



December 15, 2024 ❖ 11:00a.m.

## Third Sunday of Advent

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

### GATHER

PRELUDE

*Die Hirten an der Krippe* (In dulci jubilo)  
from “*Weihnachtsbaum*,” S.186

Franz Liszt

INVOCATION

Ashley J. Popperson

\*HYMN *see insert*

**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

VENI EMMANUEL

\*CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF PARDON

“Awake! Awake!” the prophets call,

“Arise, my people! A new day is dawning!”

**And yet, we struggle to rise;**

**we are slow to awaken to God’s call.**

Our shoulders ache, trying to bear our burdens alone:

**grief too overwhelming to speak,**

**bad habits too comfortable to shed.**

Lord, have mercy:

**Lord, have mercy.**

*\*Indicates all who are able may stand*

Our hearts are heavy, our minds anxious:

**unable to change what has been,  
unable to predict what is to come.**

Christ have mercy:

**Christ have mercy.**

We long to rise and herald the dawn,

**but we are so often weary.**

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

**O God, set us free as we share our burdens;**

**heal our aching souls.**

Let us bring our silent confessions before our compassionate God.

*Silence is kept.*

The night is far gone, day is on the horizon.

In Christ we are forgiven, and strengthened to face the new day with joy.

**Let us rise and offer ourselves to the dawning Reign of God. Amen.**

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*Please greet those around you, wishing them "peace" or "the peace of Christ."*

SUNG RESPONSE *see insert* **Peace of God Be with You**

WELCOME

ANTHEM

OLD SOUTH CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Aislin Kate Anderson, *director*; Juniper Mai, *accompanist*

Mary Did You Know?

Masa Fukuda, *arr.*

Mary, did you know that your baby boy would one day walk on water?  
Mary, did you know that your baby boy would save our beloveds.  
Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new?  
This child that you delivered would soon deliver you.

Mary, did you know that your baby boy would give sight to a blind man?  
Mary, did you know that your baby boy would calm the storm with His hand?  
Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod?  
When you kiss your little baby, you kiss the face of God.

Mary, did you know?

The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again.  
The lame will leap, the dumb will speak, the praises of the lamb.

Mary, did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation?  
Mary, did you know that your baby boy would one day rule our nations?  
Did you know that your baby boy is heaven's perfect lamb.  
This sleeping child you're holding is the Great I Am.

Who Is This Child?

Jill Gallina

Who is this child?  
Who can it be?  
The little child in the manger asleep peacefully.  
The angels sing, good news they bring.  
The child asleep in the hay will one day be a King!

Away in a manger no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay.  
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

## LISTEN

SCRIPTURE	1 Samuel 2:1-10	Manuel Navia
*HYMN 104	<b>We Hail You God's Anointed</b>	ELLACOMBE
SCRIPTURE	Luke 1:39-55	
SERMON		John M. Edgerton
*HYMN 106	<b>My Heart Sings Out in Joyful Praise</b>	MARIAS LOVSÅNG

## RESPOND

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH      The Wadlington & Peetz-Larsen Families

Introductory Sentences

This third week of advent, we light the candle of joy...

...Our joy springs eternal for, our joy is the joy of Emmanuel, God with us.

Responsive Reading *from Isaiah 9, selected verses*

The people who walked in darkness

have seen a great light;

**those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.**

You have multiplied exultation;

you have increased its joy;

**they rejoice before you**

**as with joy at the harvest,**

**as people exult when dividing plunder.**

For the yoke of their burden

and the bar across their shoulders,

the rod of their oppressor,

you have broken as on the day of Midian.

