



Old South Ringers Concert, December 2019, photo by William Wei

All-Church Worship—Old South Church *in Boston*

December 5th, 2021 ❖ 10:00 a.m.

Second Sunday of Advent

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?

GATHER

PRELUDE

Magnificat: 6 Versets en forme de Variation

Joseph Bonnett

CHORAL PROCESSION

During this time of pandemic, the choir processes silently.

Keep Awake, Be Always Ready

Please rise as the organ begins the introduction to the hymn.

1 Keep a-wake, be al - ways rea - dy, God's time ap - proach-es
2 Rise and shine for One is com - ing whose love will quench all

sure and stea - dy, God's strength will keep your heart from blame.
na - ture's thirst - ing to be made whole for - ev - er more.

Clouds, the Spir - it's light con - ceal - ing, dis - perse, God's pur - est
On that day to end all weep - ing, death's swords trans - formed to

light re - veal - ing; cre - a - tion will its Sov - ereign name. Dry
tools of reap - ing, the God of might will mer - cy pour. In -

branch - es burst forth green, God's ad - vent signs are seen: Hal - le - lu - jah!
car - nate, God ap - pears em - brac - ing all our tears: Hal - le - lu - jah!

Christ's judg - ment won, God's will be done; God's new do - min - ion thus be - gun.
God's maj - es - ty e - ter - nal - ly re - vealed to set the cos - mos free.

RESPONSE

He Came Down

Cameroon Melody

1st time: Choir alone

*2nd time: **Choir and Congregation***

He came down that we may have peace; He came down that we may have peace;

He came down that we may have peace; Hal-le - lu - jah for-ev - er - more.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

WELCOME

Shawn M. Fiedler

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

James Douglas Lucca

Son of Erin and Christopher Lucca

Julie Kalish, Patricia Sanchez-Connally, and David Rhys, Godparents

PRESENTATION AND INTRODUCTION

Katherine A. Schofield

LITANY OF BAPTISM

One: We are gathered to present James Douglas to the Church and to dedicate him to God. What can we affirm about him?

Many: He is a child of God, made in God’s image.

One: As James grows and matures, how will he know he is a child of God and how will he learn of the Christian story?

Many: We will tell him about Abraham and Sarah, the parents of our faith; about Moses and Miriam who led our ancestors out of bondage; about Mary and Joseph’s openness to mystery; about the Savior, Jesus.

One: In turn, what will we expect of James?

Many: We look forward to sitting with him at the Lord’s Table, sharing with him the costs and joys of discipleship, learning and growing with him in the Christian pilgrimage, and declaring with one voice our faith in God and God’s son, Jesus.

One: Do you, Christopher and Erin, parents, assume your primary responsibility for fulfilling these expectations by growing with James in the Christian faith, helping him to become a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, and by offering him the nurture and support of the Christian church? And do you, Julie, Patricia, and David, godparents, agree to guide James into becoming an engaged and complete human being, teaching him about personal sacrifice for a greater good, about grace and reconciliation at times of human weakness, and the power of unconditional love for all people?

Parents and Godparents: We happily and genuinely accept this serious duty.

One: Old South Church, do you pledge to maintain a nurturing and challenging Christian environment for James?

Many: **We do, for he belongs to us as well.**

One: Then, may God be with us.

Many: **God help us. Amen.**

BLESSING THE WATER

BAPTISM

CONGREGATIONAL WELCOME

Sara Donahue, *Deacon*

We rejoice in God's empowering love, freely given to each and all. We welcome you, newly baptized, into the circle of love in Christ's Church. We promise to pray for you, to seek the depths of faith with you, to support you, and to love you. We covenant with you to love God with all our hearts, minds, souls, and strength, and our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.

ANTHEM

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
THE OLD SOUTH RINGERS
Peter Coulombe, *director*

Arnold Sherman

ATTEND

SCRIPTURE

Luke 3:1-6

Christine Del Favero

SERMON

Scandalous

Nancy S. Taylor

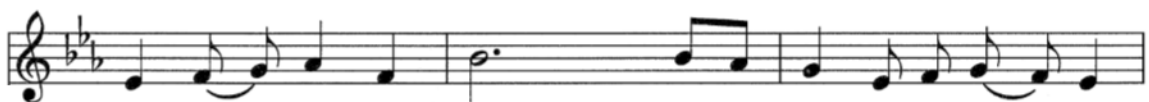
HYMN

There's a Voice in the Wilderness

ASCENSION



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a
2 O Zi - on, who of - fers good tid - ings, to the
3 But the word of our God is for - ev - er, our De -



