



Old South Church

Copley Square, Boston

*A Congregation of the
United Church of Christ*

Gathered 1669

April 26, 2026

Care of Creation Sunday

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

GATHER

PRELUDE

Adagio

Arcangelo Corelli

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rachel J. Barton

The Good Shepherd calls us by name and leads us into life.

We come to follow.

In green pastures and still waters, in soil and sky, God's care surrounds us.

We come to rest in that care.

As we are gathered and tended, so we are sent to tend what God loves.

We come to worship and to shepherd the earth.

*HYMN 252

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

BRADBURY

**Indicates all who are able may stand*

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

WELCOME

Rachel J. Barton

ANTHEM

This Joyful Eastertide
THE OLD SOUTH RINGERS
Peter Coulombe, *director*

Sondra K. Tucker, *arr.*

LISTEN

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 23

Rory Razon

*HYMN 247

My Shepherd Is the Living God

CONSOLATION

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

SCRIPTURE

John 10:1-10

SERMON

A Common Ground

Kat E. Woodard

*HYMN 569

Touch the Earth Lightly

TENDERNESS

RESPOND

*CALL TO PRAYER

Ashley J. Popperson

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 How Deep The Father's Love For Us Peggy Bettcher, *arr.*
THE OLD SOUTH RINGERS
Peter Coulombe, *director*

CLIMATE CHAMPION AWARD Old South Church Climate Crisis Task Force
Eastie Farms and Kannan Thiruvengadam
See page 5 for more information

CALL TO THE OFFERING John M. Edgerton



*To give online,
Scan the QR code*

*If You're new to Old South,
scan the QR code
to tell us more about yourself.*



OFFERTORY Psalm 23 (A Psalm of Hope) Heather Sorenson

The Lord is my shepherd and I shall not want,
I shall not want, I shall not want.

The Lord is my shepherd and I shall not want,
I shall not want for more.
How could I ask for more?

He leads by still water and I shall not want,
I shall not want, I shall not want.

He leads by still water and I shall not want,
I shall not want for more.
How could I ask for more?

He is enough for every need;
he is enough for every broken dream.
The Lord is my shepherd: I shall not want.
I'm satisfied with what he gives;
he will provide and faithfully supply.
The Lord is my shepherd and I shall not want.

He leads through the valley and I shall not want...

He is the night, he is the day,
he is the sun, he is the shade.
He is the ocean, he's the stream;
in every song he is my theme.
And if we wander off alone,
his mercy calls us back to home.

I feast at his table and I shall not want...
...I shall not want for more.
He is the strength to conquer sin,
he's faithful when my trust is thin.

I shall not want.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN 28

For the Beauty of the Earth

DIX

*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

Kat E. Woodard

POSTLUDE

Heather on the Hill

Richard Maltby

**OLD SOUTH CHURCH'S 2026 CLIMATE CHAMPION:
KANNAN THIRUVENGADAM, EASTIE FARM**

Old South's Climate Crisis Task Force honors Kannan Thiruvengadam as Old South Church's 2026 Climate Champion for his work approaching the climate crisis by prioritizing equity. Kannan cofounded and leads Eastie Farm, an urban farm in East Boston that fosters food security, regenerative land use, & environmental stewardship. Under his leadership Eastie Farm built the first geothermally powered zero emissions greenhouse in the region, a space for all year growing, gathering, and education. Eastie Farm's Community Supported Agriculture supports small farmers in the region and serves hundreds of families in East Boston all across the economic spectrum in a manner that destigmatizes food insecurity and strengthens the local economy.



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 meeting at the pulpit.
Led by docent Kate Silfen.

Old South Church Climate Task Force Members
Karen Bogle, Paul Brouillette, Carolyn Clark & Rev. June Cooper



UPCOMING SPECIAL SERVICES

PHILLIS WHEATLEY SUNDAY

May 10, 2026 | 11am

Old South honors and learns from one of the saints of this church, an 18th century poet who was stolen from Africa, suffered the Middle Passage, was sold into slavery, and wrote her way to freedom.

PENTECOST SUNDAY

May 24, 2026 | 11am

Join us for an expansive and exhilarating service that celebrates the Holy Spirit coming to dwell amongst the people. This service includes the Old South tradition of showering our majestic sanctuary with red petals at the culmination of the scripture reading.

MEMBERSHIP & CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

May 31, 2026 | 11am

On this special Sunday, we welcome both new members and confirmands, as well as honor our long-term members. The Children's Choir will also sing in this multigenerational service.

YOUTH SUNDAY

June 7, 2026 | 9am & 11am

Each spring, our Youth Group leads worship at 9am and 11am. Youth Sunday is our opportunity to be led and inspired by our older students, and to celebrate those graduating high school.

PRIDE SUNDAY

June 14, 2026 | 9am & 11am

On the second Sunday in LGBTQ+ Pride Month, we fill the Sanctuary with song, prayers, praise, and worship of the God who loves and embraces all. This year, Drag Queen Ms. Penny Cost will preach at both services.

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 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

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.