**For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders,  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
Great will be his authority,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.**

Lighting of Candles & Prayer

O Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, you reign from everlasting to everlasting...  
...O God, bring to us a tenacious spirit of joy, so that we would serve you with gladness  
of heart until that day comes when we meet you face to face. **Amen.**

SUNG RESPONSE *see insert* **Come Now, O Prince of Peace**

CALL TO PRAYER

Rachel J. Barton

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift our hearts to God.**

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.**

ANTHEM

*Riu, Riu, Chiu*

Mateo Flecha el Viejo, *attr.*

[Estrillo:]

*Riu, riu, chiu la guarda ribera:  
Dios guardo el lobo de nuestra cordera.*

*El lobo rabioso la quiso morder,  
Mas Dios poderoso la supo defender;  
Quisole hazer que no pudiese pecar,  
Ni aun original esta Virgen no tuviera.*

*Este qu'es naçido es el gran monarca,  
Christo patriarca de carne vestido;  
Ha nos redimido con se hacer chiquito:  
Aunque era infinito, finito se hiziera.*

*Muchas profecias lo han profetizado;  
Y aun en nuestros dias lo bemos al consado.  
A Dios humanado vemos en el suelo  
Y al hombre en el cielo porque el le quisiera.*

[Refrain:]

*“Riu, riu, chiu” cried the shepherd by the riverside.  
God kept the wolf [Satan] away from our lamb [the Virgin Mary].*

The raging wolf wanted to bite her,  
but the more powerful God knew how to protect her.  
He wanted to make her incapable of sin,  
and this virgin did not even have original sin.

He who is born is the great King,  
Christ the Patriarch clothed in human flesh.  
He has redeemed us by making himself a child:  
although he is immortal, he made himself mortal.

Many prophecies have foretold it;  
and in our time we have seen it fulfilled.  
We see God in human form here on earth,  
and man raised to heaven because God loved him.

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.



OFFERTORY

My Heart Shall Sing

Karen Marroli

*My heart shall sing of the day you bring.  
Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,  
And the world is about to turn.*

The loud shall fall silent, the silent shall speak,  
The weak be made mighty, the mighty made weak.  
When tyrants shake with wrath, O lift us, meek and mild,  
to walk the peaceful path to the Holy Child.  
The unseen shall be seen; the unheard shall be heard!

Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,  
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past  
to the end of the age to be.  
Your very name puts the proud to shame,  
and to those who would for you yearn,  
you will show your might, put the strong to flight,  
for the world is about to turn.

The wealthy, you humble; the hungry you fill.  
The prideful, you scatter; the anxious, you still.  
When darkness holds all sway, and the world falls into night,  
O lead us into day, to the Child of Light.  
Disrupt our world, disturb our souls.  
Let those in comfort feel affliction.  
Unsettle all who have ever dwelt secure.  
Secure the frail in firm conviction.

From the halls of power to the fortress tower,  
not a stone will be left on stone.  
Let the king beware for your justice tears  
every tyrant from his throne.  
The hungry poor shall weep no more,  
for the food they can never earn;  
there are tables spread; every mouth be fed,  
for the world is about to turn.

Our hearts cry for healing, our souls thirst for song.  
Our hands crave true labor, to vanquish all wrong.  
When creation burns with scorn, when we hear the drums of hate,  
remind us love is born in the child we await.  
The unseen shall be seen; the unheard shall be heard.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*HYMN 106

**Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates**

TRURO

\*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

John M. Edgerton

POSTLUDE

Carillon

Herbert Murrill

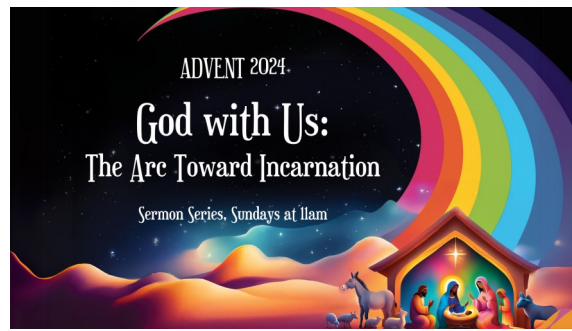


Join us for Refreshments & Fellowship  
in the Gordon Chapel following the Postlude.



