



**\*PASSING THE PEACE**

*As a sign of our reconciliation with God and each other,  
please greet those around you, saying "peace" or "the peace of Christ."*

**SUNG RESPONSE**     *Please be seated as the Sung Response begins*

*Soloist:*

Gathered in God's name, 'round the living Word.  
Gathered as one family in the name of love.

**Congregation:**

Gath-ered from near and far, gath-ered in this ho-ly place,  
gath-ered as stran-gers and friends, gath-ered and gift-ed by grace.  
Gath-ered in God's name, 'round the liv-ing Word.  
Gath-ered as one fam-'ly in the name of love,  
*slowing*  
in the name of love, in the name of love.

Text and Music: Michael Burkhardt, 2021

**WELCOME**

ANTHEM

Take Me to the Water

Rollo Dilworth

*Take me to the water, take me to the sea.  
Take me to the river so that my spirit can be free.  
Gonna lay my burdens down, down by the riverside.  
Gonna wade in the water, the water that flows both deep and wide.  
Oh, take me, take me, take me to the water.*

Gonna lay down my burden, down by the riverside...  
...*Oh, take me, take me, take me to the water.*

Gonna lay down my sword and shield, down by the riverside...  
...*Oh, take me, take me, take me to the water.*

Wade in the water, wade in the water, children.  
Wade in the water, God's a-gonna trouble the water.

*(entering sequentially, overlapping:)*

[1] Take me to the water! Take me to the sea!  
Take me to the water! Set my spirit free!

[2] Wade! Wade in the water, children and set my spirit free!

[3] Down by the riverside, down by the riverside...  
...I'll set my spirit free!

*Oh! Take me, take me, take me to the water.*

# THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

## Annabelle Delight Fitzgerald

Child of Christina and Kevin Fitzgerald

Godchild of William Gregg and Madeline Fitzgerald

BLESSING THE WATER

John M. Edgerton

PRESENTATION AND INTRODUCTION

LITANY OF BAPTISM

We are gathered to present Annabelle Delight Fitzgerald to the Church and to dedicate her to God. What can we affirm about her?

**She is a child of God, made in God's image.**

As Annabelle grows and matures, how will she know she is a child of God and how will she learn of the Christian story?

**We will tell her about Abraham and Sarah, the parents of our faith; about Moses and Miriam who led our ancestors out of bondage; about Mary and Joseph's openness to mystery; about the Savior, Jesus.**

In turn, what will we expect of her?

**We look forward to sitting with her at the Lord's Table, sharing with her the costs and joys of discipleship, learning and growing with her in the Christian pilgrimage, and declaring with one voice our faith in God and God's son, Jesus.**

Do you, Christina and Kevin, parents, assume your primary responsibility for fulfilling these expectations by growing with Annabelle in the Christian faith, helping her to become a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, and by offering her the nurture and support of the Christian church? And will you, William and Madeline, godparents, agree to guide Annabelle into becoming an engaged and complete human being, teaching her about personal sacrifice for a greater good, about grace and reconciliation at times of human weakness, and the power of unconditional love for all people?

*Parents/Godparents: We happily and genuinely accept this serious duty.*

And Old South Church, do you pledge to maintain a nurturing and challenging Christian environment for Annabelle?

**We do, for she belongs to us as well.**

Then, may God be with us.

**God help us. Amen.**

## BAPTISM

### CONGREGATIONAL WELCOME

Laurie Stickels, *Baptismal Deacon*

**We rejoice in God's empowering love, freely given to each and all. We welcome you, newly baptized, into the circle of love in Christ's Church. We promise to pray for you, to seek the depths of faith with you, to support you, and to love you. We covenant with you to love God with all our hearts, minds, souls, and strength, and our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.**

### CHORAL RESPONSE

You Have Put On Christ

Howard Hughes, SM

## LISTEN

### SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 3:1-8

Justin Dickerson

### \*HYMN 325

**Child of Blessing, Child of Promise**

STUTTGART

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

### SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 11, *selected verses*

Ashley J. Popperson

### SERMON

The Wisdom of the Generations

### \*HYMN 384

**For the Faithful Who Have Answered**

OMNI DIE

\*CALL TO PRAYER

Kat Woodard

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

Love and Faithfulness

Bruce Tippet

Let love and faithfulness never leave you.  
Bind them around your neck, never to forget.  
And write them on the tablet of your heart.

