



Old South Church

Copley Square, Boston

*A Congregation of the
United Church of Christ*

Gathered 1669

September 29, 2024 ❖ 11:00 a.m.

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

GATHER

PRELUDE

Prelude in E-flat

Alexandre Guilmant

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Gracie Paterson

We gather in this place
seeking to live in faithful community
and asking God to guide us.

Lord, revive our souls:
that we might lift each other up.

Lord, revive our souls:
that we might order our communities
in ways that lead us toward love.

Lord, revive our souls.
Let us worship God.

**Indicates all who are able may stand*

*HYMN 304

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

CORONATION

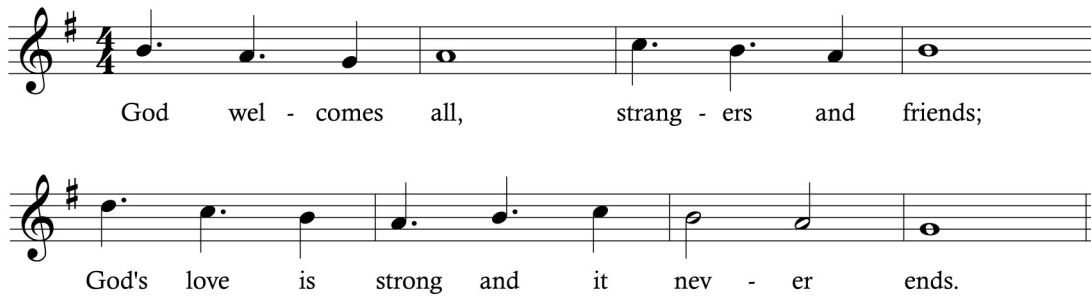
*INVOCATION

...In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

*PASSING THE PEACE

*As a sign of our reconciliation with God and each other,
please greet those around you, saying "peace" or "the peace of Christ."*

SUNG RESPONSE *Seated*



Text: John L. Bell, 2008

Music: South African song; trans. John L. Bell, 2008

WELCOME

ANTHEM

Joy and Celebration
THE OLD SOUTH RINGERS
Peter Coulombe, *director*

Lee J. Afdahl

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Maia Anne Baissa

Child of Dan and Audrey Baissa

BLESSING THE WATER

John M. Edgerton

PRESENTATION AND INTRODUCTION

LITANY OF BAPTISM

We are gathered to present Maia Anne Baissa to the Church and to dedicate her to God. What can we affirm about her?

She is a child of God, made in God's image.

As Maia grows and matures, how will she know she is a child of God and how will she learn of the Christian story?

We will tell her about Abraham and Sarah, the parents of our faith; about Moses and Miriam who led our ancestors out of bondage; about Mary and Joseph's openness to mystery; about the Savior, Jesus.

In turn, what will we expect of her?

We look forward to sitting with her at the Lord's Table, sharing with her the costs and joys of discipleship, learning and growing with her in the Christian pilgrimage, and declaring with one voice our faith in God and God's son, Jesus.

Do you, Audrey and Dan, parents, assume your primary responsibility for fulfilling these expectations by growing with Maia in the Christian faith, helping her to become a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, and by offering her the nurture and support of the Christian church? Will you agree to guide Maia into becoming an engaged and complete human being, teaching her about personal sacrifice for a greater good, about grace and reconciliation at times of human weakness, and the power of unconditional love for all people?

Parents: We happily and genuinely accept this serious duty.

And Old South Church, do you pledge to maintain a nurturing and challenging Christian environment for Maia?

We do, for she belongs to us as well.

Then, may God be with us.

God help us. Amen.

BAPTISM

CONGREGATIONAL WELCOME

Ted Wade, *Baptismal Deacon*

We rejoice in God's empowering love, freely given to each and all. We welcome you, newly baptized, into the circle of love in Christ's Church. We promise to pray for you, to seek the depths of faith with you, to support you, and to love you. We covenant with you to love God with all our hearts, minds, souls, and strength, and our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.

LISTEN

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 49:8-18

Laura Dunn

*HYMN 412

God Moves in a Mysterious Way

DUNDEE

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

SCRIPTURE

Romans 11:1-24

SERMON

A Flourishing Whole

John M. Edgerton

*HYMN 163

Many Are the Lightbeams

LIGHTBEAMS

*CALL TO PRAYER

Gracie Paterson

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

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

He is King of Kings Melva Wilson Costen, *adapt.*

*He is King of kings; he is Lord of lords,
Jesus Christ, the first and last, no one works like him.*

He built his throne up in the air;
and called his saints from everywhere.

