



## Old South Church

*Copley Square, Boston*

*A Congregation of the  
United Church of Christ*

*Gathered 1669*

November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024

## **Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**

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

### **GATHER**

PRELUDE

*Andante tranquillo*

Felix Mendelssohn

from the Sonata, Op. 65, No. 3

\*CALL TO WORSHIP *Psalm 91, adapted*

Gracie Paterson

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High  
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

**We will say of the Lord, “He is my refuge and my fortress,  
my God, in whom we trust.”**

Surely he will save us from the hunter’s snare and from the deadly pestilence.

**She will cover us with her feathers, and under  
her wings we will find refuge;**

her faithfulness will be our shield and defense.

**We will not fear the terror of the night or the arrow that flies by day.**

When we call upon the Lord, They will answer us.

**God will be with us in trouble. God is our refuge and salvation.**

\*HYMN 301

**Crown with Your Richest Crowns**

DIADEMATA

*\* Indicates all who are able may stand*



# LISTEN

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kate M. Nintcheu

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 105: 1-11, 45b

Paul Brouillette

\*HYMN 410

**If You But Trust in God to Guide You**

NEUMARK

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

SCRIPTURE

Romans 8: 31-39

SERMON

If God Is for Us

Ashley J. Popperson

\*HYMN 23

**There's a Wideness in God's Mercy**

IN BABILONE

# RESPOND

\*CALL TO PRAYER

John M. Edgerton

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

May I Be Filled

Mark Miller

May I be filled with joyful loving kindness.

May I be calm and at peace.

May I be safe, may happiness surprise me.

May I be awake and free.

May you be filled with joyful loving kindness . . .

May we be filled with joyful loving kindness . . .

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

God Has Work for Us to Do

Mark A. Miller

Till all the jails are empy and all the bellies filled;  
till no one hurts or steals or lies, and no more blood is spilled;

*God has work for us to do, God has work for us to do,  
till God's will is done, and all thigs are made new,  
God has work for us to do!*

Till age and race and gender no longer separate;  
till pulpit, press, and politics are free of greed and hate:

*God has work for us to do . . .*

in classroom, church, and office, in shops or on the street;  
in ev'ry place where people thrive or starve or hide or meet:  
God has work for us.

By sitting at a bedside to hold pale trembling hands,  
by speaking for the powerless against unjust demands,  
by praying through our doing and singing though we fear,  
by trusting that the seed we sow will bring God's harvest near:

*God has work for us to do . . .*

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*HYMN 436

**God of Grace and God of Glory**

CWM RHONDDA

\*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

Ashley J. Popperson

POSTLUDE

*Grand Chœur*  
Op. 122, No. 8

Louis-James-Alfred Lefébure-Wely



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

The flowers today are given by Old South Church,  
in memoriam and honor of Transgender Day of Remembrance.

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

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

**CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE — December 24<sup>th</sup>, 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 20<sup>th</sup>, 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 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 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*

### 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



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **SUNDAY FUN DAY: COME PLAY GAMES WITH US!**

*Sunday, November 17th 10am in Mary Norton Hall*

This Sunday we invite you to join members of the Christian Formation committee for a relaxed, informal time to play board games together. Yes, that's right. We're just going to play games. Bring your favorite one, or play ours! (No Zoom this week!)

## **FAMILY BOOK STUDY THIS FALL**

We're wrapping up our Family Book Study with a visit to the Congregational Library on Sunday, Nov 17th. Plan on assembling there around 12:30 p.m., just across from the State House. Please RSVP to Kate at [children@oldsouth.org](mailto:children@oldsouth.org).

## **REMOTE POTLUCK**

*Sunday, November 17th at 4pm EST on Zoom*

Join fellow Old Southerners on Zoom for a time of fellowship and reflection particularly for our members for whom in-person events are not easily accessible. It will be a time of fellowship and conversation, enjoying one another's good company! Join at [tinyurl.com/pa48w3wn](https://tinyurl.com/pa48w3wn)

## **TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE**

*November 15-17; Event details at [tinyurl.com/3e3b2zw6](https://tinyurl.com/3e3b2zw6)*

The 25th annual Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) will be marked with a weekend of events from November 15–17, 2024. Though TDOR is observed on November 20, Boston's gatherings will begin earlier, including a documentary screening, vigil, brunch, and more. All are invited to join in reflection, support, and solidarity to advance justice and safety for the transgender community.

## **ALL-CHURCH CHECK-IN: CALLING CAMPAIGN**

*Tuesday, November 19th through Friday, November 22nd, 5-8pm*

Old South Church can feel like a big place, so each year we engage in an All-Church Calling Campaign to connect with church members and friends. It's a great chance to get to know one another, and we also check in to see if church members have questions, concerns or prayer requests. It's a beautiful ministry, and this minor miracle is only possible because of the amazing volunteers who do the outreach. If you'd like to help with the calling (we'll provide tips and a script) sign up at [tinyurl.com/OSCalls](https://tinyurl.com/OSCalls) or contact [ashley@oldsouth.org](mailto:ashley@oldsouth.org).