## RESPOND

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Rachel J. Barton

OFFERTORY

By Faith

Lloyd Larson, *arr.*

By faith we see the hand of God  
in the light of creation's grand design,  
in the lives of those who prove his faithfulness,  
who walk by faith and not by sight.

By faith the prophets saw a day  
when the longed-for Messiah would appear  
with the power to break the chains of sin and death,  
and rise triumphant from the grave.

*We will stand as children of the promise,  
we will fix our eyes on Christ, our souls' reward;  
'til the race is finished and the work is done  
we'll walk by faith and not by sight.*

By faith the church was called to go  
in the power of the Spirit to the lost,  
to deliver captives, and to preach good news  
in every corner of the earth.

By faith this mountain shall be moved,  
and the power of the gospel shall prevail;  
for we know in Christ all things are possible  
for all who call upon his name.

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided,  
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

By faith we see the hand of God;  
by faith this mountain shall be moved.  
We'll walk by faith and not by sight—  
we'll walk by faith!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*HYMN 573

**Lead on Eternal Sovereign**

LANCASHIRE

\*BENEDICTION

Ashley J. Popperson

POSTLUDE

Wir glauben all an einen Gott, BWV 680    Johann Sebastian Bach



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

The flowers today are given by  
Carolyn and John Clark  
In celebration of their 40th anniversary.

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

Save the date!  
On October 3rd at 7pm in the Gordon Chapel,  
pianist DJ Cleavinger will dedicate  
Old South's new Mason and Hamlin Model BB piano  
with repertoire including the stunning Études, Op. 10, of Frédéric Chopin.





## **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**

Hearing assist devices are available from Ava Welling, our Director of Audio. Please see Ava for a device and instructions on how to use it. For more information or answers to questions, please contact Ava at [ava@oldsouth.org](mailto:ava@oldsouth.org).

### **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, *Associate Minister for Transformation*  
Kat Woodard, *Taylor Resident for Mission in the City* ❖ Justin Dickerson, *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* ❖ Yuexuan Joyce Wang, *Children's Choir Accompanist*  
Rory Razon, *Youth Group Co-Leader*

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* ❖ Ava Welling, *Director of Audio*  
Rémy Hatfield-Gardner & William Wei, *Livestream Production Assistants*  
Elias Perez, *Senior Sexton* ❖ Rahlek Givan, Ozo Nwodo, Richard Serebour, & M.D. Rahman, *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

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## MEETING THE MOMENT: FALL SERMON SERIES

Go to [oldsouth.org/fall-sermon-series](https://oldsouth.org/fall-sermon-series) to learn more

This fall we delve into a sermon series about "Meeting the Moment". Together we'll find the spiritual strength and virtues we need to face the challenges of our world today. Through love, truth, wisdom, courage, and faith, we're invited to draw from the deep well of scripture and community. Throughout the season we will explore how ancient words speak powerfully into our present moment.

- **September 14 at First and Festival Worship** *Ashley Popperson*  
The Wisdom of the Generations | Hebrews 11
- **September 18 at Thursday Night Church** *Rachel Barton*  
Hospitality | Acts 27:41-28:2

## COMMUNITY HOUR & CHURCH SCHOOL CLASSES BEGIN

Our 10am offerings resume on Sunday Sept 14th. Children's Classes meet on the 4th floor and adults can attend The Forum on the 2nd floor or Bible Study in the Library. See what is planned for The Forum on page 3.

