



Old South Church

Copley Square, Boston

*A Congregation of the
United Church of Christ*

Gathered 1669

May 3, 2026 ❖ 11:00 a.m.

Fourth Sunday of Easter

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

GATHER

PRELUDE

Communion, Op. 39, Nr. 5

Alexandre Guilmant

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Justin Tyler Dickerson

In you, O God, we seek refuge;
you never let your people be put to shame.

**Incline your ear to us, O God;
be a rock of rescue for your people.**

You are our rock and our fortress,
you lead us and guide us in all circumstances.

**Incline your ear to us, God, in days of joy,
and when your people are in distress.**

**Indicates all who are able may stand*

Holy One, you deliver us from all trials,
and your face shines upon your servants.

**Incline your ear to us, God;
hold us in your steadfast love.**

Let us sing praises to our God,
let our hearts take courage as we wait on the Lord!

**We will sing with all our strength.
Thanks be to God. Hallelujah!**

*HYMN 251

I Greet You Sure Redeemer

TOULON

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

WELCOME

Justin Tyler Dickerson

ANTHEM

Mothering God

Larry J. Long

Mothering God, you gave me birth in the bright morning of this world.
Creator, source of every breath: you are my rain, my wind, my sun.

Mothering Christ, you took my form, offering me your food of light.
Grain of life, and grape of love: your very body for my peace.

Mothering Spirit, nurturing one, in arms of patience hold me close,
so that in faith I root and grow until I flower, until I know.

LISTEN

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 3:1-6; 13-15

Rob Gabler

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Kate M. Nintcheu

*HYMN 256

We Live By Faith and Not by Sight

DUNLAP'S CREEK

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

SCRIPTURE

John 14:1-14

SERMON

Untroubled Hearts

Rachel J. Barton

*HYMN 506

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

ERIE

RESPOND

*CALL TO PRAYER

Kat E. Woodard

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

Come and Let Us Worship God

Cranmer Muhabura;
John L. Bell, *arr.*

Come and let us worship God,
turn to serve the living Lord,
move from where we are misled,
do as ancient prophets said.

*Oh, our ever-loving God:
we, the creatures of your word,
come to make our home in you,
knowing that your word is true.*

Though society goes astray,
keen to find an easier way,
let our eyes be on God's care:
evident and everywhere.

Let us hear our Maker's voice,
and let Christ inform each choice.
Sisters, brothers, strangers, friends:
let us turn to God again.

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

I Sing Because I'm Happy

Rollo Dilworth, *adapt.*

I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free.
His eye is on the sparrow and I know he watches me.

I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free.
For his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.

I'm so happy, yes! I'm so happy, yes I am!
For his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN 77

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

Sicilian Mariners

*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

Rachel J. Barton

POSTLUDE

Fugue in d minor, BWV 565

J.S. Bach



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

The flowers today are given by Diane Palmer,
in loving memory of David Scott Palmer.

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

UPCOMING SPECIAL SERVICES

PHILLIS WHEATLEY SUNDAY

May 10, 2026 | 11am

Old South honors and learns from one of the saints of this church, an 18th century poet who was stolen from Africa, suffered the Middle Passage, was sold into slavery, and wrote her way to freedom.

PENTECOST SUNDAY

May 24, 2026 | 11am

Join us for an expansive and exhilarating service that celebrates the Holy Spirit coming to dwell amongst the people. This service includes the Old South tradition of showering our majestic sanctuary with red petals at the culmination of the scripture reading.

MEMBERSHIP & CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

May 31, 2026 | 11am

On this special Sunday, we welcome both new members and confirmands, as well as honor our long-term members. The Children's Choir will also sing in this multigenerational service.

YOUTH SUNDAY

June 7, 2026 | 9am & 11am

Each spring, our Youth Group leads worship at 9am and 11am. Youth Sunday is our opportunity to be led and inspired by our older students, and to celebrate those graduating high school.