GARAGE PARKING VALIDATIONS

We have arrangements for discounted parking with two nearby garages for Old South Church for Sunday worship services only. 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, *Associate Minister for Transformation*

Kat Woodard, *Taylor Resident for Mission in the City* ❖ Justin Tyler Dickerson, *Seminarian*

Donald A. Wells, *Theologian in Residence* ❖ June R. Cooper, *Theologian in the City*

James Harrison Jr. & 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*

Jonathan Reddix, *Collaborative Pianist* ❖ Jan Christoph Hadenfeldt, *Visiting Organist*

Tim Harbold, *Director, Gospel Choir* ❖ Peter Coulombe, *Director, Old South Ringers*

Audrey Woodhams, *Creative Director for Thursday Night Church*

Kate Nintcheu, *Director, Children & Family Ministries*

Summer Marsh, *Director, Old South Preschool*

Jamie Chelel, *Children's Choir Director* ❖ Yuexuan Joyce Wang, *Children's Choir Accompanist*

Rory Razon, *Youth Group Co-Leader*

Rebecca Pasipanodya, *Director of Operations*

Rémy Hatfield-Gardner, *Administrative Assistant* ❖ Kathleen Steen, *Staff Accountant*

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* ❖ Tahmina Akter, Richard Serebour, & MD Rahman, *Sextons*

Corey Spence, *Weekday Receptionist*

Shirley Bivins, Anna Pratt, & Shelia Randolph, *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 & guide.



**OLD
SOUTH
CHURCH**
in BOSTON

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OLD SOUTH CHURCH'S 2026 CLIMATE CHAMPION: KANNAN THIRUVENGADAM, EASTIE FARM

Old South's Climate Crisis Task Force will honor Kannan Thiruvengadam at Festival Worship as Old South Church's 2026 Climate Champion for his work approaching the climate crisis by prioritizing equity. Kannan cofounded and leads Eastie Farm, an urban farm in East Boston that fosters food security, regenerative land use, & environmental stewardship. Under his leadership Eastie Farm built the first geothermally powered zero emissions greenhouse in the region, a space for year-round growing, gathering, and education. Eastie Farm's Community Supported Agriculture supports small farmers in the region and serves hundreds of families in East Boston all across the economic spectrum in a manner that destigmatizes food insecurity and strengthens the local economy.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY HOUR FORUMS | SUNDAYS AT 10AM

CARE OF CREATION COMMUNITY HOUR

April 26, 10am, Mary Norton Hall

It is easy to despair about the future of the planet. Climate progress is happening much more slowly than we hoped, and the policies emanating out of Washington are making things worse. But exciting and inspiring climate developments are happening in many parts of the world that give us hope. Join members of the Climate Crisis Task Force Steering Committee for the showing of "Is There Good News About Climate Change?", a 20 minute documentary that presents a picture of what we've achieved and how we've achieved it. The showing will be followed by small and large group conversations about climate change and possibilities for action, led by Task Force members.

MEET DR. JIM O'CONNEL

Sunday, May 3, Mary Norton Hall

Join us for a rare and inspiring conversation with Dr. Jim O'Connell, the pioneering physician behind Boston's Health Care for the Homeless Program. For decades, Dr. Jim has devoted his life to bringing medical care, dignity, and compassion directly to Boston's most vulnerable residents — and now he's coming to Old South to share that journey with us. Come hear him speak, ask questions, and be moved by a story of medicine, mission, and faith in action. No reading required — Dr. Jim's talk stands on its own. That said, if you'd like to go deeper, Old South's Homelessness & Housing Insecurity Task Force had sponsored an All-church read of Tracy Kidder's *Rough Sleepers*, which chronicles Dr. Jim's remarkable work and is a wonderful companion to the discussion. Questions? Contact Paul Brouillette at brouillettepaul@gmail.com.

FAITHFUL RESISTANCE TRAINING

April 26, 2-5pm, St. Paul's Cathedral, RSVP at tinyurl.com/FaithfulResistanceRSVP

Join an afternoon of faith-rooted resistance, skill-building, and connection across traditions in a time of rising threats to our communities and democracy. Together, we'll sing, discern our roles and levels of risk, and explore how to grow from individual action to collective organizing. There will be breakout sessions on: mutual aid and community care; mass mobilization and non-cooperation; leading resistance songs and chants; and preparing for higher-risk actions. Featuring guests: Vivian Ihekoronya (faith organizer with ISAIAH, a faith-based organizing group in Minnesota); Rev. Joy Cairns (priest at St. Clements Episcopal Church in St. Paul); Elena Hendricks (a leader with Singing Resistance), and Rebecca Riccio (social change educator and leader of Boston Trainers Collective).

FIFTH THURSDAYS: A TNC OPEN MIC NIGHT

Thursday, April 30th, 7:20pm, Gordon Chapel

After Thursday Night Church, join us for our Fifth Thursdays TNC Open Mic Night. All are welcome to gather after worship for supper club and an informal sharing of poetry, music, story, and art hosted by our Creative Director, Audrey Woodhams and accompanist, Liz Sinn. Contact Audrey at audrey@oldsouth.org to sign up, or just show up and there's a spot for you!

