



Phillis Wheatley



Sunday

May 12th
at 11:00 am

Old South Church in Boston

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

GATHER

PRELUDE

I Love to Tell the Story

Dale Wood, *arr.*

*HYMN

Open a Doorway Into God

CONSTANTINE

Old South's 350th Anniversary Hymn



1. O - pen wide the eyes of won - der: bound-less gal - ax - ies in space,
2. Stretch out wide the arms of kind-ness: nur - ture sheep from man - y folds.
3. Fling out wide the gates of free-dom, to the suf - fering bring re - lief:
4. God of mer - cy, love, and beau - ty, blaz - ing trails to mark our way,



fin - est flecks of whirl-ing mat - ter span the mag - ni - tude of grace.
Wel - come cres - cent, star, and rain - bow, all whose seek - ing God up - holds.
hearts im - pa - tient for de - liv - erance* call for res - cue from their grief.
still trans - plant - ing, still sus - tain - ing, † you have brought us to this day.



Vaults that up - lift our sights to heav - en; mu - sic that leaves us hushed and awed;
Peo - ples and crea - tures, poor and need - ing, hun - ger for mer - cies spread a - broad.
Till hurt - ful walls of bi - as crum - ble, till hate - ful cag - es stand un - barred,
In ev - ery e - ra, you have sought us, draw - ing your prom - ise in - to view.



arts that en - large our lives with beau - ty o - pen a door - way in - to God. ✠
Acts of com - pass - ion toward our neigh - bors o - pen a door - way in - to God.
all those who dare to plead for jus - tice † o - pen a door - way in - to God.
Strength - en our will to meet your fu - ture, o - pen - ing new door - ways in - to you.

*Indicates all who are able may stand

✚ “Behold, I have set before thee an open door,” — Revelation 3:8, carved into the Old South Church portico.

* “In every human Breast, God has implanted a Principle, which we call Love of Freedom; it is *impatient* of Oppression, and pants for *Deliverance*.” — Phillis Wheatley [*emphasis added*]

† An allusion to Whittier’s famous phrase, “So long as Boston shall Boston be, and her bay-tides rise and fall, Shall freedom stand in the Old South Church and plead for the rights of all!”

‡ A reference to the Latin motto *Qui transtulit sustinet* (carved into Old South’s portico), meaning “The God who transplanted us sustains us still.”

Text: *Mary Louise Bringle (2019)*

Tune: CONSTANTINE, *James Gertmenian (1986)*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rachel J. Barton

Phillis Wheatley, *On Virtue* (adapted)

O thou bright jewel in my aim I strive
To comprehend thee. Thine own words declare
Wisdom is higher than a fool can reach.
**I cease to wonder, and no more attempt
Thine height t’explore, or fathom thy profound.
But, O my soul, sink not into despair,
Virtue is near thee, and with gentle hand
Would now embrace thee, hovers o’er thine head.
O leave me not to the false joys of time!
But guide my steps to endless life and bliss.**
Greatness, or Goodness, say what I shall call thee,
To give an higher appellation still,
**Teach me a better strain, a nobler lay,
O Thou, enthroned with Cherubs in the realms of day!**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

WELCOME

ANTHEM

Glorious God Reginald and Kevin Golden
OLD SOUTH CHURCH GOSPEL & FESTIVAL CHOIRS
Tim Harbold, *director*
Eren Brooks, *soloist*

Thine O God is greatness, power, and glory.
Thine O God is victory and majesty.

Everything in heaven and on earth is yours.
Thine is the kingdom.
Glorious God. You are a Glorious God.

We walk by faith and not by what our eyes see.
God, our help of ages past, is here with us.
And yes, our suffering can't compare with your glory.
You promised that you would be here with us.

Every situation under your control.
Everything in heaven and on earth is yours.
Thine is the kingdom.
Glorious God. You are a Glorious God.

Shower down your power and glory, O God.
Fill us with your spirit, show your glory, O God.

You are glorious, you are glorious.
God, you reign forever, King of the ages, you are God.
You are glorious, you are glorious.
Thine is the kingdom, the power, the glory, you're worthy.
We cry holy, holy — glorious God.

