

March 30, 2025 ❖ 11:00 a.m.

Fourth Sunday in Lent

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

GATHER

PRELUDE

You'll Never Walk Alone

Mac Huff, *arr.*

You Raise Me Up

Roger Emerson, *arr.*

Like a River in My Soul

Tim Osiek, *arr.*

THE MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL VOCAL CHORDS

Samuel Tucker, *music director*

VOTUM

Rachel J. Barton

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth. Amen.

*HYMN 209

O Love, How Vast, How Flowing Free

DEO GRACIAS

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of love, we still have so much to learn.
By Your grace, we have come to know love more deeply –
its mess, its complexity,
its stubborn and tender truths transform us each day.

Through fires that refine and valleys of death, You have guided us.

You draw us into the heart of wisdom,
turn us towards hope that liberates.

But still, O God, we struggle to trust in you.

When we are afraid, or hurt, or weary,
we forget the very One who brought us thus far.

**Indicates all who are able may stand*

We confess, Holy One, that we forget Your best hopes for us.
We forget we are Your beloved ones, made in Your image.
That our neighbors are Your beloveds too.

We confess, Holy One, that we forget Your best hopes for us.
We place power before goodness, and haste before patience.
We forget to extend kindness to ourselves and to each other.

**We cry you mercy,
and turn towards your loving arms in truth and with hope.**

Silence is kept

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Beloveds, God does not abandon us to destruction,
or forever hold us to what we once believed.

God does not bind us to our regrets.

Know forgiveness, and be ensnared by sin no more.

Love abounds.

Wherever new life is desired, may the peace of Christ be welcomed among us.

Thanks be to God, who leads us on paths of resurrection. Amen

Adapted from Rev. Molly Bolton, enfleshed

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

WELCOME

ANTHEM

O Sing Joyfully

Adrian Batten

O sing joyfully unto God our strength:
make a cheerful noise unto the God of Jacob.

Take the song, bring hither the tabret;
the merry harp with the lute.

Blow up the trumpet in the new moon:
e'en in the time appointed, and upon our solemn feast day.

For this was made a statute for Israel:
and a law of the God of Jacob.

LISTEN

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kate M. Nintcheu

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 36:5-12

Betsy Ragan

*After the reading, children that wish may meet childcare staff
in the back of the sanctuary and proceed to the 3rd floor.*

ANTHEM

Ah, Holy Jesus

Brenda E. Austin, *arr.*

THE OLD SOUTH RINGERS

Peter Coulombe, *director*

SCRIPTURE

Luke 10:38-42

SERMON

Don't You Care?

Ashley J. Popperson

*HYMN 473

Blessed Assurance

ASSURANCE

RESPOND

*CALL TO PRAYER

Gracie Paterson

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

Sicut Cervus

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina

*Sicut cervus desiderat ad fontes aquarum:
ita desiderat anima mea ad te, Deus.*

As a deer longs for springs of water,
so longs my soul for you, God.

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Rachel J. Barton



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 Precious Lord Richard Kingsmore, *arr.*
(Lead Me, Guide Me)
THE MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL VOCAL CHORDS

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN 403 **My Hope is Built on Nothing Less** SOLID ROCK

*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION Ashley J. Popperson

POSTLUDE For the Beauty of the Earth John Rutter
THE MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL VOCAL CHORDS



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

The flowers today are given
in celebration of 35 wonderful years together
by Amy and Aaron McPherson!

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 SPECIAL MUSIC



THE MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL VOCAL CHORDS

The Middlesex Hospital Vocal Chords began in February 1990 with a few compassionate singers led by Joyce Ghent, a registered nurse at the hospital in Middletown CT. Since its founding 35 years ago, the choir has grown to more than 90 voices strong. Through music, they seek to help heal those who can be healed and soothe those who cannot. The Vocal Chords perform selections from a wide variety of musical styles including patriotic songs, classical pieces, music from the 1940's to the present, Broadway medleys, and numerous Christmas and Hanukkah arrangements.

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.

