



January 19th, 2025 ❖ 11:00 a.m.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday

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

GATHER

PRELUDE

Freedom
Willie Sordillo Ensemble

Lizz Wright

*HYMN *see insert*

**Woke Up this Morning
with my Mind Stayed on Freedom**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Gracie Paterson

The sure provisions of my God
Attend me all my days;
**O may your house be my abode,
And all my work be praise!**
There would I find a settled rest
While others go and come,
**No more a stranger, nor a guest,
But like a child at home.**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

** Indicates all who are able may stand*

WELCOME

ANTHEM

Happy
OLD SOUTH CHURCH GOSPEL CHOIR
Eren Brooks, *soloist*

Tasha Cobbs

You make me happy, you make me whole.
You take the pain away, I'm so in love with you.

Everything about you is right, it covers all my wrong.
Your life saved my life, with you is where I belong.
I belong to you, Lord.

So in love with you, can't make it without you.
I live to worship you, forever me and you.

LISTEN

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kate M. Nintcheu

SCRIPTURE

1 Kings 19: 19-21

David Story

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

HYMN *see insert*

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

SCRIPTURE

Luke 9: 57-62

SERMON

John M. Edgerton

*HYMN 247

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

PRECIOUS LORD

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

I Dream a World

André Thomas

Of such I dream, of such I dream...

I dream a world where none
by others will be scorned,
where love will bless the earth
and peace its paths adorn.

I dream a world where all
will know sweet freedom's way,
where greed no longer saps the soul
nor avarice blights our day.

A world I dream where black or white,
whatever race you be,
will share the bounties of the earth
and everyone is free.

Where wretchedness will hang its head
and joy, like a pearl,
attends the needs of humankind—
of such I dream, my world!

—Langston Hughes

LAY REFLECTION

Larry Bowers

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Gracie Paterson



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

Mighty Long Way

Joe Pace

COMBINED FESTIVAL AND GOSPEL CHOIRS

Ida Kamrara and Eren Brooks, *soloists*

Mighty long way, mighty long way,
Lord, you brought me from a mighty long way.
Oh, mighty long way, mighty long way,
Lord, you brought me, brought me,
brought me from a mighty long way.

I've cried many tears down through the years,
almost lost my mind but I'm still here.
Dangers seen and unseen,
Lord, you kept me from every little thing.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN 282

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

TRAD. SPIRITUAL

*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

John M. Edgerton

POSTLUDE

New World Coming
Willie Sordillo Ensemble

Barry Mann &
Cynthia Weil



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

The flowers today are given
by Melody Allen & family in loving memory
of The Hon. W. Lloyd and Gertrude M. Allen.

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

Many thanks to today's band:

Zoë Krohne, *vocals*
Willie Sordillo, *saxophone*
Tim Harbold, *piano*
Doug Rich, *bass*
Renato Malavasi, *percussion*



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 | 6PM

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

For LARGE print bulletins or children's bulletins, please ask an Usher.

Restrooms are available. Just ask!

An accessible, single-use restroom is available near Reception.

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 outfit itself for mission and ministry in the 21st century as a thriving church in the heart of Boston. If you are interested in deepening your participation, or if you just love Old South, it's time to think about **membership**. Contact Associate Minister Ashley Popperson for more info at ashley@oldsouth.org.

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 and concerts). For more information check out www.oldsouth.org/your-first-visit or see the front desk.

LEARN MORE

Check out the church website at www.oldsouth.org/calendar for a calendar of events, and the general website www.oldsouth.org for more on the history and other information about this storied ship of faith!

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.



OLD
SOUTH
CHURCH
in BOSTON

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OLD SOUTH FORUM: HOLDING UP THE SKY

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

Join us for 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 will be screened in three sections, all followed by a two-part exploratory discussion.

- *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 can deepen its justice work*

If you'd like to screen the film at home, reach out to Kate at children@oldsouth.org.

REGIONAL POTLUCK IN JAMAICA PLAIN

Saturday, January 25, at 5pm, RSVP at 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.

LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

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

Save the date! On Sunday, January 26th, we will hold a Lunar New Year celebration at Old South Church. There will be art displays and interactive projects, food, community, and more. We'd love your help hosting and preparing for our celebration. Want to get involved? Email Rachel Barton (rachel@oldsouth.org).

HOW WE CAN SUPPORT OUR IMMIGRANT NEIGHBORS

Presented by JP/West Rox Sanctuary Network

Tuesday, January 21 at 6:30pm at First Church UU Jamaica Plain

On the first day of the new Trump administration, join us to learn, gather in community, and recommit to collective action for our immigrant neighbors. Featuring speakers from Brazilian Workers Center, Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy (MIRA) Coalition, and others. RSVP to attend: bit.ly/jpnetworkjan21.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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. 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 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!

PHILLIS WHEATLEY PLAY + CASTLE OF OUR SKINS MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

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

Go to tinyurl.com/2025PhillisandBen to register

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 by Castle of Our Skins and refreshments to enjoy. You don't want to miss it!

(G)RACE SPEAKS ANTI-RACISM LANGUAGE WORKSHOP

Sunday, February 16 at 10 am on the 2nd Floor

Join us for the 10 o'clock hour on Sunday Feb 16th as we explore the language of antiracism and align the terminology we use at Old South Church, as we continue our journey to being the anti-racist church we aspire to be. Old South members Amy Coe and Anne Scholder will lead this discussion on behalf of (G)RACE Speaks on the 2nd floor.

STEWARDSHIP AT OLD SOUTH

MAKE YOUR PLEDGE

Go to 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 to register for the Stewardship Lunch
Everyone is invited to a joyful Stewardship Celebration Lunch following Festival Worship.

WINTER WALK TO END HOMELESSNESS

Sunday, February 9th at 8:30am, Boston Common at the corner of Beacon and Charles Streets

Our Youth Group is leading Old South's delegation of Winter Walk and people of all ages are invited to join! Winter Walk's mission is to raise awareness and funds towards ending homelessness, and to support organizations that are working on prevention, support, and care for our unhoused community. Join the Old South team as we take this 2 mile walk around Boston Common during the coldest month of the year.

To register, go to tinyurl.com/WW25OSC, click "JOIN OUR TEAM" and select "*common cathedral*" as the recipient organization, then select "I'll fundraise." Your registration fee is already covered because OSC is a sponsor. You may choose to donate extra money if you choose. If you don't want to walk but do want to donate, you can donate at the above link by clicking "Donate Now!" Questions? Email Ashley Popperson at ashley@oldsouth.org.

CHURCH VISION AND STRATEGY GATHERINGS

January 26 at 10am, Gordon Chapel and February 6 at 7pm, Crawford Library

Our Boards and Clergy have been dreaming together about strategic next steps for Old South Church. Please join us for a collaborative session where we'll share the big picture of this exciting and transformative vision, focused on three key pillars:

- 1) Growing the Church – Expanding our reach and impact.
- 2) Deepening Relationships – Strengthening our community and connections.
- 3) Doing Justice – Acting with compassion and advocating for change.

This is the first of many opportunities to hear about our strategic plans and provide your feedback. Everyone is welcome to help us shape the next chapter at OSC.

FLOWER DEDICATIONS FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP

To sign up for a Sunday flower dedication, visit tinyurl.com/OSCFLOWERS25.

The cost is \$100, which can be paid via check, cash, or online 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 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.



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