

Meeting House Worship Old South Church *in* Boston

November 24, 2024 ❖ 11:00 a.m.

WELCOME TO THIS 69th 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 at 645 Boylston Street.

GATHER

PRELUDE

Selections from Alice Parker, *arr.*
“Melodious Accord: A Concert of Praise”

IV. Be Joyful in God

Be joyful in God all ye lands of the earth,
O serve him with gladness and fear.
Exult in his presence with music and mirth,
with love and devotion draw near.
Jehovah is God, and Jehovah alone
who reigns with his Son above all,
And we are his people, his scepter we own,
his sheep, and we follow his call.

O enter his gates with thanksgiving and song,
your vow in his temple proclaim.
His praise with melodious accordance prolong,
and bless his adorable name;
for good is the Lord, inexpressibly good,
and we are the works of his hand,
his mercy and truth from eternity stood,
and shall to eternity stand, and shall to eternity stand!

III. Come, Ye Disconsolate

Come, ye disconsolate, where'er ye languish,
come to the mercy seat, fervently kneel.
Here bring your wounded hearts, here tell your anguish.
Earth has no sorrows that heav'n cannot heal.

Joy of the desolate, light of the straying,
hope of the penitent, fadeless and pure!
Here speaks the Comforter, in mercy saying:
"Earth has no sorrows that heav'n cannot cure."

Here see the bread of life; see waters flowing
forth from the throne of God, pure from above.
Come to the feast prepared, come, ever knowing
earth has no sorrows but heav'n can remove.

IX. O How Happy Are They

O how happy are they who their Savior obey,
and have laid up their treasure above.
Oh! what tongue can express the sweet comfort and peace
of a soul in its earliest love.

'Twas a heaven below my Redeemer to know,
and the angels could do nothing more
than to fall at his feet and his story repeat,
and the Savior of sinners adore.

Jesus all the day long was my joy and my song;
Oh! that more his salvation might see.
“He hath loved me,” I cried, “He hath suffered and died
to redeem such a rebel as me.”

Now my remnant of days would I spend in his praise,
who hath died me from death to redeem;
whether many or few, all my years are his due;
may they all be devoted to him.

XI. How Sweet to Reflect

How sweet to reflect on those joys that await me
in yon blissful region, the haven of rest;
where glorified spirits with welcome shall greet me,
and lead me to mansions prepared for the blest;
encircled with light, and with glory enshrouded,
my happiness perfect, my mind's sky unclouded,
I'll bathe in the ocean of pleasure unbounded,
and range with delight through the Eden of love.

When angelic legions, with harps tuned celestial,
harmoniously join in the concert of praise,
the saints, as they flock from the regions terrestrial,
in loud hallelujahs their voices will raise.
Then songs to the Lamb shall re-echo through heaven,
my soul will respond, “to Immanuel be given
all glory, all honor, all might and dominion,
who brought us through grace to the Eden of love.”

X. That Glorious Day Is Drawing Nigh

That glorious day is drawing nigh,
when Zion's light shall come;
she shall arise and shine on high,
bright as the rising sun;
The north and south their sons resign,
and earth's foundations bend;
clothed as a bride, Jerusalem
all glorious shall descend.

The king who wears the splendid crown,
the azure's flaming bow;
the holy city shall bring down,
to bless his church below;
when Zion's bleeding, conqu'ring king
shall sin and death destroy,
the morning stars shall join to sing,
and Zion shout for joy!

Manhattan Beach
THE OLD SOUTH BRASS

John Philip Sousa

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Maren Batalden,

Moderator, Old South Church Council

The Old South Meeting House resides on the ancestral and unceded land of the Massachusetts People, past and present, whose name was appropriated by this Commonwealth. We pay respect to the Massachusetts elders past and present. We name and recognize the Massachusetts People as traditional stewards of this land and we acknowledge the enduring relationship that exists between them and their traditional territories. We admit the truth of violence perpetrated against the Indigenous Peoples of the land; perpetrated, moreover, both in the name of this country and in the name of Christ, and we make a commitment to uncovering that truth. We comprehend that a land acknowledgment is a small yet important step towards ensuring a culture of respect, truth, and accountability in our church, in our City, in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and in our nation.

*HYMN *See insert*

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rachel J. Barton

God, you are our refuge and our strength,
a very present help in times of trouble.

You anoint your people to bring good news to the oppressed,
to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners.

As we gather in your name, in this holy place,
grant that we might sense your presence.

