth, and Generals yield to beardless boys.

What grateful offering shall we bring? What shall we render to the Lord?
Loud "halleluiahs" let us sing, and praise his name on every chord.

*CALL TO WORSHIP Ashley J. Popperson

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous:
praise befits the upright.
Sing to the Lord a new song;
play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.
For the word of the Lord is right and true,
and all her work is done in faithfulness.
God loves righteousness and justice;
the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord.
Our soul waits for the Lord;
he is our help and shield.
Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us,
even as we hope in you. *adapted from Psalm 33*

*HYMN *see insert* **Come, Ye Thankful People, Come** ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR
Setting: Richard Webster

WELCOME

*A SIGN OF OUR UNITY AND RECONCILIATION

We invite you to greet those around you,
wishing them "peace" or "the peace of Christ."

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ANTHEM — The God Who Gave Us Life, from "The Testament of Freedom" — Randall Thompson

The God who gave us life gave us liberty at the same time:
the hand of force may destroy, but cannot disjoin them.

—Thomas Jefferson,
"A Summary View of the Rights of British America," 1774

LISTEN

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE — Kate M. Nintcheu

SCRIPTURE — Mark 6:14-29 — Donald Wells

SERMON — He Has Been Raised — John M. Edgerton

*HYMN *see insert* — **We Gather Together** — KREMSER
Setting: Richard Webster

RESPOND

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT — Maren Batalden,
Moderator, Old South Church Council

CALL TO PRAYER — Rachel J. Barton

God be with you.
And also with you.
Let us give thanks to God, the Creator of all things visible and invisible,
powerful beyond measure, good beyond all understanding.
God's steadfast love endures forever.
Let us pray. *You may be seated.*

LITANY OF CONFESSION AND THANKSGIVING

We give hearty thanks, O God, for divine gifts granted to us and to this earth, gifts that are greater than we can ask for or understand.

Thanks be to you, O God.

We remember those coming to these shores seeking freedom to worship and to build a community with you at its heart. With poignancy, pain, and regret, we remember the indigenous inhabitants of this land, ranging from coast to coast, now diminished—victims of those claiming to "build a city on a hill."

Have mercy on us, O God.

We sorrowfully recall oppression visited over the centuries upon Black Americans, immigrants, women, the poor, and queer people, oppressions enshrined in law and blessed by the church.

Forgive us, O God.

In a season in which war, incivility, terror, the plight of refugees and asylum seekers, and economic chaos wreak havoc with human lives; as hunger, pandemics, and ecological disasters afflict hundreds of millions of our dear kindred and as your good Earth suffers at human hands—we beg you:

Have mercy on us, O God.

God of grace and God of glory, we ask your forgiveness and pray we may recast our priorities to more nearly coincide with those of your son: healer of the ill, feeder of the hungry, lover of the outcast, welcomer of the stranger, Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace.

Have mercy on us, O God, and hear our earnest desire to serve you and your realm all the days of our lives.

Thank you, O God, for bestowing forgiveness on those who seek it and who express a readiness to repent and radically change their ways.

Thanks be to you, O God.

Thanks indeed be to you, O God, forgiver of our sins & provider of all the earth's good gifts.

Thanks be to you, O God.

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 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing Kevin McChesney, *arr.*

The Old South Ringers

Peter Coulombe, *director*

CALL TO THE OFFERING Ashley J. Popperson

To give online, scan the QR code

If you're new to Old South scan the QR code to tell us more about yourself

OFFERTORY The Battle Hymn of the Republic Peter J. Wilhousky, *arr.*

When directed by the Minister of Music, you are invited to rise and sing the final refrain.

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
he is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
he hath loosed the fateful lightning of his terrible swift sword:
God's truth is marching on.

Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! God's truth is marching on.

I have seen him in the watchfires of a hundred circling camps;
they have builded him an altar in the evening dews and damps;
I can read his righteous sentence in the dim and flaring lamps,
God's truth is marching on.

In the beauty of the lilies, Christ was born across the sea,
with a glory in his bosom that transfigures you and me:
as he died to make us holy, let us live to make all free,
while God is marching on.

...Amen! Amen!

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN *see insert* **God of the Ages** NATIONAL HYMN

Setting: Mary McDonald

This hymn is the product of two 19th-century centennial celebrations:
the words, for the Declaration of Independence (1876);
the music, for the adoption of the United States Constitution (1892).

*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION John M. Edgerton

POSTLUDE The Stars and Stripes John Philip Sousa

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Old South's ministers and staff wish you and yours a happy Thanksgiving.
Old South Church will be closed November 26th and 27th.

First and Festival Worship return to 645 Boylston Street on Sunday, November 29th;
Thursday Night Church resumes Thursday, December 3rd.

THE OLD SOUTH BRASS
Mary-Lynne Bohn, Steve Banzaert, and Andrew Sorg, *trumpet*
Kevin Owen and Michael Bellofatto, *horn*
Hans Bohn, *trombone* • Ken Amis, *tuba*
Robert Schulz, Craig McNutt, and John Hanchey, *percussion*

Leslie Amper and Jonathan Reddix, *piano*

THE OLD SOUTH RINGERS
Peter Coulombe, *director*
Jennifer Dalrymple, Ashton Gregor, Amy Hagan-Brown, Carly Kinney,
Allie Klump, Anastasia Klump, Stephanie LaShoto-Westfield, Sara Mitnik,
Felix Rath, Claire Shim, Casey Spring, Lisa Spring, Debbie Wiess,
Katie Yammine, Libby Zobel

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UPCOMING SPECIAL SERVICES AND EVENTS

Candlelight Christmas Eve | Thursday, December 24

***Family Service with Impromptu Pageant* | 5PM**
***Lessons and Carols* | 8PM**
***Carols and Communion* | 11PM**

Boston First Night at Old South Church | Thursday, December 31
All events free and open to the public

Organist David Preston | 1pm

A concert of American organ music in celebration of America 250. The program features variations on the National Anthem and "My Country 'Tis of Thee," colonial-era repertoire, and Samuel Barber's Adagio for Strings.

