

December 16, 2018
Third Sunday of Advent
11am

Warning! To enter into the life of this people of God is to encounter God's soul-challenging, life-changing, radicalizing love. Will you join us? Do you dare?

PRELUDE: Prepare the Way, O Zion Sondra K. Tucker
THE OLD SOUTH RINGERS — Peter Coulombe, *director*

*HYMN 107: **Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn** REJOICE, REJOICE

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Maya Angelou, *adapted*)

Tracy Keene & Tim Longman, Emily, Cliff

One: It is the Glad Season. Thunder ebbs to silence and lightning sleeps quietly in the corner.

Many: Flood waters recede into memory. Snow becomes a yielding cushion to aid us as we make our way to higher ground.

One: Hope is born again in the faces of children. It rides on the shoulders of our aged as they walk into their sunsets.

Many: Hope spreads around the earth. Brightening all things, even hate which crouches breeding in dark corridors.

* *Indicates all who are able may stand*

One: In our joy, we think we hear a whisper. At first it is too soft. Then only half heard.

Many: **We listen carefully as it gathers strength. We hear a sweetness. The word is Peace. It is loud now. It is louder. Louder than the explosion of bombs.**

One: It is with the distant sound of peace in our hearts that we light the third Advent Candle: the candle of Joy.

*LIGHTING THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE: **JOY**

*A SIGN OF OUR UNITY AND RECONCILIATION

*We invite you to greet those around you,
wishing them "peace" or "the peace of Christ."*

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. June R. Cooper

ANTHEM

People, Look East

Craig Courtney, *arr.*

People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able; trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Rose, is on the way.

Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are frozen God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Bird, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Star, is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

SCRIPTURE Matthew 1. 18-25: The Birth of Jesus Brad Urban

One: Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way.

Many: When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

One: Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly.

Many: But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

One: All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

Many: “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.”

One: When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took Mary as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son.

Many: And Joseph named him Jesus.

*HYMN 105 **Gentle Joseph, Joseph Dear** JOSEPH LEIBER

During the hymn, children may leave for choir and care.

SERMON Joy Nancy S. Taylor

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Connor Vigeant

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

Jamie Chelel
Katia Kiefaber
Stefanie Pietras
Sarah Braverman
Brad Urban
Connor Vigeant

PRESENTATION

LITANY OF INTENT

One: Friends in Christ, these people have been led by the Holy Spirit to affirm their baptism and to enter a covenantal relationship with Christ and with you. We are all here to endeavor to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind.

Many: Friends: we give thanks for every community that has been your spiritual home and we celebrate your presence in this household of faith.

One: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to continue in the life of faith, be Christ's disciple, resist oppression and evil, show love and justice, and bear witness to Jesus Christ as best you are able?

Those joining: I promise, with the help of God.

Many: Do you promise to walk with us in faithfulness and love, and to participate in the life of this church, by worshipping God with us, and offering your time, talent, and treasure for the ministry of the church?

Those joining: I promise, with the help of God.

One: We then welcome you as partners in the common life of this church and we expand this circle of community, all rising in body or spirit to share our covenant of mission with you.

***All: I do now in the presence of God and before this assembly give myself to the One whom Jesus called "Abba, Father" as the God in whose love I am grounded and whose realm I serve; to Jesus Christ, God incarnate, to whom I surrender and who rules my life; to God the Holy Spirit as the One who sustains, recreates,**

and guides me. I will share God's everlasting covenant by loving and living responsibly in communion with this one God. And I do furthermore engage to walk with my brothers and sisters in the wider Church and the Old South Church secure in God's grace, prepared in gratitude to live by the promise and serve in the hope of the Gospel.

*THE RIGHT HAND OF CHRISTIAN LOVE Susan Navia, Deacon

*HYMN 106 My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise MARIAS LOVSÄNG

*CALL TO PRAYER John M. Edgerton

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: May the peace of Christ dwell in your hearts.

Many: Christ is our peace, our light, and our hope.

One: Let us pray. *You may be seated.*

PASTORAL PRAYER AND SILENT PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER *Unison.*

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.

HANDBELLS On This Day Earth Shall Ring Fred Gramann
THE OLD SOUTH RINGERS

CALL TO THE OFFERING

*In thanksgiving to God and giving witness to generous hearts,
our financial gifts support ministries of mercy, justice, and beauty.*

OFFERTORY

Ring Out, Ye Bells!

Garrett, Carlton,
and Forrest

*Ring out, ye bells! All Nature swells
with gladness at the wondrous story.*

Sing, children, sing! Tonight a King
hath come from heaven's high throne to bless us.
The outstretched hand o'er all the land
Is raised in pity to redeem us.