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

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God  
and in loving memory of Anna Dartley and Dr. Seth Ephraim Dartley.  
by Saideh, Anna Nicole and Sara Ann.



## THE ARC OF SALVATION

Just about every Christmas service ends with a rousing rendition of Joy to the World. My favorite line in that hymn is “Let every heart prepare Christ room”. If there is a neater summary of the purpose of Advent than that, I haven’t seen it! This year for Advent, we are exploring the story of humanity’s redemption, which arcs from disaster to recovery, from rejection to embrace. We encourage you to come each Sunday to experience them all together. If you miss a Sunday (life happens!) you can always catch up on our services on our Youtube channel. We will begin with the story of Noah—the quintessential and timeless story of disaster as new beginning. We’ll continue into the tradition of the prophets which hold God’s ever-repeated call for progress. The third week will take up human partnership with God’s actions, achieved in the highest heights by Mary the mother of Jesus. In the fourth Sunday, we will take up the beautiful opening words of the Gospel of John: “In the beginning was the Word”. This will gather up the threads of what has come before and highlight the beauty and heartbreak of God’s plan of redemption. Or, as the hymn says it, we’re going to let every heart prepare Christ room. —John M. Edgerton, *Senior Minister*

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

**CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE — December 24, 2024**

**FAMILY SERVICE WITH IMPROMPTU PAGEANT | 5PM**

**CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE | 8PM**

**LESSONS, CAROLS, AND COMMUNION | 11PM**

**ALL-CHURCH NEW YEAR'S WORSHIP—DECEMBER 29 | 10AM**

**NEW YEAR'S EVE—DECEMBER 31, 2024 | 6:30 & 8PM**

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.

**HOLY WEEK 2025**

**PALM SUNDAY — April 13 | 9AM & 11AM**

**MAUNDY THURSDAY — April 17 | 7PM**

**GOOD FRIDAY — April 18 | 7PM**

**Easter & Marathon Sunday — April 20, 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."  
labors in the arms of God.

**MEETING HOUSE SUNDAY — November 23, 2025 | 11AM**

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.

## **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.oldsouth.org/your-first-visit) or see the front desk.

### **LEARN MORE**

Check out the church website [www.oldsouth.org](http://www.oldsouth.org) for more on the history and ministries of Old South. See [www.oldsouth.org/calendar](http://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

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**

*Sunday, December 15, 9am, First Worship*

The kids of Old South have been hard at work rehearsing the annual Christmas Pageant, and you don't want to miss it! This year's script is an homage to former OSC Sr. Minister Frederick M. Meek and his 1972 book "The Bethlehem Inn, and other Christmas Stories". Join us in the Gordon Chapel for this spectacular, funny, heartwarming event.

## **ALL-CHURCH COOKIE DECORATING**

*Sunday December 15, 10am, Mary Norton Hall*

It's Advent three: the week for joy! Join us for fellowship and creative holiday treat-making as we decorate cookies and share coffee and conversation.

## **OLD SOUTH VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENT**

*Sunday, December 15, 12:15pm, Mary Norton Hall*

As a token of gratitude to our wonderful volunteers, we will be hosting a small Christmas volunteer appreciation event. Come for a hot chocolate bar, goodies, and connection with other community members! Stuff an envelope for a Christmas mailing if you want to do something with your hands! Or just come to chat and be in community with other volunteers. Amelia Gerrard (Director of Admin) is leading the event and would love to see you and thank you. Email [amelia@oldsouth.org](mailto:amelia@oldsouth.org) with any questions.

## **BLUE CHRISTMAS: THURSDAY NIGHT CHURCH EDITION**

*Thursday, December 19, 6pm in the Chapel and via live stream*

While we're bombarded with words lauding the wonders of the season, many people find the holidays anything but joyful. Blue Christmas provides an opportunity to step away & let go into music and readings that acknowledge your feelings without trying to talk you out of them. Even if you love the holidays, you may find comfort in this special service.

