

**Silent night, holy night**, all is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin, mother and child.  
Holy infant so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.



**Silent night, holy night**, shepherds quake at the sight,  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia;  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

**Silent night, holy night**, Child of God, love's pure light.  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face  
Bring the dawn of redeeming grace;  
Jesus Christ at Thy birth, Jesus Christ at Thy birth.

**Silent night, holy night**, wondrous star, lend thy light;  
with the angels let us sing, alleluias to our King;  
Christ, the Savior, is born, Christ, the Savior, is born.

- Joseph Mohr, 1818



Carols and Communion  
Old South Church in Boston

# Carols and Communion

December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022 ★ 11:00 p.m.

PRELUDE Berceuse Louis Vierne

CHORAL INTROIT Sure On This Shining Night Morten Lauridsen

Sure on this shining night of star made shadows round,  
Kindness must watch for me this side the ground.  
The late year lies down the north, all is healed, all is health.  
High summer holds the earth, hearts all whole.  
Sure on this shining night I weep for wonder  
wand'ring far alone of shadows on the stars.

- James Agee

\*CAROL O Come, All Ye Faithful ADESTE FIDELES

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;  
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!**

*refrain:*

**O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!**

**God from God, Light from Light eternal,  
Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Only-begotten Son of the Father! (*refrain*)**

**Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God in the highest! (*refrain*)**

\* *Indicates all who are able may stand*

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! (*refrain*)**

**\*CHRISTMAS CREED FROM LATIN AMERICA *Unison***

**I believe in Jesus Christ  
and in the power of the Gospel which began in Bethlehem.  
I believe in the One whose spirit glorified a small village,  
of whose coming the shepherds saw the sign,  
and for whom there was no room in the inn.  
I believe in the One whose life changed the course of history,  
for whom the kings of the earth had no power,  
and who was not understood by the proud.  
I believe in the One to whom the poor, the oppressed, the discouraged,  
the afflicted, the sick, the blind and the leprous gave welcome  
and accepted as Savior.  
I believe in the One who, with love,  
changed the hearts of the proud, showing, with his life, that it is more  
important to serve than to be served,  
and that the greatest joy is in giving your life for others.  
I believe in peace, which means justice among all peoples and nations,  
and love among all.  
I believe in reconciliation, forgiveness  
and the transforming power of the gospel.  
I believe that Christmas is strength and power, and that this world can change  
if, with humility and faith, we kneel before the manger.  
I believe that I must be the first one to do so. Amen.**

**WELCOME**

ANTHEM

Here is the Little Door

Herbert Howells

Here is the little door,  
lift up the latch, oh lift!  
We need not wander more,  
but enter with our gift;  
Our gift of finest gold.  
Gold that was never bought or sold;  
Myrrh to be strewn about his bed;  
Incense in clouds about His head;  
All for the child that stirs not in His sleep,  
But holy slumber hold with ass and sheep.

Bend low about His bed,  
For each He has a gift;  
See how His eyes awake,  
Lift up your hands, O lift!  
For gold, He gives a keen-edged sword.  
(Defend with it thy little Lord!)  
For incense, smoke of battle red,  
Myrrh for the honored happy dead;  
Gifts for His children, terrible and sweet;  
Touched by such tiny hands,  
and Oh such tiny feet.

-Frances Chesterton

The First Lesson

Isaiah 9:2-7

\*CAROL

**Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming**

ES IST EIN' ROS

**Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming as saints of old have sung.  
It came, a flow'ret bright, amid the cold of winter  
when half spent was the night.**

**Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind:  
with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior  
when half spent was the night.**

THE SECOND LESSON

Luke 1:26-35

\*CAROL

**O Little Town of Bethlehem**

SAINT LOUIS

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars together proclaim the holy birth!  
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth**

**How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.**

**O Holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!**

THE THIRD LESSON

Luke 2:1-20

\*CAROL

**Angels from the Realms of Glory**

REGENT SQUARE

**Angels, from the realms of glory,  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth,  
Ye who sang creation's story,  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth.**

*refrain:*

**Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn King.**

**Shepherds, in the fields abiding,  
Watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing,  
Yonder shines the infant light. (*refrain*)**

**Sages, leave your contemplations,  
Brighter visions beam afar,  
Seek the great Desire of nations,  
Ye have seen his natal star. (*refrain*)**

**All creation, join in praising  
God Creator, Spirit, Son,  
Evermore your voices raising,  
To the eternal Three in One. (*refrain*)**

THE FOURTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12

\*CAROL

## The First Noel

THE FIRST NOEL

The first Noel the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep:

*refrain:*

**"Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel."**

Then they looked up and saw a star,  
shining in the east, beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night: (*refrain*)

This star drew nigh to the northwest;  
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
and there it did both stop and stay  
right over the place where Jesus lay: (*refrain*)

Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
that hath made heaven and earth of naught,  
and with his love our life hath sought: (*refrain*)

The CHRISTMAS 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.**

## CALL TO THE OFFERING



To give via ApplePay, GooglePay, or with a Credit Card,  
scan the QR code with your smartphone camera.  
You can also Text 44-321 and enter OSC to make a gift.