LISTEN

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kate M. Nintcheu

SCRIPTURE Proverbs 8, *selected verses* George Delianides

*HYMN 58 **Spirit of Love** PERFECT LOVE
*During the hymn, children that wish may meet childcare staff
in the back of the sanctuary and proceed to the 3rd floor.*

SERMON John M. Edgerton

*HYMN 411 **Praise the Source of Faith and Learning** PROCESSION

RESPOND

*CALL TO PRAYER Ashley J. Popperson
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 Be a Light Rhett, Miller,
Thompson, and Dragstrem
Alan Hester & Sara Mitnik, *soloists*

In a time full of war, be peace.
In a time full of doubt, just believe.
There ain't that much difference between you and me.
In a time full of war, be peace.

In a world full of hate, be a light.
When you do somebody wrong, make it right.
Don't hide in the dark, you were born to shine.
In a world full of hate, be a light.

In a place that needs change, make a difference
In a time full of noise, just listen.
'Cause life is but a breeze, better live it.
In a place that needs a change, make a difference.

In a world full of hate, be a light...

In a race that you can't win, slow it down.
Yeah, you only get one go around.
'Cause the finish line is six feet in the ground,
In a race you can't win, just slow it down.

In a world full of hate, be a light...

It's hard to live in color, when you just see black and white.
In a world full of hate, be a light.

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Rachel J. Barton



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

Hold Out Your Light

Rollo Dilworth, *arr.*

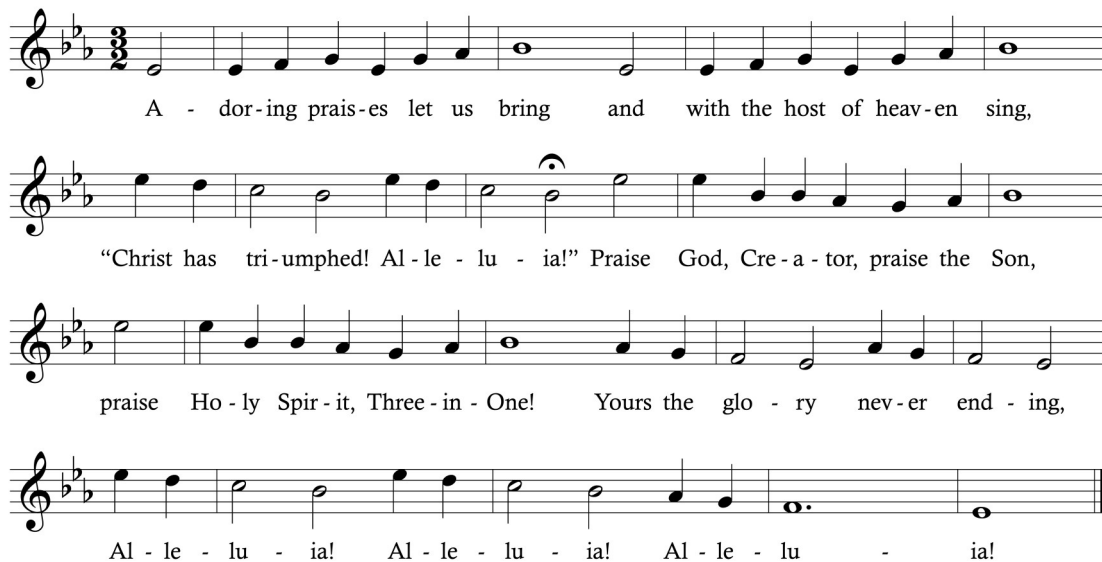
Hold out your light, children.
Hold out your light for the world.

*Hold out your light, you heaven bound soldier.
Let your light shine around the world.*

Oh my brother, won't you hold out your light?
Oh my sister, won't you hold out your light?
Oh my children, won't you hold out your light?
Let your light shine around the world.

Oh my leader, won't you hold out your light?
Oh my teacher, won't you hold out your light?
Oh my neighbor, won't you hold out your light?
Let your light shine around the world.