Ring out!

The world was lorn, but Christ is born
to change our sadness into glory.

Come at his call; Be joyful all;
Away with mourning and with sadness!
The heavenly choir with holy fire
their voices raise in songs of gladness.

Ring out!

No, be not still, but with a will
strike all your harps and set them ringing;

Ring out!

On hill and heath let every breath
throw all its power into singing!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN 102

O How Shall I Receive You

VALET WILL
ICH DIR GEBEN

*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

Nancy S. Taylor

POSTLUDE

Vom Himmel hoch da komm' ich her

Johann Pachelbel



*Close-Up, a 20-minute tour of the Sanctuary, begins following worship at the front of the Sanctuary.
Led by docent Mary Hunter.*

WELCOME TO OLD SOUTH CHURCH

Welcome! We are a progressive Christian church first gathered in 1669. The Church played a significant role in early American history. We continue to outfit ourselves for mission and ministry in the 21st century as a thriving urban church in the heart of Boston. Join us following worship for fellowship and refreshments in the Gordon Chapel.

Need to stretch your legs during worship? The Chapel has full audio of the service.

Name tags facilitate community and help newcomers feel welcomed. If you don't see a tag with your name on it, let us know. For LARGE print bulletins or hearing assistance devices ask an Usher.

Tracy Keene & Tim Longman, Emily and Cliff, today's Advent Candle lighters,
are active members of Old South Church.

Today's reader, Brad Urban, is joining the church this morning!

The lovely poinsettia display is donated by church members,
a list of the dedications can be found in the back of the church.

HEARING ASSISTED DEVICES

Old South has installed a **Hearing Loop** in the Sanctuary, the latest technology in hearing assisted devices.

1. If you have a hearing aid: the loop works directly for those whose hearing aids have a "T-Coil."
2. If you are hard of hearing but don't use an aid: ask for one the devices that is paired with the loop.

Note: The sound will be best if you sit further inside the pews, away from the aisles. The loop does NOT work in the upper galleries.

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):

1. Park at the **Garage@100 Clarendon** (behind Back Bay Station), have your ticket validated at our Front Desk, and **you** pay the discounted rate of \$7 for up to 3 hours. Old South bears no cost.

2. Park at the **Prudential Garage** for up to 5 hours on Saturday or Sunday, have your ticket validated at our Front Desk, and the Prudential Garage will bill **Old South** (costing us \$15k - \$20k per year).

CALENDAR

Sunday, December 16	9:00 am	FIRST Worship, <i>Nancy S. Taylor preaching</i>
	9:45 am	Old South Café in Gordon Chapel
	10:00 am	Lectionary Bible Study
	10:00 am	Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 am	Church School
	10:00 am	Community Hour A Child is Born: Inviting Children into Worship
	11:00 am	FESTIVAL Worship, <i>Nancy S. Taylor preaching</i>
	12:15 pm	Fellowship Hour
	12:30 pm	Christmas Potluck
		1:30 pm
Monday, December 17	6:00 pm	Theological Book Group
Tuesday, December 18	6:00 pm	Young Adult Trivia Night
Wednesday, December 19	6:00 pm	Young Adult Small Group – “The Beatitudes”
	6:45 pm	Young Adult Small Group
	7:00 pm	Music Committee
Thursday, December 20	12:00 pm	Women’s Lunch Hour Small Group
	6:00 pm	JAZZ Worship, <i>Blue Christmas</i>
	6:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 pm	“Through the Bible” Study
	7:00 pm	Young Adult Book Group – “The Sin of Certainty”
	7:00 pm	Young Adult Open Small Group
	8:00 pm	Women’s Christianity and Civic Life Small Group

Sunday, December 23

9:00 am	FIRST Worship, <i>Betsy Wooster preaching</i>
9:00 am	Children's Choir
9:45 am	Old South Café in Gordon Chapel
10:00 am	Lectionary Bible Study
10:00 am	Choir Rehearsal
10:00 am	Church School
10:00 am	Community Hour
	A Child is Born: Inviting Children into Worship
11:00 am	FESTIVAL Worship, <i>Lessons and Carols</i>
11:15 am	Children's Music
12:15 pm	Fellowship Hour
1:30 pm	O.W.L. Program

