



January 12, 2025 ❖ Old South Church *in* Boston

# First Sunday After the Epiphany

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

## GATHER

PRELUDE

*Prélude sur l'Introît de l'Épiphanie, Op. 13*

Maurice Duruflé

\*HYMN

**We Three Kings**

KINGS OF ORIENT



We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we trav - erse a - far,  
Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain,  
Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I, in - cense owns a de - i - ty nigh;  
Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom;  
Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice:



field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.  
King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.  
prayer and prais - ing voic - es rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God on High.  
sorrow - ing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.  
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! sounds through the earth and skies.



O star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright,



west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light.

Text: John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1857, alt.

Tune: KINGS OF ORIENT, John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1857

*\*Indicates all who are able may stand*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Ashley Popperson

When Jesus is born to Mary and Joseph,

**God is there.**

When the star leads the way through the night,

**God is there.**

When the Wise Ones kneel at the manger,

**God is there.**

When the hungry are fed and the oppressed set free,

**God is there.**

When souls are healed and grace is found,

**God is there.**

This very morning,

**God is here.**

In the future we cannot yet see,

**God is there.**

We gather this day,

**to worship our ever present God!**

WELCOME

Mitchell Crawford

**LISTEN**

**Amahl and the Night Visitors**

Opera in one act by Gian-Carlo Menotti (1911–2007)

Amahl: Kate Wood, *soprano*

His Mother: Adriana Repetto, *soprano*

King Kaspar: Henri Youmans, *tenor*

King Melchior: Paul Soper, *baritone*

King Balthazar: Matthew Wight, *bass*

THE OLD SOUTH CHURCH FESTIVAL CHOIR

Leslie Amper, *piano* • Elizabeth England, *oboe*

## SCENE I.

*It is night. The crystal-clear winter sky is dotted with stars, the Eastern star flaming amongst them. Outside a cottage sits Amahl, wrapped in an oversized cloak, playing his shepherd's pipe; his mother, at work inside the cottage, calls him to bed ("Amahl! Amahl!"). After much persuasion, he enters the house, but his mother does not believe him when he tells her there is a star 'as large as a window' hanging over their roof ("O Mother, You Should Go Out and See" — "Stop Bothering Me!"). Anguished over their increasingly dire economic situation, Amahl's mother weeps, praying that Amahl not become a beggar. He comforts her, suggesting that, were the pair to go begging, he would be successful in his appeals ("Don't Cry Mother Dear").*

### Prelude

**Amahl! Amahl!** (Mother, Amahl)

**Oh, Mother, You Should Go Out and See!** (Amahl, Mother)

**Stop Bothering Me!** (Mother, Amahl)

**Poor Amahl! Hunger Has Gone to Your Head** (Mother)

**Don't Cry, Mother Dear** (Amahl, Mother)



## SCENE II.

*Amahl and his Mother settle down to sleep; the only lights are a faint glow in the fireplace and the radiance of the sky through the window. From a distance the voices of the three kings are heard ("From Far Away We Come"). Gradually they appear: first Melchior, bearing a coffer of gold, then Balthazar, bearing the chalice of myrrh, and finally Kaspar, bearing the urn of incense. Hearing a knock at the door, the mother tells Amahl to go see who it is ("Amahl... Yes Mother!"). Doubting Amahl's story, she goes to the door herself, and is stunned to find three kings outside the entrance. After she welcomes them in, the kings tell of their arduous star-led journey to visit a wondrous Child ("Good Evening!" — "Come In!"). The mother offers what hospitality she can, while Amahl acquaints himself with the visitors ("Are You a Real King?"; "This is My Box"). The mother returns ("Amahl, I Told You Not to Be a Nuisance!") and asks Amahl to rouse the neighboring shepherds in hopes they will provide refreshment and entertainment for the regal guests.*

**From Far Away We Come** (Kaspar, Melchior, Balthazar)

**Amahl...Yes, Mother** (Mother, Amahl)

**Good Evening! Good Evening!** (Kaspar, Melchior, Balthazar, Amahl, Mother)

**Come In, Come In!** (Mother, Melchior, Amahl)

**Are You a Real King?** (Amahl, Balthazar, Kaspar)

**This Is My Box** (Kaspar)

**Amahl, I Told You Not to Be a Nuisance!** (Mother, Amahl)

**Oh, These Beautiful Things** (Mother, Melchior)

**Have You Seen a Child** (Melchior, Mother, Balthazar, Kaspar)

**Shepherds! Shepherds!** (Chorus, Mother, Melchior)

INTERLUDE: **Shepherds' Dance**

### SCENE III.

*After the neighbors have left and the kings are resting, the mother attempts to steal some of the gold meant for the Holy Child ("All That Gold"), but is thwarted by the kings' page ("Thief! Thief!"). When Amahl wakes to find the page restraining his mother, he attacks him ("Don't You Dare!"). Understanding the mother's desperation, Melchior allows her to keep the gold, suggesting the Holy Child will need neither earthly power nor wealth to build his kingdom ("Oh, Woman, You May Keep the Gold"). But the mother, who has 'waited all her life for such a king,' asks Melchior to take it back. Amahl wishes to send a gift of his own to the Child, but has nothing to give except his crutch ("Oh, No, Wait"). When he offers it to the kings, his leg is miraculously healed ("I Walk, Mother"). With permission from his mother, he leaves with the kings to see the Child and give his crutch in thanks for being healed.*