*DOXOLOGY



A - dor-ing prais-es let us bring and with the host of heav-en sing,
"Christ has tri-umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!" Praise God, Cre - a - tor, praise the Son,
praise Ho - ly Spir - it, Three - in - One! Yours the glo - ry nev - er end - ing,
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Composite (P. Z. Strodach; W. H. Draper [after Assisi]), alt.
Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, 1623, alt.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN 22 **Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped** LOBE DEN HERREN

*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION John M. Edgerton

POSTLUDE Standing in the Need of Prayer Calvin Taylor



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

GOSPEL CHOIR INSTRUMENTALISTS

Roberto Alaniz, *bass*

Aaron Trant, *percussion*

The flowers today are given by Betsy Roberts
in happy memory of my Mom, Emmy Lou Stark,
and in memory and celebration of every other Mom worldwide.

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



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 asbley@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 & Nancy S. Taylor Fellow*

Donald A. Wells, *Theologian in Residence* ❖ June R. Cooper, *Theologian in the City*
David F. Story, *Wedding Minister* ❖ Kenneth H. Orth, *Healing Worship Minister*
Madison T. Chau, *Seminary Fellow*

James W. Crawford, *Senior Minister Emeritus* ❖ Nancy S. Taylor, *Senior Minister Emeritus*

Mitchell Crawford, *Minister of Music*
George Sargeant, *Associate Organist & Choirmaster*
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, *Church Administrator* ❖ Tim Clafin, *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, & George Sargeant, *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



PHILLIS WHEATLEY SUNDAY

Sunday, May 12, First and Festival Worship

Join us for our annual celebration of one of the saints of this church: Phillis Wheatley Peters. Stolen from Africa, Phillis suffered the Middle Passage and was sold into slavery, yet triumphed through her awesome wit and the mighty power of her pen. Don your Sunday best, come to church and join us as we promenaded to the Boston Women's Memorial to fete Phillis Wheatley on the occasion of her birthday. Services are at 9am and 11am, and promenades are at 10am and 12pm.

SACRED CONVERSATIONS ON GAZA

Thursday, May 16, 7:15pm, RSVP required, go to <https://bit.ly/gazacircle> to register.

The ongoing conflict in Gaza impacts us all in significant and different ways. Join us for a meal and a facilitated listening circle where we'll share stories, hear from one another, and grow in our understanding of each other and our world. Space is limited, so please RSVP. Questions? Talk to Rachel rachel@oldsouth.org. If you are looking for ways to advocate for peace and justice in Gaza, here are a few suggestions:

- write or call your congresspeople. You can find them here www.congress.gov/members/find-your-member.
- advocate with your alma mater's alumni association.
- attend "Tracing Homelands: Israel, Palestine, and the Claims of Belonging" on Monday, May 20, from 6:30-8pm at Theodore Parker Church in West Roxbury. RSVP tinyurl.com/2024tracinghomelands.
- donate to World Central Kitchen, providing for vital nutritional needs in Gaza at tinyurl.com/2024worldkitchendonation.



THE COMMUNITY HOUR FORUM

Sundays, 10am, 2nd floor Mary Norton Hall,

tinyurl.com/OSCForums for Zoom link, password: Community

This casual, no-commitment, come-when-you-can forum hosts series on a variety of topics. Clergy, congregation members, and special guests share in leading sessions.

- Sunday May 19 - **WORKSHOP ON REIMAGINING GENDER**
As part of our efforts to become a more affirming church for trans individuals, members Stephanie LaShoto-Westfield and William Mian Wei will lead us as we will begin by exploring the concept of gender. Through fun activities we will explore our own self-image and experience as it relates to our gender and spend some time reimagining ourselves and our worldview through the lens of a different gender.

VOLUNTEER FOR COMMON CATHEDRAL LUNCH

Sunday, May 19, 8:30am — 2:30 stay as long as you can

For info or to commit to any part of the day,

email Carolyn Clark at carolyneclark@comcast.net

The Christian Service and Outreach Committee is assembling a team of volunteers to help prepare lunches in the Old South Church kitchen and serve them to the common cathedral homeless congregation on the Boston Common. The prep work for making 120+ sandwich lunches will begin at 8:30am, transported to the Boston Common by 12:00 noon, and served to guests at 12:30pm. The outdoor Common Cathedral service begins at 1:00pm and lasts until around 2:30pm. Visit commoncathedral.org to learn more about this organization's important work. *common cathedral* is one of Old South's annual grantees.