He pitched his tents on Canaan ground;
and broke oppressive kingdoms down.

I know that my Redeemer lives;
and by his love sweet blessing gives.

RESPOND

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Gracie Paterson



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

He Is Marvelous!

Rosephanye Powell

He is marvelous! Jesus is wonderful! Give him glory!
Shout to the Lord and proclaim:
he is marvelous, oh so wonderful!
Give him the glory and praise!

For he is King of Kings, and he is Lord of all creation!
Yes, he is King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.
Shout to the Lord!

*DOXOLOGY

Musical notation for the Doxology, consisting of three staves of music in G major (one sharp). The lyrics are written below the notes.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures
here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host;
Cre - a - tor, Christ, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1695, 1709, alt.
Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH, *Genevan Psalter*, 1551

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN 355

God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian

HYFRYDOL

*BENEDICTION

John M. Edgerton

POSTLUDE

Marche Triomphale

Bruce Steane



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

The flowers today are given by Ashley Popperson
with gratitude to the administrators and sextons of Old South .

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

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

SCARED FOR GOOD — October 27th, 2024 | 6PM

Old South Organist MITCHELL-FIRE Crawford and a host of demonic associates will thrill you with spine-tingling sounds of the season, courtesy of our room-rattling Skinner organ.

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, 2024

Family Service with Impromptu Pageant | 5PM

LESSONS AND CAROLS | 8PM

CAROLS AND COMMUNION | 11PM

HOLY WEEK 2025

Palm Sunday — April 13 | 9AM & 11AM

Maundy Thursday — April 17 | 7PM

Good Friday — April 18 | 7PM

EASTER & MARATHON SUNDAY —

April 20th, 2025 | 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.”

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**. For more information, contact Associate Minister Ashley Popperson 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 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 Twilight Worship*

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* ❖ 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

YOGA & MEDITATION THIS SUNDAY

Sundays at 10 a.m. in the basement Club Room

Old South is a gentle space to nourish our spiritual body, but sometimes it's the physical body crying out or subtly seeking our attention. You are invited to join a weekly yoga and meditation small group during the 10 o'clock hour (between the 9 and 11am services) in the Club Room. Please bring a journal and a mat (or just let us know if you need either or both provided) to this time for breath, movement, and fellowship. We look forward to welcoming you. Questions? Email Amy Coe at amyecoe@gmail.com.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy birthday to our members and friends with birthdays in September ! Join us at coffee hour after Festival Worship to celebrate with some cake!

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Sunday, October 6, at First Worship

Join us for a special Blessing of the Animals service from 9-9:30am in the Chapel, where we'll celebrate and bless our beloved pets. Bring your furry friend, your scaley sidekick, a fetching photo, or even a stuffed animal - all are welcome! For those whose animals may not do well inside with others, we'll offer an outdoor blessing following the service.

CONNECTIONS CLASS

Sunday, October 6, Noon

To be a member of Old South Church is to enter the company of Revolutionary Era heroes, abolitionists, suffragettes, anti-poverty crusaders, and poets. Our saints include Benjamin Franklin, Samuel Adams, Phillis Wheatley... and maybe you! Want to learn more about the life of this community of faith and break bread with other newcomers and church members? Join our Connections Info Session! Contact ashley@oldsouth.org for more info.

YOUNG ADULT APPLE PICKING

Sunday, October 6, following Festival Worship

We're going on an adventure! If you're in your 20s or 30s and hungry to get out of the city and connect with folks your age, come apple picking with us! We're heading north to Brooksby Farm in Peabody brooksbyfarm.org - come along! A trip like this needs drivers and rsvps - go to tinyurl.com/OSC24ApplePicking to do both! Got questions? Email Rachel@oldsouth.org.

SCARED FOR GOOD CONCERT

Sunday, October 27, 6 p.m.

Join us for the return of Scared for Good! Old South Organist MitchHELL-FIRE Crawford and a host of demonic associates will thrill you with spine-tingling sounds of the season, courtesy of our room-rattling Skinner organ. Presented in partnership with the Boston Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, we'll collect an offering to support programming for the youngest members of the chapter in memory of Old South's beloved former Minister of Music, (Horrific!) Harry Huff.