**Thank You, Good Friends** (Balthazar, Chorus, Amahl, Kaspar)

**All That Gold!** (Mother)

**Thief! Thief!** (Page, Melchior, Balthazar, Kaspar)

**Don't You Dare!** (Amahl)

**Oh, Woman, You May Keep the Gold** (Melchior)

**Oh, No, Wait...Take Back Your Gold!** (Mother, Amahl)

**I Walk, Mother!** (Amahl, Kaspar, Melchior, Balthazar, Mother, Page)

**Do You Really Want to Go?** (Mother, Amahl, Kaspar, Balthazar)

**Shepherds, Arise!** (Chorus, King Melchior, Amahl)

*Amahl and the Night Visitors was the first opera commissioned especially for television,  
and was given its premiere by the NBC Television Opera Theatre  
in New York City on December 24, 1951.*

## RESPOND

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

March of the Magi Kings

Théodore Dubois

*n.b.: the sustained high pitch represents the star which guided  
the Three Kings to the Holy Family in Bethlehem.*

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

Jer Jurma

\*HYMN 154

**Go Tell It On the Mountain**

TRAD. SPIRITUAL

\*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE



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

The flowers today are given  
in loving memory of James L. McDonnel  
by the Receptionists and Staff  
of Old South Church.

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



## **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.

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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.

**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

## AM AHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS

*Sunday, January 12, at Festival Worship, Scan the QR Code to read the libretto*

This Sunday features 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.



## OLD SOUTH FORUM: HOLDING UP THE SKY

*Beginning Sunday, January 12, 10am, Mary Norton Hall*

The Old South Forum will host a five-week forum series engaging with the powerful documentary film *Holding Up the Sky*. Each session will offer in-person viewing and discussion opportunities, including time with the film's director Bob Nesson. This 55-minute documentary tells the remarkable stories of Ed Jordan and Jimmy Costello, two formerly incarcerated men who, despite contrasting social and family backgrounds and the difficult circumstances of their crimes, found purpose, hope, and success through mentorship and persistence. The film highlights their intertwined journeys through and beyond the prison system, shedding light on issues of social justice and reforms needed in our criminal justice system. The five-week series is designed to educate, inspire, and catalyze meaningful conversation and action. The film will be screened in three sections, all followed by a two-part exploratory discussion.

- *Jan. 12: Introduction & Part 1 of the Documentary Film,*
- *Jan. 19: Part 2 of the Documentary Film*
- *Jan. 26: Part 3 of the Documentary Film*
- *Feb. 2: Discussion Session 1- Exploring the broken systems exposed by the film*
- *Feb. 9: Discussion Session 2 - Exploring how Old South Church can deepen its justice work*

If you would like to screen the movie at home (only available to the Old South community) please reach out to Kate Nintcheu - who will share the links with you. Click here to learn more. For more information, or to screen the movie at home, contact Kate Nintcheu.

## VESPERS HEALING WORSHIP

*Next Service Sunday, January 12, 5pm on Zoom, Go to [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.

## LUNAR NEW YEAR

*Sunday, January 26, 12:30-5:30pm*

Save the date! On Sunday, January 26, we will hold a Lunar New Year celebration at Old South Church. There will be art displays and interactive projects, food, community, and more.

## **REGIONAL POTLUCK IN JAMAICA PLAIN**

*Saturday, January 25, at 5pm, RSVP at [tinyurl.com/2025OSCRRegionalPotluck](https://tinyurl.com/2025OSCRRegionalPotluck) by January 24.*

Join Amy Coe and Carol Rohl at their house in Jamaica Plain on January 25th at 5pm for a potluck! They'll make a big pot of vegetarian chili and bread, you can bring a side or a dessert to share. It will be a time to relax, chat, and enjoy each other's good company! Their home is accessible via the Orange line and the 39 bus. Children are welcome. The home has two cats. Questions? Email Amy at [amyecoe@gmail.com](mailto:amyecoe@gmail.com).

## **THEOLOGICAL BOOK GROUP NEWS FROM DON WELLS**

*8-9 Session study Begins January 27, 6pm, via Zoom,*

*Email Don at [granwell@comcast.net](mailto:granwell@comcast.net) if interested and he will let you know if there is room.*

I am excited about the new book for our Theological Book Group: *Fully Alive: Tending to the Soul in Turbulent Times*, by Elizabeth Oldfield. Oldfield, a Brit, and host of the podcast 'The Sacred', helps us deepen our journey of faith by turning the 'Seven Deadly Sins' on their ear and forging a new path forward using scripture and Jesus' ministry as models. She helps us journey from 'Wrath', polarization to peacemaking; 'Envy', from status anxiety to belovedness; 'Pride', from individualism to community; and on. She is highly critical of what western 'individualism' and 'fact' orientation have done to the human soul. Studying this thought provoking book requires everyone to fully participate in the discussion. We are limited to 20 participants There are only a couple of spaces left!

