



Old South Church  
*in Boston*

March 2, 2025

**Annual  
Meeting  
Sunday**

11:00 a.m.

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

## GATHER

PRELUDE                                      Præludium in A, BWV 536                                      J. S. Bach

\*HYMN 18                                      **Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer**                                      CWM RHONDDA

\*CALL TO WORSHIP *Psalm 63, adapted*                                      Gracie Paterson

O God, you are my God; I seek you.

My soul thirsts for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

**So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,  
beholding your power and glory.**

Because your steadfast love is better than life,  
my lips will praise you.

**So I will bless you as long as I live;  
for you have been my help,**

In the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.

**My soul clings to you;  
your right hand upholds me.**

*\*Indicates all who are able may stand*



# RESPOND

\*CALL TO PRAYER

Rachel J. Barton

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

Many Gifts, One Spirit

Allen Pote

Many gifts, one spirit; many songs, one voice.  
Many reasons, one promise; many questions, one choice.  
O God, we pray for unity, give guidance from above.  
In our differences unite us in the circle of your love.

*O God, remind us we are not alone.  
Though we move on different pathways,  
we are walking to your throne.*

Help us learn to love each other,  
show us ways to understand  
we are members of one family,  
growing strong by joining hands.

Take our many ways of working,  
blend the colors of each soul  
into the beauty of a rainbow.  
Give us life, Lord; make us whole.

## WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

**Dan Frick      Curtiss Reed, Jr.**  
**Mi Herzog     Lawrence Sunday**  
**Meg & Jim Weston**

PRESENTATION

Ashley J. Popperson

LITANY OF INTENT

Friends in Christ, we are all received into the church through the sacrament of baptism. These people have found nurture and support in the midst of the family of Christ. They have been led by the Spirit to affirm their baptism and to claim in our presence their covenantal relationship with Christ and the members of the Christian church.

**They are here, as we are here, to endeavor to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind, and our neighbors as ourselves. God help us.**

Friends who are joining, we rejoice in your pilgrimage of faith which has brought you to this time and place. We give thanks for every community of faith which has been your spiritual home, and we celebrate your presence in this household of faith. Do you promise, by the grace of God, to continue in your pilgrimage of faith, to be Christ's disciple, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

*Those joining: We do.*

Do you promise to walk with us in faithfulness and in Christian love? And do you promise, that so far as able, you will participate in the life of this church, by worshipping God with us, and offering your time, talent and means for the ministry of this church and for the larger church of which this is a part?

*Those joining: We do.*

Friends, we then welcome you as partners in the common life of this church and join our voices to share our covenant of mission with you:

*(standing:)* **We pledge to give ourselves to the one whom Jesus called “Abba, Father,” as the God in whose love we are grounded, and to Jesus Christ, God incarnate, who rules our lives. We give ourselves to God the Holy Spirit, the One who sustains, recreates and guides us. We promise to walk in covenant with one another, with the wider church, and with the Old South Church, secure in God’s grace, and prepared in gratitude to live by the promise and serve in the hope of the Gospel.**

THE RIGHT HAND OF CHRISTIAN FRIENDSHIP      Laurie Stickels, *deacon*

In the name of Jesus Christ and on behalf of the Old South Church, we extend to you the hand of Christian love, welcoming you into the company of this local church.

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                      Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel                      Roger Emerson, *arr.*

*Didn't my Lord deliver Daniel?  
Then why not everyone?*

He delivered Daniel from the lion's den, Jonah from the belly of the whale,  
and the Hebrew children from the fiery furnace; then why not everyone?

I set my foot on the Gospel ship, and the ship began to sail;  
it landed me over on Canaan's shore, and I'll never come back no more.

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*HYMN *see next page*                      **Open a Doorway into God**                      CONSTANTINE

\*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION                      Ashley J. Popperson

POSTLUDE                      Fuga in A, BWV 536                      J. S. Bach



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

The flowers today are given in thanksgiving for the ministries of John Edgerton,  
Ashley Popperson, Rachel Barton, the staff of Old South Church,  
and the many ordained ministers among our membership, who support our ministry,  
and in grateful memory of Elsbeth Melville Percy (BU's Dean Melville), who for many  
years gave flowers in recognition of the ministerial staff on Annual Meeting Sunday.

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



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.

❖ “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)

## Joining at First Worship

**Molly and Mike Brennan-Smith** recently moved to the Boston area from New Jersey. Michael is from the sunny paradise of Los Angeles, and Molly is from this dreadful cold tundra (i.e., Massachusetts). They met in graduate school and got married in 2024. They have been attending Old South Church on Thursday nights and are excited to join the community. Michael loves cooking and Molly loves eating Michael's food. They are excited to get to know all of you!