## OFFERTORY

*Angelus ad virginem*

David Willcocks, *arr.*

Gabriel to Mary came, and entered at her dwelling,  
With his salutation glad, her maiden fears dispelling,  
“All hail, thou queen of virgins bright! God, Lord of earth and heaven’s height,  
Thy very Son shall soon be born in pureness, The Savior of humankind.  
Thou are the gate of heaven bright, the sinners’ healer kind.”

“How should I a mother be that am to a man a stranger?  
How should I my strong resolve, my solemn vows endanger?”  
“Pow’r from the Holy Ghost on high shall bring to pass this mystery.  
Then have no fear: Be of good cheer, believing that still thy chastity  
In God’s almighty keeping shall all unsullied be.”

Then to him the maid replied, with noble mien supernal;  
“Lo! the humble handmaid of God the Lord eternal!  
With thee, bright messenger of heav’n, by whom this wondrous news is giv’n,  
I well agree, and long to see fulfilled thy gracious prophecy.  
As God my Lord doth will it, so be it unto me!”

Hail! Thou Mother of the Lord, who bring’st of gifts the rarest,  
Peace to angels and to us, when Christ the Lord thou bearest!  
Do thou, we pray, entreat thy Son for us our long’d redemption  
Himself to win, and from our sin release us; His succor for to give,  
That, when we hence are taken, we too in Heav’n may live.

-Medieval Latin



PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*CAROL

**Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

MENDELSSOHN

**Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**

**Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity,  
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**

**Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

*Noël*  
*Gesu Bambino*

Henri Mulet  
Pietro Yon

THE FIFTH LESSON

John 1:1-14

\*PROCESSION TO THE PORTICO    The Holy Boy

John Ireland

*At the invitation of the clergy,  
please follow the Christ candle toward the Chapel doors  
(bringing your coats and all belongings with you)  
and receive a candle as we make our way outside for the singing of Silent Night.*

\*CAROL

**Silent Night**  
*(text may be found on front cover)*

STILLE NACHT

\*BENEDICTION

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

## **CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP**

*Saturday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m.*

June Cooper, Rick Spalding and Mitchell Crawford will lead a festive and joyful celebration of the Nativity - full of beloved carols, with a special Christmas story and prayers of new hope for the world now illuminated again by the Light of Christ.

## **NEW YEAR'S EVE CONCERTS AT OLD SOUTH**

### **KING OF INSTRUMENTS CONCERT**

*Friday, December 31st at 3 p.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. Free and open to the public.

### **FIRST NIGHT PIPES AND POPS CONCERT**

*Friday, December 31st at 6:30 p.m. and 8 p.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

Old South Church *in* Boston invites you  
to its ***signature services*** during the coming year.

***MLK Sunday—January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023 | 11AM***

Old South Church honors this courageous, modern-day saint, and laments his dream still deferred, in fitting music, preaching, remembrance, and call to action.

**HOLY WEEK 2023**

***Palm Sunday—April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 | 11AM***

***Maundy Thursday—April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023 | 7PM***

***Good Friday—April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023 | 12PM & 7PM***

***Easter Sunday—April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023 | 9AM & 11AM***

***Marathon Sunday—April 16, 2023 | 9AM & 11AM***

Each year hundreds of marathoners join us for worship, where we pause to acknowledge the runners, their families, and volunteers in a special “Blessing of the Athletes.”

***Phillis Wheatley Sunday—May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023 | 9AM & 11AM***

Old South honors and learns from one of the saints of this church who was stolen from Africa, suffered the Middle Passage, was sold into slavery, and triumphed through her awesome wit and the mighty power of her pen.

***Pride Morning Worship—Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023 | 10AM***

10:00 a.m. on the 2nd Saturday in June

During Boston's annual LGBTQ+ Pride Week, we fill the Sanctuary with song, prayers, praise, and worship of the God who loves and embraces all.

***All Saints Sunday—November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022 | 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 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022 | 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.

### **WEEKLY WORSHIP**

**Join us in person, on Vimeo, Facebook, and YouTube**

**JAZZ Worship**, Thursdays at 6:00 p.m.

**FIRST Worship** Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

**FESTIVAL Worship** Sundays at 11:00 a.m.

**HEALING Worship**, the second Sunday at 12:30 p.m. via Zoom

Old South Church in Boston thanks you for blessing us with your presence this Christmas Eve two-thousand & twenty-two ... and a special thanks for the leadership of Richard Spalding, Don Wells, David Story, June Cooper, Nancy Lane, George Sargeant, & members of the Old South Choir.

#### **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.

