



CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2024 ☆ 8:00 p.m.
OLD SOUTH CHURCH *in* BOSTON

It is Christmas time, a halting-of-hate time.
On this platform of peace, we can create a language
to translate ourselves to ourselves and to each other.
At this holy instant, we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

—from Maya Angelou's *Amazing Peace: A Christmas Poem*

*CAROL

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES



O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
 God of God, Light of Light e - ter - nal,
 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion!
 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem!
 Lo! he dis - dains not the vir - gin's womb;
 Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove:
 Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry giv'n;



Come and be - hold him, born the King of An - gels!
 tru - ly our God, be - got - ten, not cre - at - ed:
 'Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est!
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing.

Refrain

O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him;



O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

Text: John Francis Wade, c. 1743; trans. Frederick Oakeley, 1841, alt.
 Tune: ADESTE FIDELES, John Francis Wade, c. 1743

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION *adapted from Frederick Buechner*

Rachel J. Barton

Holy Jesus, O Son of the Most High, Prince of Peace,
 be born again into our world.

**Wherever there is war in this world,
 wherever there is pain;**

Wherever there is loneliness,
 wherever there is no hope, come.

**Come, O long-expected one,
 with healing in your wings.**

Holy Child, whom the shepherds and kings
and beasts adored, be born again.

**Wherever there is boredom,
wherever there is fear of failure;**

Wherever there is temptation too strong to resist,
wherever there is bitterness of heart;

**Come, O Blessed One,
with healing in your wings.**

Savior, be born in each of us as we raise our faces to your face,
not knowing fully who we are or who you are;

**Knowing only that your love is beyond our knowing
and that no other has the power to make us whole.**

**Come, Lord Jesus, to each who longs for you
even though we have forgotten your name.**

Come quickly. Amen.

WELCOME

Gloria, RV 589

Antonio Vivaldi (1678–1741)

I. Gloria in excelsis

Gloria in excelsis Deo

Glory to God in the highest [...]

II. Et in terra pax

Et in terra pax hominibus bonæ voluntatis.

[...] and on earth peace to all those of goodwill.

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 40:1-11

Grace Rousseau

The prophet speaks of a world reconfigured by the coming of God's anointed one.

III. Laudamus te

Laudamus te, benedicimus te, adoramus te, glorificamus te.

We praise you, we bless you, we worship you, we glorify you.

IV. Gratias agimus tibi

Gratias agimus tibi

We give thanks to you [...]

V. Propter magnam gloriam

Propter magnam gloriam tuam.

[...] according to your great glory.

THE SECOND LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

Paula Hammond

The angel Gabriel announces to Mary the fullness of time.

VI. Domine Deus

Domine Deus, Rex caelestis, Deus Pater omnipotens.

Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.

VII. Domine Fili unigenite

Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe.

Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son.

THE THIRD LESSON

Luke 2:1-20

Rubén Bonilla Santiago

When the time is come, the holy birth is revealed first to shepherds.

IX. Qui tollis peccata mundi

*Qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis;
Qui tollis peccata mundi, suscipe deprecationem nostram.*

You who take away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us;
You who take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer.

X. Qui sedes ad dexteram

Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, miserere nobis.

You who sit at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

THE FOURTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12

Pam Roberts

Sages led by a star encounter the power of evil and the Epiphany of Love.

XI. Quoniam tu solus sanctus

*Quoniam tu solus Sanctus, tu solus Dominus,
tu solus Altissimus, Jesu Christe,*

For you alone are holy; you alone are the Lord;
you alone are the most high, Jesus Christ.

XII. Cum Sancto Spiritu

Cum Sancto Spiritu: in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.

With the Holy Ghost, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

HOMILY

John M. Edgerton, *Senior Minister*

*CAROL

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;
Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of right - eous - ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful all ye na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate de - i - ty,
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - ma - nu - el.
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.
Tune: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1840;
adapt. W. H. Cummings, 1855

John ponders the mystical convergence of God's holy time and human time.

*CAROL

The First Noël

THE FIRST NOWELL



The first 'No - ël!' the an - gel did say was to cer - tain poor
 They look - èd up and saw a star shin - ing in the
 This star drew nigh to the north - west: o'er Beth - le -
 Then let us all with one ac - cord sing prais - es



shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay
 east, be - yond them far; and to the earth it
 hem it took its rest; and there it did both
 to our heav'n - ly Lord, that hath made heav'n and



keep - ing their sheep on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.
 gave great light, and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.
 stop and stay, right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.
 earth of nought, and with his love our life hath bought.