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 Thursday Night Church*
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* ❖ Donna Matson, *Treasurer*

Debby Kuenstner, *Chair, Board of Trustees* ❖ Kate Silfen, *Historian*

Rebecca Bowen & 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

LENT

In The Forum This Month:***An Altar in the World, our Lenten All-Church Read***

10am Sundays, 2nd floor, or Zoom tinyurl.com/2025ForumOSC password community

Join us as we explore the lessons author Barbara Brown Taylor includes in her book *An Altar in the World*. We'll highlight and discuss some of her teaching each week. Prior reading is not required, you will still learn and be able to participate.

- **Sunday Mar 30th:** The Practice of Living with Purpose, Saying No and Carrying Water
- **Sunday Apr 6th:** Feeling Pain, Being Present to God, and Pronouncing Blessings

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL READING

Get your copy at the church or at oldsouth.org/lent

Living in a time of such chaos and outrage, we need spiritual discipline to stay grounded and to live out God's call of love and liberation for all. This Lent, Old South has created a devotional booklet to accompany you through these 40 days. Each week offers a reflection and a spiritual practice drawn from the scripture of Galatians 5. "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."

POEMS FOR THE JOURNEY:**A LENTEN/HOLY WEEK GATHERING OF VERSE**

Sunday, April 13, 10am,

Mary Norton Hall or Zoom tinyurl.com/2025ForumOSC password community

Join Theologian in Residence, Don Wells, in sharing poems and prose selections that reflect our Lenten and Holy Week journey. This is a new event similar to our annual Advent and Christmas Poetry Fest. To participate, let Don know the title of your selection (granwell@comcast.net). Choose not to read? Come anyway and hear others share their offerings.

OUR LENTEN JOURNEY....to Bethany.....Bethany?

A Blog from Don Wells, Theologian in Residence,

read the full blog at tinyurl.com/WellsLentBlog2025

"For us in the Church, while not a 'day' of tranquility, Lent can provide a different rhythm from the ordinary. It gives us a time frame in which to reflect, study, pray and perhaps engage in a new practice that will help us on our journey. It gives us a chance to hear again Jesus' invitation to 'come, follow me', and to assess how we are doing."

MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL VOCAL CHORDS AT FESTIVAL WORSHIP MARCH 30

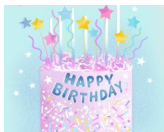


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Chords perform selections from a wide variety of musical styles including patriotic songs, classical pieces, music from the 1940's to the present, Broadway medleys, and numerous Christmas and Hanukkah arrangements.

BLESSINGS FOR MARATHON SUNDAY *Coffee Hours through April 13*

This year, we will be distributing felt hearts on the weekend of the Boston Marathon as a blessing. We invite you to decorate these hearts by embroidering encouraging words, patterns, or designs. We will have supplies available for decorating on the Sundays leading up to April 20th during coffee hour. Questions? Email ashley@oldsouth.org.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy birthday to our members and friends with March birthdays! Join us at coffee hour after Festival Worship to celebrate with some cake!

SHELTERING OUR NEIGHBORS: SIX HOST HOMES BY EASTER

As federal and state immigration policies change, refugees and migrants in Mass. remain in need of shelter. The New Neighbors Task Force, along with an ecumenical coalition led by the Massachusetts Council of Churches, has set a goal of six host homes by Easter. Working with trusted social service agencies, Old Southerners are stepping forward to host new neighbors (both families with children and individuals) in their homes for stays as short as an overnight and as long as several months. We are forming circles of support around each of these hosts to offer emotional support, transportation, babysitting, and other assistance as needed. If you are interested or want more information, please email ashley@oldsouth.org.

SNEAKERS SOUGHT

To help with clear wayfinding on Easter and Marathon Sunday, we are in search of a few pairs of used running shoes. Please put your sneakers in a clear ziplock bag and deposit in "Be True to You" bag in the coat closet. The sneakers will not be returned. Thank you!

