



January 5, 2025 ❖ 11:00 a.m. ❖ Old South Church *in* Boston

Epiphany Sunday

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

GATHER

PRELUDE *Andante religioso* from the Sonata, Op. 56, No. 4 Felix Mendelssohn

*HYMN 157 **Brightest and Best** MORNING STAR

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP Rachel J. Barton

Arise, shine, O People! Your light has come!

Arise, beloved! The glory of the Lord rises to meet you.

Lift up your eyes, behold the break of day.

Though shadow covers the Earth, a light shines in the darkness.

Let us look to the East, and greet the dawn.

This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**Indicates all who are able may stand*

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

ANTHEM

Star in the East

William Walker, *arr.*

Hail the blest morn! See the Great Mediator
down from the regions of glory descend!
Shepherds, go worship the babe in the manger;
Lo! for his guard the bright angels attend.

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning;
dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
Star in the East, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid!

Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining,
low lies his bed with the beasts of the stall;
angels adore him in slumber reclining,
Maker and Monarch and Savior of all.

Say, shall we yield him — in costly devotion —
odors of Edom and offerings divine,
gems of the mountains and pearls of the ocean,
myrrh from the forest, and gold from the mine?

LISTEN

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kate M. Nintcheu

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 60:1-6

Betsy Ragan

*HYMN 164

Arise, Your Light is Come

FESTAL SONG

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

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 2:1-12

SERMON

Bow Down

Ashley J. Popperson

*HYMN 168

O Radiant Christ, Incarnate Word

DICKENSON COLLEGE

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

Gesù bambino

Pietro Yon

Sam Ou, *cello*

CALL TO THE OFFERING

John M. Edgerton



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

When the Song of the Angels Is Stilled

Elizabeth Alexander

When the song of the angels is stilled,
the work of Christmas begins.

When the star in the heavens is gone,
Oh, the work of Christmas begins:

*to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the people,
to make music in the heart.*

When the star is gone, when the song is stilled,
the work of Christmas begins.

When the kings and the princes are home,
the work of Christmas begins.

When the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins: *to find the lost...*

When the shepherds are back with their flocks,
when the kings and the princes are home,
when the star in the heavens is gone,
when the song of the angels is stilled,
the work of Christmas begins.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN 160 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (Jesus the Light of the World)

ELDERKIN

*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

Ashley J. Popperson

POSTLUDE

Allegro maestoso e vivace
from the Sonata, Op. 56, No. 2

Felix Mendelssohn



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

The flowers are given in memory of
Benjamin C. Crawford
by his parents, Linda and James Crawford.

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



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

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.”

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

November 2, 2025 | 11AM

In a solemn service of sacred music, we gather to name and remember our own beloved dead who now rest from their 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.

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2024

Family Service with Impromptu Pageant | 5PM

Lessons and Carols | 8PM

Carols and Communion | 11PM

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 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

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE FORUM

Sunday, Jan 5, 10am, in Mary Norton Hall

Join Todd Krohne, Old South member and Chair of our Stewardship Committee, to discuss some of the dreams and visions the stewardship committee hopes to build for our future. We are excited to explore the meaning of philanthropy at Old South and beyond.

YOGA & MEDITATION

Sundays, 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. Please bring a journal and a mat (or just let us know if you need either or both provided) to this time for breath, movement, and fellowship. We look forward to welcoming you. Questions? Email Amy Coe amyecoe@gmail.com.

AM AHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS

Sunday, January 12, at Festival Worship

During Festival Worship on January 12, we will feature a presentation of Amahl and the Night Visitors, an opera in one act originally written for televised broadcast in 1951. The opera is an imaginative re-telling of the story of the Three Kings.

SAVE THE DATE:

A CONVERSATION BETWEEN PHILLIS WHEATLEY AND BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Sunday, February 9, 2:30-4:30pm, in the Gordon Chapel and on live stream

Old South's (G)RACE Speaks Committee is teaming up with playwright Debra Wiess to present "A Revolutionary Encounter in London", a 70 minute one-act play about the little-known meeting in 1773 between two of Boston's Colonial icons: enslaved African Poetess Phillis Wheatley and American Founding Father Benjamin Franklin. Witness these two important figures in Old South's history converse in their spiritual home, 252 years after their famous encounter. There will also be special music and refreshments to enjoy. You don't want to miss it!

GREEN TIP: Eat Those Leftovers

After the holiday season you will likely have leftovers from holiday dinner, parties, and family get-togethers. Did you know that Americans throw away 25% of the food they buy? By eating your leftovers you are not only saving money but also preventing energy waste from food production. Not to mention you are keeping them from taking up space in a landfill. To learn more green tips for the New Year, go to jonahjustice.org/2020/02/52-tips-for-green-new-year/.

VESPERS HEALING WORSHIP

Next Service Sunday, January 12, 5pm on Zoom at 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 pm, in the Gordon Chapel

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



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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