## **SUNDAY YOGA & MEDITATION**

*Sundays at 10am 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.

## **VOLUNTEER FOR *common cathedral* LUNCH**

*Sunday, December 8, Join us for any part of the day. All are welcome, including families.*

There are many ways to participate!

- Make bag lunches in OSC Mary Norton kitchen. 9:00-10:30am
- Meet at Boston Common (near Park St station) to unload and hand out lunches to the common cathedral congregation. Join for lunch from 12:00-1:00pm.
- Attend outdoor Common Cathedral service. 1:00-2:00pm

Contact Carolyn Clark at [carolyneclark@comcast.net](mailto:carolyneclark@comcast.net) if you would like to participate in any of these activities. See [commoncathedral.org](http://commoncathedral.org) for more about this organization's important work. Old South Church provides funds to Common Cathedral each year.

## **DECEMBER FLOWER DONATIONS: GRATITUDE FOR THE HOLIDAYS**

This Christmas season, we will be doing live floral bouquets for the first few weeks of December. This is the perfect opportunity to thank a friend or loved one who has been especially meaningful or impactful to you this year. By donating flowers, you can share a message of love or gratitude that will be displayed in the Sunday bulletin. The price of donations is \$100. If donation price is a barrier, please talk to us and let us know; we would be happy to assist. We will be accepting flower donations for the first four weeks of December. This is separate from our larger Christmas Eve bulletin, which donates proceeds to the Allston Brighton Food Pantry. If you are interested in reserving a date, please reach out to Amelia Gerrard at [amelia@oldsouth.org](mailto:amelia@oldsouth.org) with your date preferences and your message for the bulletin. As always, I am grateful for all of you. -Amelia Gerrard, Director of Administration

## **RIDES MINISTRY**

Are you a safe driver who has some flexibility in your schedule? Sign up to be part of our Rides Ministry: offering Old Southerners rides to medical appointments, errands, and to church. Email [ashley@oldsouth.org](mailto:ashley@oldsouth.org) to sign up or learn more.

## THE TRUE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS: OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE

As we prepare our hearts for Christmas, Old South has several opportunities to give to the wider community. Beginning on November 17th, a Christmas tree will be near the reception desk decorated with ornaments. Each ornament will have instructions for a particular gift for one of the gift drives listed below. You can select an ornament from the tree or you can go participate through the links below.

### **Memorial Donations to Allston-Brighton Food Pantry:**

Donations of \$20 or more can be given at [oldsouth.org/donate](https://oldsouth.org/donate). Your message in honor or memory of loved ones or special occasions can be entered on the second page of the donation screen. A memorial booklet will be available in mid-December.

### **Wonderfund Gift Drive for Children and Youth in Foster Care:**

Bring Christmas cheer to infants, kids, and teens by supporting the Wonderfund's annual gift drive. You can donate through the Amazon Wishlist at [tinyurl.com/mrx2cej7](https://tinyurl.com/mrx2cej7).

### **Coat Donations:**

- **Coat Boston:** Give the gift of a winter coat to keep Boston students warm this winter. Donations of new and unused coats, scarves, gloves, and mittens for Boston's youth, from newborns to 18-year-olds are needed. A drop-off box is available in the Narthex on Sundays through 12/8, and behind the front desk on weekdays. Coats can also be contributed through the Coat Boston Amazon Wishlist at [tinyurl.com/mt8362e6](https://tinyurl.com/mt8362e6)
- **Coats for Adults:** In collaboration with New England Culinary Arts Training, we are collecting coats for adults participating in their program which supports adults who face barriers to employment through training in culinary skills. You can donate through the Amazon Wishlist at [tinyurl.com/mry983t7](https://tinyurl.com/mry983t7)

### **Gift Boxes for Unhoused Neighbors:**

Donate small toiletries, hand warmers, warm socks, gloves, mittens, hats, scarves, and monetary donations that will be used for Dunkin Gift Cards. Items should be new, and can be brought to the 4th floor and left under the church school check-in desk. You can also order them from the Amazon Wishlist at [tinyurl.com/4wnpvmd7](https://tinyurl.com/4wnpvmd7). Monetary donations can be marked "Gift Boxes" and left for Kate at the front desk. On Saturday 12/21, church school families will gather at 9am to assemble, pack and wrap gifts that we will then take to the streets to deliver to our unhoused neighbors. RSVP to Kate at [children@oldsouth.org](mailto:children@oldsouth.org) if you'd like to come on 12/21.

## MEETING HOUSE SUNDAY

*Sunday, November 24 at 11am at the Old South Meeting House*

Join us as 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. The service features a historical sermon, the reading of a Thanksgiving Proclamation, and special music for choir, bells, and brass.

## 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 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.*

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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.

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Old South Church in Boston ❖ 645 Boylston Street, Boston 02116 ❖ [www.oldsouth.org](http://www.oldsouth.org)