OLD SOUTH CHURCH IN BOSTON MINISTERS, OFFICERS, AND STAFF

Nancy S. Taylor, *Senior Minister*
John M. Edgerton, *Associate Minister*
James W. Crawford, *Senior Minister Emeritus*
Mitchell Crawford, *Minister of Music*
Kate Nintcheu, *Director, Children & Family Ministries*
Donald A. Wells, *Theologian in Residence* ❖ June R. Cooper, *Theologian in the City*
Calvin Genzel, *Wedding Outreach Minister* ❖ Ken Orth, *Healing Worship Minister*
Martha Schick, *Youth & Young Adult Ministries Leader* ❖ Betsy Wooster, *Seminarian*
Carolyn Davis, *Director, Old South Preschool*
George Sargeant, *Associate Organist & Choirmaster*
Tim Harbold, *Director, Gospel Choir* ❖ Willie Sordillo, *Director, Jazz Worship Music*
Peter Coulombe, *Director, Old South Ringers* ❖ Amy Budka, *Children's Music Leader*

Deb Washington, *Moderator* ❖ Rob Gabler, *Clerk* ❖ Bill Bulkeley, *Treasurer*
Randy Billings, *Chair, Board of Trustees* ❖ Evan Shu, *Historian*
Stephanie LaShoto & Ralph Watson, *Senior Deacons* ❖ Vicki Newman, *Pledge Secretary*

Helen McCrady, *Sr Church Administrator* ❖ Jamie Garuti, *Communications Administrator*
Linda Van Praet, *Accounting & Human Resources* ❖ David Albaugh, *Building Manager*
Allison Albaugh, *Wedding Coordinator* ❖ Emily Ross, *Archivist*
Rebecca Bowler & Lena Rojas, *Administrative Assistants*
Elias Perez, *Senior Sexton* ❖ Ozo Nwodo, Oppong Serebour, & David Brode, *Sextons*
Corey Spence, Rubia Reyes, & Carrie Swayne-Gerrish, *Receptionists*

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.

HOLIDAY SEASON

CAROLS & POTLUCK LUNCHEON

Sunday, December 16th at 12 p.m. in Mary Norton Hall

Eat, sing, be merry! Celebrate the season and sing carols together over a lunch you help to provide. An all-church event at 12p.m. on the second floor.

ADVENT COMMUNITY HOUR: A CHILD IS BORN

December 16th and 23th at 10 a.m. in Mary Norton Hall

This Advent we're exploring welcoming the Christ child at home, as a family, and as a church. On Dec. 16, we'll grapple with the mystery of Christmas and how to support our youth as they explore their own faith. On Dec. 23, we'll discuss ways to grow into the wonder of Christmas throughout the year.

YOUNG ADULT HOLIDAY PARTY

Thursday, Dec. 20th at 7 p.m. in the Crawford Library

Calling all 20- and 30-somethings! Join us after Jazz Worship for a chill night of baked goods and hot cocoa to say farewell before Christmas. Please bring a baked good to share and mark any allergens.

LONGEST NIGHT MEMORIAL SERVICE

Friday, December 21st at 12 p.m. at Church on the Hill, 140 Bowdoin St., Boston

A memorial service will be held for those who died on Boston's streets this past year. All are invited to remember our unhoused neighbors.

CHRISTMAS EVE USHERS NEEDED

We are preparing to welcome the world into our church on Christmas Eve. This is a very special night for us, as we welcome members, visiting families and others to worship and celebrate the birth of Christ. Ralph Watson, head usher for the evening, is looking for ushers for all three service to create a warm and welcoming evening. If you are interested and willing to usher at one or more of the 5p.m., 8p.m. or 11p.m. service please email ralphwatson258@gmail.com.

FAITH INTO ACTION

GIFT DRIVE: LAST DAY TO DROP OFF GIFTS

Reminder! This Sunday, December 16th is the last week to drop off your gifts for the gift drive for children in foster care! We are collecting the gifts next to the Gordon Chapel Christmas tree after 9am service and before and after 11am service. Please bring the gifts in a gift bag (no wrapping!) and clearly label your bag with the child's name. Questions? Reach out to Laura Spooner-Fleming and Robert Higgins at oscgiftdrive@gmail.com.

PRAYER VIGIL AT THE ICE DETENTION CENTER

Sunday, December 23rd at 3 p.m. at 20 Bradston St., Boston

Join us as we come together as a visible symbol to our siblings in detention to show them that they are not forgotten. To learn more or RSVP, email marie.f.hurd@gmail.com.