## **UPLIFTING EVERY VOICE GOSPEL CONCERT *Singing for Liberation and Justice***

*Saturday, February 1, 3:30 pm, in the Sanctuary*

Kicking off Black History Month, the Old South Church Gospel Choir will join guest choirs Joyful Voices of Inspiration and Sharing a New Song in musical celebration. Our guest choirs are directed by special guest artist Donnell Patterson. Concert proceeds will benefit the work of the Immigrant Family Services Institute. (More on IFSI here.) The concert has been organized by Gospel Choir Director Tim Harbold, on behalf of (G)RACE Speaks, with generous support from Music at Old South.

## **SING WITH THE MASS CHOIR**

*Email Tim Harbold [tharbold@wheatonma.edu](mailto:tharbold@wheatonma.edu) for information on how to get involved. Please join us!*

Join the fun! If you can rehearse from 12-1 pm on Sat., Feb 1 and are willing to learn 3 selections in advance, we invite you to sing with the 3 choirs for the Feb 1 concert. If you sing with the Festival Worship choir, we'll be singing some of this music in advance, so you'd already know some of it. I promise you will have a blast working with Donnell Patterson!

## **STEWARDSHIP AT OLD SOUTH**

### **MAKE YOUR PLEDGE**

*Go to [tinyurl.com/2025OSCPledge](https://tinyurl.com/2025OSCPledge) to make your pledge*

In this year's Stewardship campaign, we invite you to reflect on how we build community together. Old South is a home, a physical and emotional space constantly being built and rebuilt by our members. It is a special place of community for so many. Join us this year in building our community, sharing the treasures of community, commitment, and collaboration, together. Throughout our stewardship campaign in January, we encourage you to consider intentional giving in the form of an outright commitment or annual pledge.

### **CONSECRATION CELEBRATIONS**

*Thursday, January 30 and Sunday February 2, at all three Worship Services*

At the end of the month, we will lift up our communal generosity at our Stewardship Celebration services on Thursday, January 30 and Sunday, February 2, 2025 as we celebrate our shared belonging to this faithful community.

### **STEWARDSHIP CONSECRATION LUNCH**

*Sunday, February 2, Go to [tinyurl.com/stewardshipcelebration25](https://tinyurl.com/stewardshipcelebration25) to register for the Stewardship Lunch*  
Everyone is invited to a joyful Stewardship Celebration Lunch following Festival Worship.

### **PHILLIS WHEATLEY PLAY *Writing for Liberation and Justice***

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

*Go to [tinyurl.com/2025PhillisandBen](https://tinyurl.com/2025PhillisandBen) to get free tickets*

Old South's (G)RACE Speaks Committee is teaming up with playwright Debra Wiess to present "Uplifting Every Story: Writing for Liberation and Justice", 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!

### **VOLUNTEER TO READ SCRIPTURE**

*Go to [tinyurl.com/2025OSCScriptureReaders](https://tinyurl.com/2025OSCScriptureReaders) 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@oldsouth.org](mailto:ashley@oldsouth.org).

## IN MEMORIAM: James L. McDonnel

We are sad to announce the passing of Jim McDonnel. A forty year member, Jim joined the church in 1984. Jim served the church in many capacities including as a Deacon, coffee hour coordinator, and evening and weekend receptionist. Jim helped organize the Old South Team for the AidsWalk for 25 years.



## GREEN TIP: Make a Reusable Survival Kit

Having trouble getting through the day without using disposables? Think ahead and make yourself a survival kit for daily use. Include items such as a reusable water bottle, coffee mug, hankies, and utensils — and put it all in a canvas bag for impromptu shopping trips. Leave your kit in your car or desk. Go to [tinyurl.com/2Ogreenthingsearth911](https://tinyurl.com/2Ogreenthingsearth911) for more tips.

## FLOWER DEDICATIONS FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP

To sign up for a Sunday flower dedication, visit [tinyurl.com/OSCFLOWERS25](https://tinyurl.com/OSCFLOWERS25).

The cost is \$100, which can be paid via check, cash, or online [tinyurl.com/OSCGivingPortal](https://tinyurl.com/OSCGivingPortal)

Are you interested in honoring a loved one or commemorating a special occasion with a beautiful flower dedication? By making a flower donation, you can dedicate the altar flowers on a date that is meaningful to you. Each dedication includes a flower bouquet and a special message in the Sunday bulletin. Please reach out to Amelia Gerrard at [amelia@oldsouth.org](mailto:amelia@oldsouth.org) for any questions.

## 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)