Refrain
 No - ël, no - ël! No - ël, no - ël! Born is the King of Is - ra - el!

Text: English carol; *Some Ancient Christmas Carols*, 2nd ed., 1823, alt.

Tune: THE FIRST NOWELL, English carol; *Sandy's Christmas Carols*, 1833

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Ashley J. Popperson



To give via ApplePay, GooglePay,
 or Credit Card, scan the QR code.
 You can also Text 44-321
 and enter OSC to make a gift.

If you're new to Old South,
 scan the QR code with your
 smartphone camera
 to tell us more about yourself.



O holy night! the stars are brightly shining;
 it is the night of the dear Savior's birth.
 Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
 till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.
 A thrill of hope— the weary world rejoices,
 for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!
 Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!
 O night divine, O night when Christ was born!

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,
 with glowing hearts by his cradle we stand.
 So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
 here came the Wise Men from Orient land.
 The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger,
 in all our trials born to be our Friend.
 He knows our need— to our weakness is no stranger.
 Behold your King: before him lowly bend!

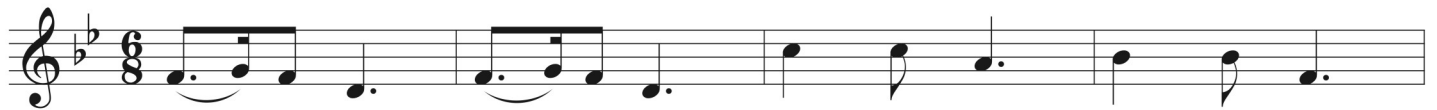
Truly he taught us to love one another;
 his law is love and his gospel is peace.
 Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother,
 and in his name all oppression shall cease.
 Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we;
 let all within us praise his holy name.
 Christ is the Lord, then ever, ever praise we,
 his power and glory evermore proclaim.

PASSING THE LIGHT

John M. Edgerton

CAROL *seated***Silent night! Holy night!**

STILLE NACHT



Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright
 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight;
 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light,



'round yon vir - gin moth - er and child; ho - ly in - fant so ten - der and mild,
 glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav'n - ly hosts sing: "Al - le - lu - ia!
 ra - diant, beams from thy ho - ly face with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,



sleep in heav - en - ly peace! Sleep in heav - en - ly peace!
 Christ the Sav - ior is born! Christ the Sav - ior is born!"
 Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth! Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth!

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1816; English trans. John Freeman Young, 1863
 Tune: STILLE NACHT, Franz Xaver Gruber, 1818

*CAROL

Joy to the World!

ANTIOCH



Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth
 Joy to the earth! the Sav - ior reigns: let all
 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns
 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes



re - ceive her King! let eve - ry heart pre - pare him
 their songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 in - fest the ground: he comes to make his bless - ings
 the na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous -



room, and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing!
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.

Tune: ANTIOCH, attr. George Frederick Handel, 1742;
arr. Lowell Mason, 1836

POSTLUDE

Carillon

Herbert Murrill

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Kyoko Hida & Elizabeth England, *oboe* ☆ Sue Faux (concertmaster), Nicki Payne, Beth Welty, & Paola Caballero, *violin*
 Amelia Hollander & Rebecca Strauss, *viola* ☆ Hyun Ji Kwon, *cello* • Robert Aistrup, *bass*

This evening's performance of the Vivaldi Gloria is underwritten by gifts in memory of the Reverend Elinor Yeo (1934-2023),
 and the performance lovingly dedicated to her by the members of the Festival Choir, whom she served as Chaplain.

NEW YEAR'S EVE AT OLD SOUTH

SIMPLE NEW YEAR'S SERVICE

Sunday, December 29th, at 10 a.m. in the Chapel

BOSTON FIRST NIGHT: PIPES AND POPS CONCERTS

Tuesday, December 31st at 6:30 and 8 p.m. in the Sanctuary

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, this concert includes a seasonal sing of "Auld Lang Syne." Experience Old South's incredible E. M. Skinner organ, with over 7,000 room-shaking pipes! Free and open to the public.

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

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 8:20am-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.

An accessible, single-stall restroom is available near Reception. More restrooms are available, ask at the reception desk.

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 & concerts). 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, 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.



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