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

You may have noticed the fish-shaped boxes around the church building -- these boxes harken back to Jesus' miraculous feeding of the 5,000 people with a little boy's offering of fish and bread -- and we're hoping to contribute to more miracles. The Lenten special offering, "One Great Hour of Sharing", is part of the United Church of Christ's Wider Mission. As people who believe in a God who transcends all borders, we are called to embrace those in need who are divided from us by human-made boundaries. One Great Hour of Sharing offers an opportunity to contribute to international aid. In partnership with multiple Protestant denominations, this offering makes a life saving difference in the lives of the most vulnerable. Children will be collecting donations within their small fish boxes, which we'll welcome back and bless during First Worship on Palm Sunday April 13th. Adults may contribute to this offering throughout Lent in worship, or via our online portal at tinyurl.com/OSCGiving.

EASTER FLOWER DONATIONS—LAST CHANCE THIS SUNDAY

requested contribution \$20, make your donation by March 30

Go to tinyurl.com/OSCGiving and choose "Easter Flowers" to make your gift. Messages in honor or memory of loved ones or special occasions can be entered on the second page of the donation screen or you can give anonymously. Questions? Contact Rémy Hatfield-Gardner at remy@oldsouth.org.

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHT: TENSION BETWEEN SAMUELS, *by Kate Silfen, Historian*

The morning of January 14, 1697, was a special one in the life of the Old South Church in Boston. It was a day of fasting and prayer for several churches in the city, including Old South. As the Reverend Samuel Willard walked towards the pulpit at the beginning of the service, Old South member Judge Samuel Sewall passed him a note. Reading from this note, Reverend Willard announced that Judge Sewall wanted to repent for his role in sentencing five women to death during the infamous Salem Witch Trials five years earlier and to "take the blame and the shame of it." The two Samuels had enjoyed a long friendship, and this was a moment of reconciliation that ended several years of tension between them. Read the full blog at oldsouth.org/historical-highlight-tension-between-samuels.

GREEN TIP: Pull the Plug on "Energy Vampires" During Lent

All those chargers for your devices sip energy when plugged in, even when not in use. Scour the house for culprits. There are probably more than you realize. The phones. The tablets. The countertop appliances. The power strips. Learn more at tinyurl.com/GreenLentGuideposts.

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, Second Sundays at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom

HOLY WEEK & EASTER 2025

Learn more at www.oldsouth.org/holyweek

PALM SUNDAY — April 13 | 9 & 11 a.m.

We mark Jesus' triumphal entrance into Jerusalem as our shouts of Hosanna fade to the drama of the coming week.

MAUNDY THURSDAY — April 17 | 6 p.m.

This year's Maundy Thursday service will be a fresh experience. In the past, we've focused on the failures of the disciples. This year, we will highlight the many gifts Jesus gave them to prepare and sustain them for the challenging days ahead. With music led by Audrey Woodhams, find sustenance and encouragement for the living of these days.

GOOD FRIDAY — April 18 | 7 p.m.

This Good Friday, the Old South Chamber Chorus and soloists will present a performance of Sir John Stainer's passion oratorio *The Crucifixion*, a musical retelling of our redeemer's final hours. Modeled on the great passion settings of Bach, Stainer's oratorio is among the most popular English-language works depicting the events surrounding Christ's death. Premiered in 1887 — roughly contemporaneous with the New Old South Church edifice — the work combines recitatives, solos and masterful choruses that range from graphic shouts of "Crucify!" to the work's beloved centerpiece, "God So Loved the World."

EASTER & MARATHON SUNDAY | April 20

7 a.m.

Join us for a brief, informal outdoor service to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ and to bless the athletes of the Boston Marathon. With bagpipe and public art, celebrate the joy of the resurrection under the portico.

9 a.m., 11 a.m., & 1 p.m.

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." **For children:** childcare will be available on the 3rd floor from 8:20 - 12:30, and we will have Children's Worship for older children for a portion of the 9am and 11am services. For details please reach out to Director of Children and Families Kate Nintcheu at children@oldsouth.org.



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.



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