## Joining At Festival Worship

**Daniel Frick**, a born-and-raised Midwesterner, has lived in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, for the last thirty-six years. Recently retired from his career as a college professor of American Studies and Writing Center director, he now works as an independent researcher and writer. In his free time, he collects jazz records and is an avid reader. He and his wife enjoy traveling—especially to visit their adult children in Chicago and Brooklyn. Dan grew up in the United Church of Christ and is happy to be finding a new (virtual) church home at OSC.

**Mi Herzog** has lived in the Boston area since 1981, when she came from Cincinnati to attend graduate school. She worked in marketing for many years before her retirement. She has two grown children who both live in the San Francisco area. She travels there frequently, as well as internationally. Her other passions are watercolors and tennis. After 35 years as an active member of the Congregational Church of Needham, Mi moved to Jamaica Plain and discovered OSC. She looks forward to being an active member of this church community.



Born in St. Louis during Jim Crow, **Curtiss Reed's** parents instilled in him a sense of dignity, of fairness, and of curiosity about the world. His adventures have taken him to over 55 countries. Curtiss discovered Vermont on a ski trip during the Nor'easter of 1978 and relocated to Brattleboro a few months later. Recipient of multiple honorary doctorates and lifetime achievement awards, Curtiss serves as CEO of the CRJ Consulting Group, LLC. He serves on multiple Vermont boards and the Boston-based Castle of Our Skins. Curtiss has three adult children each creating their own adventures on the West Coast. He enjoys cooking, traveling, Baroque music, museum visits, and time seeking adventures with his life partner, Cathryn Griffith.

**Lawrence Sunday** was raised on his family centennial farm in Southwest Michigan by wonderful parents and a sister and a brother. He earned a pharmacy degree at Ferris State University in 1966. Practiced pharmacy for 43 years in Bridgman, owning a pharmacy for 20 of those years. He attended an EUB Chapel and then the Methodist Church all his life. He is active in music and plays the clarinet and sings. He has a progressive nerve disease for which there is no treatment or cure. He lives in assisted living.

**Meg and Jim Weston** hail from northern NY (Potsdam) and northern Ohio (Seven Hills) but have lived in the Boston area for over 50 years. They met at college (Douglass / Rutgers). Their four children have grown up in their home in Bedford, and Meg's and Jim's family has now grown to include Adam, with spouse Janelle and grandson Miles (8), Kate and spouse Zak Putnam with grandson Charlie (10) and granddaughter Georgia (8), David and Abby King with granddaughter Lily (2), and Mark. Meg and Jim are now retired - Meg from teaching French and Spanish and Jim from the biotech industry. They now spend their time watching their grandkids play sports and do other activities. Meg teaches English to immigrants, enjoys singing in the OSC festival choir, and singing in the Master Singers of Lexington.

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 | 7AM, 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, 2025**

*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](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 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* ❖ 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.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **NEW NEIGHBOR TASK FORCE: WHERE YOU STAY I WILL STAY**

*Sunday, March 2, 10am, Mary Norton Hall,  
or Zoom [tinyurl.com/2025ForumOSC](https://tinyurl.com/2025ForumOSC) password community*

What does hospitality mean to us as Christians? What stories can we draw on as examples? How might we employ Christian hospitality in service to our immigrant neighbors - especially as fear of deportation runs rampant? Join the New Neighbor Task Force to engage these questions and more. Bring a friend!

## **ANNUAL MEETING**

*Sunday, March 2, 12:30pm, in Mary Norton Hall*

Mark your calendars! Our Annual Meeting will take place on March 2nd. Together, we will vote on our Officers, Trustees and Committee Chairs, vote on our Annual Budget, and engage in the work of the church. This year, our Annual Meeting will include interactive and collaborative activities to seek feedback and input on our strategic transformation work in the year to come. We'll hear from representatives from the Christian Service and Outreach Committee, gather ideas for deepening our relationships with one another, and explore ways we can welcome more people into Old South Church in the year to come. Join us to help shape our work on social justice, deepening community, and growing the church in 2025. Lunch will be served.

## **WORKSHOP: AFRO-CHRISTIAN HISTORY AND LEGACY, THE UCC'S FIFTH STREAM**

*Friday, March 7, 9:30am - 12:30pm. Congregational Library & Archives (14 Beacon St)  
Learn more and register at [tinyurl.com/UCCFifthStream](https://tinyurl.com/UCCFifthStream)*

Old South members are warmly invited by our friends at the *Congregational Library & Archives* to join an in-person workshop led by Dr. Julia M. Speller on the Afro-Christian Convention. Attendees will gain a deeper knowledge and understanding of the history and legacy of the Afro-Christian Convention as the fifth stream of the United Church of Christ (UCC). It is designed for church and community leaders as well as anyone interested in the history of this important, and until recently overlooked, Christian tradition within the UCC. Old South Members should register at the Member rate, in recognition of the generous support of the CLA by Old South!