PRIDE SUNDAY

June 14, 2026 | 9am & 11am

On the second Sunday in LGBTQ+ Pride Month, we fill the Sanctuary with song, prayers, praise, and worship of the God who loves and embraces all. This year, Drag Queen Ms. Penny Cost will preach at both services.

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, 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*

Kat Woodard, *Taylor Resident for Mission in the City* ❖ Justin Tyler Dickerson, *Seminarian*

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

James Harrison Jr. & 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*

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* ❖ Yuexuan Joyce Wang, *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 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, & MD Rahman, *Sextons*

Corey Spence, *Weekday Receptionist*

Shirley Bivins, Anna Pratt, & 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 & guide.



**OLD
SOUTH
CHURCH**
in BOSTON

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME TO OUR NEW 'BELONG' CONSULTANT

(G)RACE Speaks and the BELONG Search Committee are excited to introduce **Roeshana Moore-Evans**, our new Ministry Consultant for Congregational Belonging and Engagement. Over the next year and beyond, Roeshana will guide our efforts to ensure that Old South is a place of nurturing and belonging for *everyone*. Roeshana comes to us from Equity Empowerment Consulting, which she founded guided by the principle that "lasting change happens when equity is at the center."



UPCOMING COMMUNITY HOUR FORUMS

Sundays at 10am in Mary Norton Hall

MEET DR. JIM O'CONNELL

Sunday, May 3 at 10am in Mary Norton Hall

Join us for a rare and inspiring conversation with Dr. Jim O'Connell, the pioneering physician behind Boston's Health Care for the Homeless Program. For decades, Dr. Jim has devoted his life to bringing medical care, dignity, and compassion directly to Boston's most vulnerable residents — and now he's coming to Old South to share that journey with us.

Come hear him speak, ask questions, and be moved by a story of medicine, mission, and faith in action. No reading required — Dr. Jim's talk stands on its own. That said, if you'd like to go deeper, Old South's Homelessness & Housing Insecurity Task Force had sponsored an All-church read of Tracy Kidder's *Rough Sleepers*, which chronicles Dr. Jim's remarkable work and is a wonderful companion to the discussion. Questions? Contact Paul Brouillette at brouillettepaul@gmail.com.

RESOURCES TO CARE FOR A LOVED ONE

Sunday, May 17 at 10am in Mary Norton Hall

Are your parents aging? Are you caring for an ailing loved one? Do you need a will or a health care proxy? Learn how to prepare for the unexpected. Come with questions, leave with knowledge and handouts. Presented by members of the Planned Giving Committee.

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

Next meeting May 3 and every First Sunday, 10am, in the Columbarium

Need some space to breathe? Time to rest in the spacious silence of God's presence? Please join us for Contemplative Prayer. Together, we'll engage in practices of contemplative prayer, share from our hearts, and find strength and solace in God's abiding love. Questions? Email ashley@oldsouth.org.

VESPERS HEALING WORSHIP

Next Service Sunday, May 10, 5pm 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.

NEW AROUND HERE?

Sunday, May 17, in Rev. Ashley's office, meet in elevator lobby at 10:05am

Join Pastor Ashley and church members for informal conversation and coffee. If you've been coming for one week, or a dozen, or just exploring online, join us to get to know more about the church and to make a friend or two! Questions? Email ashley@oldsouth.org.

CONNECTIONS LUNCH

Sunday, May 17 at 12:15pm

New to Old South? Come to our Connections Lunch! Connections lunches are great places to get to know other newcomers, learn more about Old South, and get more deeply connected. If you would like to join us for lunch or are interested in joining Old South as a member, please email ashley@oldsouth.org.

OLD SOUTH MUSIC PRESENTS: DECLARATIONS

June 27, 2026, 7pm concert

Old South Music presents Ensemble Altera in a major new choral work by Piers Connor Kennedy. A reflection on the ideals of liberty and equality, placing Thomas Jefferson's words in dialog with those of Langston Hughes, Tracy K. Smith, and others.