**Everlasting God, help us to be patiently impatient
as we work to make your justice real on earth.**

**Give us the will and strength to keep awake,
with hearts and minds stayed always on freedom. Amen.**

Adapted with thanks to Willie Sordillo

*A SIGN OF OUR UNITY AND RECONCILIATION

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

WELCOME

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

I. House of our God from "Melodious Accord"

Alice Parker, *arr.*

House of our God, with cheerful anthems ring,
while all our lips and hearts his goodness sing:
with sacred joy his wondrous deeds proclaim.

Let every tongue be vocal with his name;
the Lord is good, his mercy never ending.

His goodness in perpetual showers descending.

**Indicates all who are able may stand*

Thou, earth, enlightened by his rays divine,
pregnant with grass and corn and oil and wine.
Crowned with his goodness, let thy nations meet,
and lay themselves at his paternal feet;
with grateful love that liberal hand confessing,
which through each heart diffuseth every blessing.

Zion, enriched with his distinguished grace,
blessed with the rays of thine Immanuel's face;
Zion, Jehovah's portion and delight,
graven on his hand, and hourly in his sight,
in sacred strains exalt that grace excelling,
which makes thine humble hill his chosen dwelling. Amen.

*(Though often ascribed masculine or feminine pronouns in prose and poetry,
God is unbound by human concepts of gender.)*

LISTEN

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kate M. Nintcheu

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 19:1-15

SERMON

Let Them Come to Me

John M. Edgerton

*HYMN *See insert*

We Gather Together

KREMSER

RESPOND

CALL TO PRAYER

Gracie Paterson

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 persons of differing sexual orientations and gender identities, 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 and provider of all the good gifts of the earth.

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

Song of Thanksgiving
THE OLD SOUTH RINGERS
Peter Coulombe, *director*

Arnold Sherman

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

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 next page* **Now Thank We All Our God** NUN DANKET

*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION John M. Edgerton

POSTLUDE Semper Fidelis John Philip Sousa

*The settings of the Thanksgiving hymns heard during today's Meeting House worship
were commissioned in honor of The Reverend Elinor Yeo (1934-2023),
in whose memory they are lovingly offered.*

THE OLD SOUTH BRASS

Mary-Lynne Bohn, Andrew Sorg, & Steve Banzaert, *trumpet*
Kevin Owen, *horn* • Hans Bohn, *trombone* • Don Rankin, *tuba*
Robert Schulz, *timpani*
Leslie Amper and Randall Hodgkinson, *piano*



*Old South's Ministers and staff wish you and yours a Happy Thanksgiving.
A reminder that Old South Church will be closed November 28 and 29.*

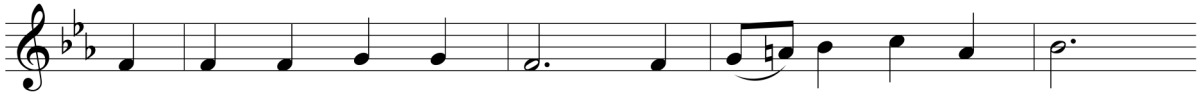
*First and Festival Worship return to 645 Boylston Street on Sunday, December 1.
Thursday Night Church resumes Thursday, December 5.*



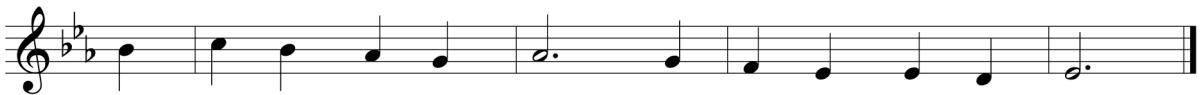
Now thank we all our God, with heart, and hands, and voic - es,
O may this boun - teous God through all our lives be near us!
All praise and thanks to God our Mak - er now be giv - en,



who won - drous things hath done, in whom this world re - joic - es;
With ev - er - joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us;
to Christ, and Spir - it, too, who reign in high - est heav - en,



who, from our par - ents' arms hath blessed us on our way
to keep us in God's grace, and guide us when per - plexed,
the one e - ter - nal God, whom earth and heav'n a - dore;



with count - less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.
for thus it was, is now, and shall be, ev - er - more.

Text: Martin Rinkart, c. 1636; trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1858, alt.

Tune: NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT, Johann Crüger, 1647; harm. Felix Mendelssohn, 1840

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! 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 8:45am-12:30pm every Sunday and Church School at 10am. For questions about our children's and family ministries, email children@oldsouth.org.

For LARGE print bulletins or children's bulletins, please ask an Usher.

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, *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