## **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. Questions? Email Amy Coe at [amyecoe@gmail.com](mailto:amyecoe@gmail.com).

## **GODLY PLAY FOR FAMILIES**

*December 22, 10am*

This year we're going to practice Godly Play in a new way -- offering a gathering for families of preschoolers, infants, and toddlers once a month during the 10am hour on Sundays. Families will gather in the regular childcare room on the 3rd floor to hear a story together, to wonder a bit about the story, and then to have some work time to play around with the ideas and stories we heard. This is a great way for families who have not yet become regulars at church school to begin hearing the stories and practicing together. Families of any age are welcome - though this is geared towards preschool age 4 and under. In addition -- parents are not required to attend, but we suspect most will want to.

## **JOIN OUR USHER TEAM**

*Go to [oldsouth.org/hospitality](https://oldsouth.org/hospitality) to sign up*

Whether you're looking to meet more people at Old South or wondering how you can contribute to our wide open door, this may be just the thing! Serving as an usher, welcomer, or coffee hour host is an easy way to get more involved at Old South. Everyone is welcome, training is provided, and you only need to be friendly and willing to help. Questions? Email [hospitality@oldsouth.org](mailto:hospitality@oldsouth.org) for info.

## **CHRISTMAS EVE USHERS AND WELCOMERS STILL NEEDED**

*Go to [oldsouth.org/hospitality](https://oldsouth.org/hospitality) to sign up, scrolling down to 12/24*

Mary and Joseph needed lots of help along the way to that Inn in Bethlehem. Likewise, we need your help to welcome our neighbors to Old South on Christmas Eve. You can sign up to usher at the 5pm, 8pm, or 11pm. Questions? Email [hospitality@oldsouth.org](mailto:hospitality@oldsouth.org) for info.

## **GREEN TIP: Wrap Sustainably from [www.sustainable rookie.com](http://www.sustainable rookie.com)**

Whatever you choose to give you may want to wrap it yourself. This allows you to put even more time and care into your gift—which is a part of this experience— and to personalize it. During the period between Thanksgiving and New Year's, Americans throw away 25% more trash than any other time of the year, which amounts to 25 million tons of garbage. The good news is, there are many ways to wrap your gifts more sustainably! A great option is to save bags and gift wraps from presents you receive. Store them until the time comes when you need them. Other ideas are to reuse shipping or shoe boxes, use old newspapers or magazines, reuse fabrics (try the furoshiki method), reuse scraps of papers you have at home, repurpose mason jars, reuse old maps, or recycle paper.

# CHRISTMAS AT OLD SOUTH

## **CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**

*Tuesday, December 24, 5pm, 8pm, and 11pm*

We offer three unique candlelit services on Christmas Eve, the first two of which will also be viewable via live stream. We hope you can join us!

### **5pm Candlelight Family Service**

Children are invited to participate in an impromptu Christmas pageant, with simple costumes provided. We sing carols to tell the Christmas story together

### **8pm Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols**

An elegant telling of the Christmas story in carols and readings with music for choir and organ, culminating in the singing of "Silent Night" in our candle-lit sanctuary. Childcare provided upon request - email [children@oldsouth.org](mailto:children@oldsouth.org).

### **11pm Candlelight Communion**

A warmly traditional service with festive carol singing, traditional lessons, and communion in our garland-bedecked chapel. We greet the birth of Christ by singing "Silent Night" outdoors by candlelight just after midnight.

# NEW YEAR'S AT OLD SOUTH

## **SIMPLE ALL-CHURCH NEW YEAR'S SERVICE**

*Sunday, December 29, 10 a.m., in the Chapel*

## **BOSTON FIRST NIGHT: PIPES AND POPS CONCERTS**

*Tuesday, December 31, 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.

## VESPERS HEALING WORSHIP

Next service Sunday, January 12, 5 p.m. on Zoom at [tinyurl.com/OSCHealing](https://tinyurl.com/OSCHealing)

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.

## 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 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.



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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.

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