BOOTS FOR BAIL: SUPPORT THE MASSACHUSETTS BAIL FUND

Friday, May 1, 6-9pm, Mary Norton Hall

Boots for Bail is a line dancing event with the goal of raising \$2,000 for the Massachusetts Bail Fund. During the event, instructors will lead mixed level lessons throughout the evening while local organizations and artists table on the perimeter of the dance space. Additionally, there will be a silent auction made up of prints from local artists as well as merch from Boston line dancing instructor Jason Peterson (JPLineDance). This event is primarily being organized from the ground up by people who have been involved in the Queer country dance community at various levels and identify as BIPOC and/or LGBTQIA+. The Massachusetts Bail Fund is a 501c3 nonprofit led by formerly incarcerated & directly-affected individuals that posts bail for those who could not otherwise afford it & organizes against prison expansion in Massachusetts. For more info about the event: tinyurl.com/boots4bail

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

Next meeting May 3 and every First Sunday, 10am, in the Columbarium

Need some space to breathe? Time to rest in the spacious silence of God's presence? Please join us for Contemplative Prayer. Together, we'll engage in practices of contemplative prayer, share from our hearts, and find strength and solace in God's abiding love. Questions? Email ashley@oldsouth.org.

VESPERS HEALING WORSHIP

Next Service Sunday, May 10, 5pm on Zoom, 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.

JAMES W. CRAWFORD LECTURE

Friday, May 8, 7pm, in the Gordon Chapel

Exploring the theme of *The Dancing Mind: Phillis Wheatley, Imagination and Christian Social Witness*, the evening will bring together members of Boston's faith community to explore what Wheatley, as both a poet and a figure in American history, offers Christians regarding social responsibility in matters of justice and equity. More info? Email Justin Tyler Dickerson at justin@oldsouth.org.

NEW AROUND HERE?

Sunday, May 17, in Rev. Ashley's office, meet in elevator lobby at 10:05am

Join Pastor Ashley and church members for informal conversation and coffee. If you've been coming for one week, or a dozen, or just exploring online, join us to get to know more about the church and to make a friend or two! Questions? Email ashley@oldsouth.org.

CONNECTIONS LUNCH

Sunday, May 17, 12:15pm

New to Old South? Come to our Connections Lunch! Connections lunches are great places to get to know other newcomers, learn more about Old South, and get more deeply connected. If you would like to join us for lunch or are interested in joining Old South as a member, please email ashley@oldsouth.org.

OLD SOUTH MUSIC PRESENTS: DECLARATIONS

June 27, 2026, 7pm concert

Old South Music presents Ensemble Altera in a major new choral work by Piers Connor Kennedy. A reflection on the ideals of liberty and equality, placing Thomas Jefferson's words in dialog with those of Langston Hughes, Tracy K. Smith, and others.

JUNE COOPER AND NANCY TAYLOR LEAD PILGRIMAGES TO ALABAMA

Rev. June Cooper, Theologian in the City, and Rev Dr. Nancy Taylor, Senior Minister Emeritus, Old South Church, will lead two Pilgrimages to Montgomery and Selma, Alabama. The dates for the Pilgrimages are October 9-14 and October 15-20, 2026. The Pilgrimage, which is conducted at the epicenter of the Civil Rights Movement, offers a chance to build community, reflect on the past, address intergenerational racial trauma, and find ways to pursue healing and advance racial justice. For additional information, visit www.bostonfaithjustice.org.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE AND OUTREACH WEEKLY PUSHBACK

Boston Interfaith Climate Allies

Have other weekly action ideas? Email outreach@oldsouth.org

Boston Interfaith Climate Allies (BICA) is a coalition of faith-based groups in the Boston area committed to climate justice, environmental stewardship, and mobilizing religious communities for social action. BICA helps equip people for the work of faithful climate advocacy by hosting guest speakers, organizing days of environmental celebration, and coordinating protests and public action to advocate for just and sustainable climate policy. On this Care of Creation Sunday, Old South is proud to uplift the work of BICA by donating \$1,000 to support efforts to bring people together & take meaningful action for the health of our shared home.

SPONSOR WORSHIP FLOWERS

Go to tinyurl.com/2026OSCFLOWERS to claim your date—they are filling fast!

Would you like to sponsor the Sanctuary's worship flowers on a Sunday - in memory or in honor of a special person or event? Dedications and sponsors are printed in our bulletin each week, and the donation costs \$100. We have a few weeks in 2026 where we still need sponsors - and you can see which dates are available.

GREEN TIP—Avoid Fast Food

Avoid Fast Food Did you know the biggest contributor to the waste floating in the oceans (49%) is from fast food? Not only is fast food often unhealthy, it creates a ton of garbage! Instead of fast food, opt for wholesome meals with lots of fruits and veggies. You will find that better food comes in less packaging and you'll feel better too.

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



*To give via ApplePay,
GooglePay, or Credit Card,
scan the QR code.*

*If you're new to Old South,
scan the QR code
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