## GOSPEL CHOIR RESUMES

Sunday, September 14, 12:30-2pm, Mary Norton Hall

See full schedule at [www.oldsouth.org/music](https://www.oldsouth.org/music), click on Gospel Choir

Add your name to the mailing list by contacting Tim Harbold at [tim@oldsouth.org](mailto:tim@oldsouth.org)

As we enter a new year, you are invited to join the joyful ministry of the Old South Church Gospel Choir! All are welcome, and we'll be glad to see you, whether that's very occasionally or every month. Rehearsals are typically once a month on Sunday afternoons, but since that can be prohibitive for some, we're also creating a few opportunities to more easily involve worshippers from First Worship (Oct. 19 and Jan. 18) and Thursday Night Church (Nov. 6/13 and Apr. 9/16). Please join us, and feel free to bring a friend! We have lots of great music in store!

## VESPERS HEALING WORSHIP

Sunday, September 14, 5 p.m., on Zoom, [tinyurl.com/OSCHHealing](https://tinyurl.com/OSCHHealing) 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.

## SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

Sundays, 10am, Crawford Library,

Go to [tinyurl.com/OSCSundayStudy](https://tinyurl.com/OSCSundayStudy) to join Zoom, password: 477100

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. For more information contact Justin Tyler Dickenson at [justin@oldsouth.org](mailto:justin@oldsouth.org).

### **SUN WAY PILGRIMAGE**

*Sunday, September 21, 1:00pm*

Please plan to join Boston Interfaith Climate Allies (BICA), including the Old South Climate Crisis Task Force, as we “pray with our feet” for climate justice. This public, prayerful, and joyful processional is a part of the wider international action that celebrates solar and wind power and the movement to free our world of fossil fuels. And BICA and the Old South Climate Task Force need your help! There will be a need on Sept. 21 for setting up at the Boston Common and cleaning up after the event (about 2:30 pm). And we may also need some folks who can be marshals along the route from Old South to the Boston Common. If you can help in any way or want to Marshal and help guide people along the route, please contact Rich Hassinger [richhassinger@verizon.net](mailto:richhassinger@verizon.net).

### **OLD SOUTH'S ALL-CHURCH RETREAT RETURNS TO CRAIGVILLE!**

*Friday September 26 - Sunday September 28*, Join us for our annual All-Church Retreat out on the Cape at Craigville Retreat Center. This year our theme is "Building Belonging." Through a blend of shared wisdom, intentional conversations, and meaningful practices, we'll explore what it looks like to nurture genuine connection & community. We'll have a rich time of learning, sharing stories, and weaving a web of relationships and trust that can hold us all together. **Register by September 22 at [oldsouth.org/all-church-retreat-2025](https://oldsouth.org/all-church-retreat-2025). If you have not received confirmation of your registration via email, contact [kate@oldsouth.org](mailto:kate@oldsouth.org).**

### **THEOLOGICAL BOOK GROUP CHOOSES NEW BOOK**

*"Love's Braided Dance: Hope in a time of Crisis" - Norman Wirzba, Professor of Theology, Duke Divinity School*  
*Monday evenings via Zoom, beginning September 29*

Contact Don Wells at [granwell@comcast.net](mailto:granwell@comcast.net) ASAP to guarantee your space

Wirzba argues that hope evaporates in conditions of abandonment and abuse but grows in the context of nurture and belonging in what Wendell Berry calls 'Love's Braided Dance'. In eight riveting chapters he argues that real hope, as distinct from optimism, is a commitment to care for one another and our neighborhoods but also for our physical world: its soil, water, plants and animals. He challenges his readers to be sure that their theological perspectives are bound up in both human and environmental concerns. The group is limited to 20 participants to ensure time for maximum discussion.

### **RETIRED AND READY**

*Tuesday, September 30, 11a.m. Meet at the Massachusetts Historical Society, 1154 Boylston St, Boston*

Join in a private tour to view the galleries and hear some interesting stories about the history of Boston and the treasures that the MHS now houses and protects. We will begin at 11am, followed by lunch at a nearby restaurant. Please contact Lynn Wegner at [lynn.wegner@gmail.com](mailto:lynn.wegner@gmail.com) or 617-851-4441 to make a reservation and to let me know if you will be joining for lunch. There is no cost for this tour, but a donation of \$5 or so would be appreciated to help the MHS carry on its good work.