VOLUNTEER TO PRACTICE ENGLISH WITH STUDENTS

Enjoy a bit of good conversation? Old South assists a job training program by sending a small team for a weekly chat with students to help them practice English. We need a few new team members to help on Fridays from 12 p.m.-1 p.m.. Training Inc. is located downtown very near the Government Center T stop. If you could join us for even a few Fridays please contact Charlotte Simpson (617-266-5494, char.r.simpson@gmail.com).

HOSPITALITY WORKSHOP

Saturday, January 5th at 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Hospitality at Old South includes ushers, greeters and badge board volunteers. Join members of the board of Deacons for a morning of training and troubleshooting as we review the tasks of each role, discuss best practices and role play challenges that you may face in these important roles. Open to both new hospitality volunteers and seasoned hospitality volunteers alike! Breakfast will be provided. RSVP to s.lashoto@gmail.com.

STEWARDSHIP IS ALMOST HERE

Our annual Stewardship campaign to fuel 2019 ministries of mercy, justice, and beauty begins in January! We join the Three Kings in presenting our gifts to Jesus in the season of Epiphany. We'll also hear reflections by Old South members about why they support OSC.

Giving Envelopes for 2019 are now available at the Front Desk. If you have used envelopes in the past there should be a box with your name on it. If you have not used envelopes before and would like to, ask for one!

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

BLUE CHRISTMAS JAZZ WORSHIP

Thursday, December 20th at 6 p.m.

While we're bombarded with words lauding the wonders of the season, many people find the holidays anything but joyful. Blue Christmas provides an opportunity to step away and let go into music and readings that acknowledge your feelings without trying to talk you out of them. Even if you love the holidays, you may find comfort in this special service.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

5 p.m. Candlelight Family Service: Children are invited to participate in an impromptu Christmas Pageant, with simple costumes provided. We sing carols to tell the Christmas story together. Childcare provided.

8 p.m. Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols: An elegant telling of the Christmas story in carols and readings with music for choir and organ, culminating in the singing of "Silent Night" in our candle-lit sanctuary. Childcare provided.

11 p.m. Candlelight Communion: A warmly traditional service of lessons and carols with communion in our garland-bedecked chapel. We greet the birth of Christ by singing "Silent Night" outdoors by candlelight just after midnight.

COMMUNITY LIFE

YOUNG ADULT TRIVIA NIGHT

Tuesday, December 18th, 6 p.m. at The Friendly Toast, 35 Stanhope St., Boston

It's the last Old South Young Adult trivia of the year! If you haven't come to trivia with us before, it's a great way to get to know your fellow 20 to 30-something Old Southerners and eat some awesome food. Please RSVP to Martha@oldsouth.org. As always, pals/significant others are welcome.

QUEER CANDLEPIN BOWLING

Sunday, Dec. 16th at 7 p.m. at Flatbread Brighton

Calling all LGBTQIA+ Old Southerners! Join us for a fun evening of candlepin bowling, pizza, and bonding. Old South will buy the pizza, you pay for bowling and beverages. Please RSVP to Martha@oldsouth.org. Funding available if cost is a barrier.

HOLIDAY CONCERTS AT OLD SOUTH

BOSTON CHILDREN'S THEATER CONCERT

Sunday, December 16th at 4 p.m.

Join Boston Children's Theater for their Annual Holiday Concert. Featuring 60 talented singers across three choirs, they'll sing holiday music, pop music from the 70s & 80s, and original compositions. Tickets at bostonchildrenstheatre.org

BACK BAY CHORALE: A BOSTON CHRISTMAS

Thursday, Dec. 20th at 7:30p.m. and Saturday, December 22nd at 4p.m.

Scott Allen Jarrett conducts this beloved concert. Join the singing carols in an evening celebrating the joy, mystery, and glory of the holidays. Tickets at bbcoston.org

KING OF INSTRUMENTS CONCERT

Monday, December 31st, 3p.m. in the Sanctuary

Experience the "Sensurround" magnificence of Old South Church's mighty 1921 E. M. Skinner pipe organ — affectionately dubbed the "Copley Philharmonic Organ." In repertoire designed to showcase its myriad colors, Minister of Music Mitchell Crawford offers a diverse program the whole family is sure to enjoy. Featuring works of Hampton, Mendelssohn, Johann Strauss. Free and open to the public.

FIRST NIGHT PIPES & POPS CONCERTS

Monday, December 31st, 6:30p.m. and 8p.m. in the Sanctuary

The best of Boston's brass and percussion artists join Minister of Music Mitchell Crawford in a supersonic program, presenting fun and engaging arrangements of popular classics, as well as a seasonal sing of "Auld Lang Syne." Free and open to the public.

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 in the Sanctuary, for any length of time.