## **HEARD IT AT COUNCIL JANUARY 2025**

Click here to read Old South Historian Kate Silfen's article about the January Council Meeting. Topics included the budget, building an inclusive community, Associate Minister search plans, by-laws and strategic planning, and giving thanks to the music department for an amazing Christmas season.

## ASH WEDNESDAY & LENT

### ASHES ON THE WAY

*Wednesday, March 5, Old South's sidewalk, 8:30am-5:30pm*

Old South Church is pleased to continue our tradition of offering holy conversation, prayer, and ashes on Boylston Street to passersby.

### ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

*Wednesday, March 5, 12pm and 6pm, in the Gordon Chapel*

#### Noon Ash Wednesday Service

Held in Gordon Chapel, this simple service of prayer, silence, confession, and imposition of ashes mark our entrance into the reflective and somber season of Lent.

#### 6pm Evening Ash Wednesday Service featuring Holden Evening Prayer

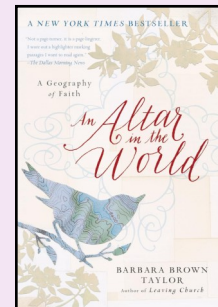
Join us for this special musical service featuring the Old South Festival Choir and instrumentalists. Incorporating "Holden Evening Prayer" by composer Marty Haugen (whose songs have enlivened both First and Festival Worship during the past month), this gentle service of word and prayer concludes with the imposition of ashes.

### ALL-CHURCH LENTEN BOOK READ: *An Altar in the World*

*Four Sundays, beginning March 16, 2nd Floor Mary Norton Hall*

We invite you, as part of your Lenten practice this season, to read Barbara Brown Taylor's book *An Altar in the World: a Geography of Faith*. This 2009 publication presents a compelling invitation to intentionally bring more holiness to our everyday lives. Grounded in gratitude and wonder, Brown Taylor's writing is accessible and inspiring, as well as honest and funny. To take part in discussions you do not need to have read the book to participate (but we hope you do) - we'll have materials each week.

- March 16: Waking up to God, Paying Attention, and Wearing Skin
- March 23: Walking on the Earth, Getting Lost, and Encountering Others
- March 30th: The Practice of Living with Purpose, Saying No and Carrying Water
- April 6: Feeling Pain, Being Present to God, and Pronouncing Blessings



**BANISHED TO THE BALCONY:  
A TALK ON THE HISTORY OF RACE AT OSC**

*Monday, March 10, 6pm, Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St*

Have you ever wondered what it was like for Phillis Wheatley to worship upstairs at the Old South Meeting House? Or about the worship life of the other members of African descent whose names are etched on the leaves of our Memorial Tree in the Columbarium? Join us as historian Richard Boles, author of *Dividing the Faith: The Rise of Segregated Churches in the Early American North*, talks about the 18th c. circumstances of Native Americans and enslaved African Americans in New England who worshipped, were baptized, and took communion in predominantly white churches with segregated seating and other race-based proscriptions.

**JOIN THE MARY NORTON SOCIETY**

Every one of us, no matter our age or financial circumstances, needs a plan for what will happen to our resources after we pass on. Many members and friends of Old South have included the church in their estate plans- “a way to support Old South from heaven. Here’s how Mary Norton Society member, Cathryn Griffith, describes her reasons for joining the society:

*As a single person living alone, I found a welcoming community when I first entered Old South. Providing for the church in my will assures me that things I value will continue beyond my lifetime. I want to help sustain this historic building, which creates a feeling of serenity whenever I enter, and the services, sermons, prayers, rituals, and the inspiring music. And giving is a good way to provide for others in the city, where the needs are countless.*

Those who provide for Old South in their estate plans become members of the Mary Norton Society. Won’t you join them, as a way of insuring that the things that have mattered most to you will be here for coming generations? Contact [cathryngriffith@mac.com](mailto:cathryngriffith@mac.com) for more information.

**GODLY PLAY FOR FAMILIES**

*Sundays, once a month; 10am, 3rd floor*

*Upcoming Sundays: March 16, April 6, and May 18th.*

Our family-based church school gathering returns! Families of preschoolers, infants, and toddlers are invited to our once a month class during the 10am hour in the regular childcare room on the 3rd floor. We'll hear a Godly Play story together, wonder a bit about the story, and then have work time to play around with the ideas and stories we heard. 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.

## VESPERS HEALING WORSHIP

Sunday, February 9, 5 p.m. on Zoom, [tinyurl.com/OSCHealing](https://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.

## GREEN TIP: Turn Off Water When Brushing Your Teeth

Turn off the water when your brushing your teeth. You can also shut the water off while lathering up when washing your hands and when shaving. They are small things, but all of these little things really add up. Click [here](#) for more information.

## 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.

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