## THE OLD SOUTH COMMUNITY HOUR RETURNS

*Sundays, 10am, Mary Norton Hall*

- **Meet Our New Staff** | *September 14*  
Join us and get to know Kat Woodard, the Taylor Fellow for Mission in the City this year, and Justin Tyler Dickenson, this year's Seminarian.
- **150 Years of Doing Justice and Loving Mercy at 645 Boylston Street** | *September 21*  
This December, Old South Church will celebrate 150 years of worship and community at 645 Boylston Street. In anticipation of this milestone, we invite you to join church historian Kate Silfen for a look back at the journey that shaped us into the inclusive, justice-oriented congregation we are today. Come learn about key initiatives led by our ministers and members over the decades—and how their work continues to inspire us. There will be time for reflection, questions, and open discussion as we consider how faith and justice intersect in our lives today.
- **Game Day** | *September 21*  
Want to play a game? Bring your favorite games to share, and spend an hour playing with your Old South friends.
- **Deepening Community at Old South Church: Small Groups 101** | *September 28*  
Like walking, cooking, reading, crafting or community? Join us for a peek into our growing Small Groups program. Come hear more about why we're investing in Small Groups as part of our strategic planning work, and learn more about the Small Groups you can join this fall!

## SOLIDARITY AT MASS AND CASS

*Thursday Mornings from 8:45 am -11:00 am*

Beloved, if you feel called to embody the presence of God's love, you are invited to join faith leaders from across the city on Thursday mornings from 8:45 to 11:00 am at Mass and Cass. The ministry focuses on praying and if you wish - working alongside people to care for and clean the stress of the neighborhood. Contact June Cooper for information about orientation and getting involved: [junercooper@comcast.net](mailto:junercooper@comcast.net) or check out their website: [bostonfaithjustice.org/housing-justice](http://bostonfaithjustice.org/housing-justice).

## VOLUNTEER TO READ SCRIPTURE

Go to [tinyurl.com/OSCScriptureReader](http://tinyurl.com/OSCScriptureReader) to sign up

Reading the Bible in community is an essential Christian spiritual practice. Each week at Festival Worship a volunteer reads scripture before the sermon. People of all ages are encouraged to volunteer! Questions? Email Ashley Popperson.

## GREEN TIP: Unplug Appliances

You might not realize it, but many of your devices continue to use electricity even when they're turned off. These phantom loads, which electronics consume in standby mode, can account for up to 10% of your home's total energy consumption, quietly driving up your utility bills and carbon footprint. Unplug devices when you're not using them, or use a smart power strip that automatically cuts off power to idle electronics. With just a few adjustments around the house, you can reduce waste, lower emissions, and save money without noticing a difference in your daily routine.

## CHRISTIAN SERVICE AND OUTREACH

### THE WEEKLY PUSHBACK - Grace Church UCC

Go to [givebutter.com/familysupportfund](https://givebutter.com/familysupportfund) to contribute to their mission

Have other weekly action ideas? Email [outreach@oldsouth.org](mailto:outreach@oldsouth.org)

Bad news comes fast and furious these days--for trans folks, for immigrants, for the disabled. But all across the country, people of goodwill are pushing back. Every week, Old South's Christian Service and Outreach Committee will be giving to an organization or individual who is serving the gospel in a world of bad news. Grace Church UCC in East Boston has been supporting their community, particularly those affected by ICE deportations or TPS revocation. Old South is donating \$1,000 to their work to assist people, especially families, that have experienced income or job loss due to immigration detention or deportation. Funds will be used to help our neighbors avoid eviction, put food on the table, and cover other basic costs of living.

### HEARING ASSIST DEVICES

Hearing assist devices are available from Ava Welling, our Director of Audio. Please see Ava for a device and instructions on how to use it. For more information or answers to questions, please contact Ava at [ava@oldsouth.org](mailto:ava@oldsouth.org).

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### 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.

**VESPER HEALING Worship**, Second Sundays 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.

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