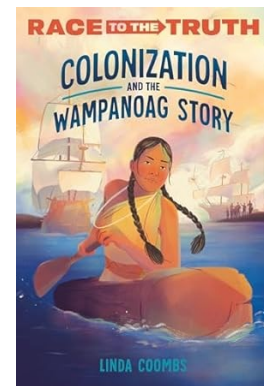
FAMILY BOOK STUDY THIS FALL

Colonization and the Wampanoag Story by Linda Coombs

To see our reading schedule and more, visit oldsouth.org/Wampanoag

Questions? Kate.children@oldsouth.org

Old South families (and interested adults) are invited to join into a fall book study as we read indigenous author Linda Coombs' young readers book: *Colonization and the Wampanoag Story*. This book presents a duet of stories -- one, a first-person account of a young Wampanoag child and what her life, education, and faith looked like - - and the other the story of the 'English' arriving and colonizing the area. These two veins of storytelling alternate back and forth, presenting the very different mindsets of the Wampanoag and other indigenous tribes and the arriving colonizers.



In conjunction with the Congregational Library, Kate Nintcheu, (Dir. Children and Families) has created a book study curriculum, breaking up the readings into 5 sections over 9 weeks - - including an author talk on zoom on Tuesday October 29 and a visit to the Congregational Library to view some of the artifacts they hold from this time period on Sunday November 17. Families are encouraged to read the book over the week, and to set aside time to discuss the 3-5 discussion questions together before beginning the next sections.

WELCOMING OUR NEW NEIGHBORS: HOST HOMES & WELCOME CIRCLES



Massachusetts is facing an acute crisis as shelters are overwhelmed, leaving migrant families and young children without a place to sleep. The primary need is for housing, both temporary and long-term. Old South's New Neighbor Task Force is asking you to prayerfully consider how you might help by hosting a family for a period of time or supporting others who are able to do so. Please fill out the form at the QR code or email ashley@oldsouth.org to learn more.

USHER TRAINING

First Worship on October 13 at 10 a.m. in the chapel

Festival Worship on October 22 at 12:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Curious about those friendly folks who offer you a smile and a bulletin at worship? These are our ushers. Ushers offer a warm welcome and Christian hospitality to all those who worship with us. You don't need a formal role to be an usher at Old South. If you're interested in learning more about ushering and being on OSC's front lines of friendliness, attend an Usher Training. Join our team! Questions? Email ashley@oldsouth.org

VOLUNTEER TO READ SCRIPTURE

Go to tinyurl.com/Sep-Dec2024ScriptureReader to sign up

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@oldsouth.org.

SMALL GROUPS

Go to oldsouth.org/small-groups for more info or to sign up

Looking to meet new people? Learn new things? Deepen your faith? Just have fun? Join a small group. Small groups are the heart of the church. Questions? Email rachel@oldsouth.org.



HEARD IT AT COUNCIL

Go to tinyurl.com/OSCCouncilSept24 to get an update from Church Historian Kate Silfen on Council discussions that include a taskforce looking into changing church governance and encouraging financial news.

GREEN TIP: *Change Your Thermostat*

As the weather turns colder we invite you to think about changing to a smart thermostat. They can be connected to your central heating and air conditioning systems. This ever-evolving technology remembers your home's heating patterns and knows when to heat or cool down your home based on outside temperatures. They use presence-sensing technology that automatically switches off your system when you leave the house and fires it up in time for you to come home. Smart thermostats can save the average American household around 8% on their heating and cooling bills, or about \$50 per year. However, the benefits to the environment are priceless.

VESPERS HEALING WORSHIP:

Next service Sunday, October 13, 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.

THURSDAY NIGHT CHURCH

Thursdays, 6 p.m.

Thursday Night Church is here! After a year of dreaming, planning and working, we're excited to introduce our redesigned Thursday service. Thursday Night Church is a worship service where the music is contemporary, the space is open-hearted and in-the-round, and the preaching is focused on how we can be the church together in the world.

THURSDAY NIGHT SUPPER CLUB

After worship, join us for Thursday Night Supper Club. Each week, folks can gather after worship for dinner and an informal small group hosted by some of our friendly and hospitable lay leaders.

WEEKLY WORSHIP

Join us in person, on Vimeo, 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 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