JUNE COOPER AND NANCY TAYLOR LEAD PILGRIMAGES TO ALABAMA

Rev. June Cooper, Theologian in the City, and Rev Dr. Nancy Taylor, Senior Minister Emeritus, Old South Church, will lead two Pilgrimages to Montgomery and Selma, Alabama. The dates for the Pilgrimages are October 9-14 and October 15-20, 2026. The Pilgrimage, which is conducted at the epicenter of the Civil Rights Movement, offers a chance to build community, reflect on the past, address intergenerational racial trauma, and find ways to pursue healing and advance racial justice. For additional information, visit www.bostonfaithjustice.org.

THE DANCING MIND: PHILLIS WHEATLEY, IMAGINATION & CHRISTIAN SOCIAL WITNESS

James W. Crawford Lecture

Friday, May 8, 7pm, in the Gordon Chapel

Exploring the theme of The Dancing Mind: Phillis Wheatley, Imagination and Christian Social Witness, the evening will bring together members of Boston's faith community to explore what Wheatley, as both a poet and a figure in American history, offers Christians regarding social responsibility in matters of justice and equity. More info? Email Justin Tyler Dickerson at justin@oldsouth.org.

PHILLIS WHEATLEY SUNDAY

May 10th; Services at 9am & 11am, promenades at 10am & 12pm
Join us as we honor Phillis Wheatley, an 18th century poet who was stolen from Africa, suffered the Middle Passage, was sold into slavery, and wrote her way to freedom. Wheatley was baptized at Old South on August 18th, 1771, and we celebrate her every year in our worship services and by visiting her statue at the Boston Women's Memorial.



CALLING ALL CUPCAKE MAKERS AND BUYERS

Sunday, May 10th; Sign up at tinyurl.com/PWcupcakes

Please sign up to bring cupcakes for the congregation as we celebrate historic OSC member Phillis Wheatley. Cupcakes will be served during the promenade to Phillis' statue at the Women's Memorial on the Commonwealth Ave mall, following each service. 12pm coffee hour will also have cupcakes. Please direct all questions to Kate Nintcheu (children@oldsouth.org).

PENTECOST DAY OF SERVICE

On Sunday, May 24th, we will celebrate Pentecost, the day when the Holy Spirit met the disciples and sent them out into the world, by stepping into that same call to go and to build deeper relationships with our neighbors and partners across Boston. We invite you to participate in any part (or all!) of the day:

- **10am in Mary Norton Hall:**
 - Join the LUCE Supply Hub work, or
 - Help pack lunches for *common cathedral* in the kitchen
- **12pm offsite:**
 - Join fellow Old Southerners at a campus clean up for the Allston Brighton Food Pantry, or
 - Join our partners on the Boston Common for Sunday worship with *common cathedral*

Register for any of these opportunities at tinyurl.com/PentecostDayOfService Have questions before you RSVP? Reach out to kat@oldsouth.org.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE AND OUTREACH WEEKLY PUSHBACK

Boston Healthcare for the Homeless

Have other weekly action ideas? Email outreach@oldsouth.org

As we welcome Dr. Jim O'Connell to Old South this Sunday, we uplift the work of the Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program, where Dr. Jim serves as the president and founding physician.

BHCHP brings together a team of more than 600 medical and behavioral health clinicians, social service providers, and support staff, all committed to offering comprehensive, high-quality care to individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Boston and beyond.

Across more than 30 clinic sites in shelters, hospitals, on the streets, BHCHP provides medical care, behavioral health support, youth and family services, and case management to nearly 10,000 people each year. In support of this vital work, Old South is making a \$1,000 donation this week.

SPONSOR WORSHIP FLOWERS

Go to tinyurl.com/2026OSCFowers to claim your date—they are filling fast!

Would you like to sponsor the Sanctuary's worship flowers on a Sunday - in memory or in honor of a special person or event? Dedications and sponsors are printed in our bulletin each week, and the donation costs \$100. We have a few weeks in 2026 where we still need sponsors - and you can see which dates are available.

WEEKLY WORSHIP

Join us in person, on 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.

VESPER HEALING Worship, Second Sundays at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom



*To give via ApplePay,
GooglePay, or Credit Card,
scan the QR code.*

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



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