COLLECTIONS TOUR:

CONGREGATIONALISTS AND THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Wednesday, May 22nd, 5:30-7pm, 14 Beacon St. Space limited.

Go to <http://tinyurl.com/CongregationalLibraryTour2024> to register & for more info



**Congregational
Library & Archives**

The Congregational Library & Archives invites you to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution with Executive Director Kyle Roberts and New England's Hidden Histories Project Director Tricia Peone. Explore original materials firsthand and uncover the stories of Congregationalists during this pivotal period.

PILGRIMAGE TO SEARCH FOR TRUTH AND JUSTICE –

Montgomery and Selma, Alabama

A transformation experience to understand the Civil Rights Movement and ourselves

led by Rev. June Cooper and Dr. Marrey Embers

Oct. 14-17, approx. cost \$800 (plus transportation & lodging)

Register at tinyurl.com/2024SelmaPilgrimage

For more information contact junercooper@comcast.net.

Pilgrimage highlights include: visits to the Equal Justice Initiative's sites including The Legacy Museum, the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, and the new Freedom Monument Sculpture Park; the Mothers of Gynecology Monument and the More Up Campus; walking the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma; and daily reflection time with Pilgrimage facilitators.



SUMMER CHOIR BEGINS MAY 26

Contact Mitchell Crawford at mitchell@oldsouth.org for more information

Beginning on May 26 and continuing through Labor Day, Festival Choir will suspend Thursday rehearsals, inviting all who wish to join us Sunday mornings at 10am to rehearse music for that day's 11am Festival Worship.

GREEN TIP: GREENOVATE URBAN WILD CLEANUPS

Click here to learn more

Joining an urban wild cleanup is one great way to get involved and volunteer with Greenovate. Keeping our shared spaces clean allows you to get to know your neighborhood and build more resilient communities.

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

Sundays, 10am, 4th Floor Phillis Wheatley Room

Go to tinyurl.com/OSC23-24BibleStudy to Zoom, password: BibleStudy

Delve into the day's scripture passage heard in worship. This no-homework Bible study delights in taking a scholarly look at ancient texts. Don't leave your questions at the door; we need them.

THROUGH THE BIBLE - RESUMES JUNE 20

Thursdays, 7pm, 4th Floor Phillis Wheatley Room

Go to tinyurl.com/23-24ThroughBible to Zoom. Password: Psalter

Join us as we journey at a reflective and thorough pace through the Hebrew Bible. We are studying the Book of Jeremiah.

JOIN THE OLD SOUTH FORUM (Google Group)

Ever find yourself thinking, "Old Southerners should know about this!", but not sure how to spread the word? The Old South Forum is an informal email listserv that members and friends use to share relevant events, information and ideas. To join, visit groups.google.com/g/old-south-church-forum and click "Join group".

VESPERS HEALING WORSHIP:

Next service Sunday, May 12, 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.

TWILIGHT WORSHIP

REACH OUT YOUR HAND: BECOMING THE EARLY CHURCH

Thursdays, 6pm, in the Gordon Chapel

When Jesus appeared to his astounded disciples, he told Thomas to reach out his hand and touch his side. Join us in Eastertide for a series focused on folks who did just that: reached out their hands in faith to build something creative, diverse, and new together. We'll learn from Thomas, Phoebe, Lydia and other people and teams who reached out - to God, to others, and to the world - so that all might encounter the living God who is love. Email Rachel Barton with any questions.

UPDATE ON TWILIGHT WORSHIP

Our search team has been hard at work interviewing candidates for the Music Director position. We were blessed with a large, diverse, and talented pool of applicants. The team has completed the first round of interviews and is moving forward with our next steps. We are progressing well toward our goal of completing the hiring process by June.

WEEKLY WORSHIP

Join us in person, on Vimeo, Facebook, and YouTube

TWILIGHT Worship, 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