Castle of Our Skins + Old South Church | 4pm

Old South partner organization Castle of Our Skins presents a First Night concert for the first time in the organization's history. A Black arts institution that centers Black arts, culture, and history within each of its curated events, Castle of Our Skins was recently honored by the City of Boston with a new performance venue and workspace at the edge of the South End.

Pipes and Pops | 6:30pm and 8pm

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, come experience Old South's incredible E. M. Skinner organ, with over 7,000 room-shaking pipes!

Ash Wednesday | February 10, 2027 | 12PM & 6PM

Holy Week 2027

***Palm Sunday* | *March 21* | 9AM & 11AM**
***Maundy Thursday* | *March 25* | 6PM**
***Good Friday* | *March 26* | 7PM**

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 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. Please ask at the reception desk.

HEARING ASSISTANCE

Hearing assist devices are available from Ava Welling, our Director of Audio. Please see Ava for a device and instructions on how to use it. For more information or answers to questions, please contact Ava at *ava@oldsouth.org*.

GARAGE PARKING VALIDATIONS

We have arrangements for discounted parking with two nearby garages for Old South Church for Sunday worship services only. 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, *Associate Minister for Transformation*
Dimitri Bawole, *Taylor Fellow*

Donald A. Wells, *Theologian in Residence* ❖ June R. Cooper, *Theologian in the City*
James Harrison Jr., *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*
Tim Harbold, *Director, Gospel Choir* ❖ Peter Coulombe, *Director, Old South Ringers*
Audrey Woodhams, *Creative Director for Thursday Night Church*

Kate Nintcheu, *Director, Children & Family Ministries*
Summer Marsh, *Director, Old South Preschool*
Jamie Chelel, *Children's Choir Director* ❖ *Jonathan Reddix , Children's Choir Accompanist*
Rory Razon, *Youth Group Co-Leader*

Rebecca Pasipanodya, *Director of Operations*
Rémy Hatfield-Gardner, *Administrative Assistant* ❖ Kathleen Steen, *Staff Accountant*
Karen Hand, *Wedding Coordinator*

Jamie G. Sage, *Multimedia Director* ❖ Ava Welling, *Director of Audio*
Rémy Hatfield-Gardner & William Wei, *Livestream Production Assistants*

Elias Perez, *Senior Sexton* ❖ Tahmina Akter, Richard Serebour, & MD Rahman, *Sextons*

Corey Spence, *Weekday Receptionist* ❖ Shirley Bivins, Anna Pratt, Shelia Randolph, & Zach Zang *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

MEETING HOUSE SUNDAY 2026

HYMN INSERT

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come



Text: Henry Alford, 1844, alt.
Tune: ST. GEORGE'S, WINDSOR, George Job Elvey, 1858

We Gather Together



Text: attr. Adrianus Valerius, c. 1626; trans. Theodore Baker, 1894; alt.
Tune: KREMSER, *Neder-landtsch Gedenck-Clanck,* 1626; harm. Eduard Kremser, 1877

God Of the Ages



Text: Daniel Crane Roberts, 1876
Tune: NATIONAL HYMN, George William Warren, 1892

AMERICA 250

EVENTS AT OLD SOUTH CHURCH IN BOSTON

The church that launched the Boston Tea Party and hard-earned its place along the Freedom Trail tips its (tricorn) hat to the nation at the 250th anniversary of its birth!

Ensemble Altera presents "DECLARATIONS" – *A World-Premiere Choral Work*

This past June, Ensemble Altera — together with sponsorship from Old South Church — presented a newly commissioned work reflecting on the American experiment years on: where it began, how it has evolved, and what it asks of us today. At a time when the language of the founding feels both distant and urgently present, "Declarations" offered a space to listen with fresh ears — through music — for clarity, complexity, and common ground.

Meeting House Sunday 2026 | The Old South Meeting House



With special music commemorating the role the Old South congregation and Meeting House played in the seminal events of 1776, this year's worship service honors 250 years of American independence and nationhood.

Organist David Preston in Concert
Boston First Night | Thursday, December 31 at 1pm | Old South Sanctuary

A concert of American organ music in celebration of America 250. The program features variations on the National Anthem and "My Country 'Tis of Thee," colonial-era repertoire, and beloved Samuel Barber's Adagio for Strings.

"Pipes and Pops" Organ and Brass Spectacular!
Boston First Night | Thursday, December 31 at 6:30 & 8pm | Old South Sanctuary

The best of Boston's brass and percussion artists join organist Mitchell Crawford in a supersonic concert of popular classics. This year's all-American program in celebration of America 250 features Fanfares, Marches, and showcases for a variety of instruments, including Leroy Anderson's "Bugler's Holiday" (trumpets) and Henry Fillmore's classic ragtime novelty, "Lassus Trombone." Experience Old South's incredible E. M. Skinner organ, with over 7,000 room-shaking pipes!

AMERICA 250