call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a
height of the moun - tains dare! Lift your voice to the cit - ies of
fend - er's will is strong; God stands in the midst of



high - way, a high - way for our God! The
Ju - dah: "Be - hold your God!" de - clare. Like the
na - tions, to ren - der right the wrong. Then



val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the loft - y hills brought
 flowers of the field we per - ish, our hu - man works de -
 God shall be as a shep-herd, the lambs gath-ered to God's



low: make straight all the crook - ed pla - ces
 cay, the power and pomp of na - tions
 breast; and pas - tures of peace shall greet them,



where Em - man - u - el may go!
 shall pass like a dream a - way.
 to give to the wea - ry rest.

BLESSING OF DEPARTING MEMBERS

Nancy S. Taylor

Mary Ann & John Lape

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

Mary Cresse
 Neil Dugas
 Alexandra Kennedy
 Ramie Leibnitz

André Milson
 Luke Milson
 Sean Witty

PRESENTATION

Katherine A. Schofield

LITANY OF INTENT

One: Friends in Christ, we are all received into the church through the sacrament of baptism. These people have found nurture and support in the midst of the family of Christ. They have been led by the Spirit to affirm their baptism and to claim in our presence their covenantal relationship with Christ and the members of the Christian church.

Many: They are here, as we are here, to endeavor to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind, and our neighbors as ourselves. God help us.

One: Friends who are joining, we rejoice in your pilgrimage of faith which has brought you to this time and place. We give thanks for every community of faith which has been your spiritual home, and we celebrate your presence in this household of faith. Do you promise, by the grace of God, to continue in your pilgrimage of faith, to be Christ's disciple, to resist oppression and evil, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

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

One: Do you promise to walk with us in faithfulness and in Christian love? And do you promise, that so far as able, you will participate in the life of this church, by worshipping God with us, and offering your time, talent and means for the ministry of this church and for the larger church of which this is a part?

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

One: Friends, we then welcome you as partners in the common life of this church and share our covenant of mission with you.

Many: We pledge to give ourselves to the one whom Jesus called “Abba, Father,” as the God in whose love we are grounded, and to Jesus Christ, God incarnate, who rules our lives. We give ourselves to God the Holy Spirit, the One who sustains, recreates and guides us. We promise to walk in covenant with one another, with the wider church, and with the Old South Church, secure in God’s grace, and prepared in gratitude to live by the promise and serve in the hope of the Gospel.

THE RIGHT HAND OF CHRISTIAN FRIENDSHIP

Lauren Nackel, *Deacon*

CALL TO PRAYER

Reamoetje S. Ngoepe

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift our hearts to God.

One: Let us pray.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Creator, 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

From the Parent’s Heart, the Firstborn

Christopher Aspaas, *arr.*

From the Parent’s heart, the firstborn when no worlds had been begun,
this is Alpha and Omega, source and end that join as one,
all that is now, ever has been, and in future will be done,
evermore and evermore.

Here is One whom seers and sages longed to know in ancient days,
One foretold by faithful prophets, singing with their hearts ablaze.
So shines forth the One long promised, who inspires all creatures’ praise,
evermore and evermore.

Let the highest heavens ring out with angelic melody.
All who have the pow’r to praise God, sing, wherever you may be.
Let no mortal tongue keep silent; voices, blend in harmony,
evermore and evermore.

—Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, *Corde natus ex Parentis*;
Carl P. Daw, Jr., *trans.* ©2019 Hope Publishing Co.

RESPOND

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Jessica Young Chang



*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

Tell Out, My Soul

David Hurd

*We look forward to welcoming Dr. Hurd to Old South
this coming February to lead a Festival celebrating his hymnody.*

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of our God!
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice,
tender to me the promise of her word;
in God my Savior shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of God's name!
Make known her might, the deeds her arm has done;
Her mercy sure, from age to age the same;
God's holy Name—the Lord, the Mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of God's might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of her word!
Firm is her promise and her mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of our God
to children's children and forever more.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

1 We hail you God's a - noint - ed, the long - a - wait - ed One!
2 You shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit - ful earth;
3 The wise shall bow be - fore you and gold and in - cense bring;
4 O'er ev - ery foe vic - to - rious, you on your throne shall rest;

Hail in the time ap - point - ed, your reign on earth be - gun!
and joy and hope, like flow - ers, spring in your path to birth.
all na - tions shall a - dore you, and praise all peo - ples sing;
from age to age more glo - rious, all - bless - ing and all - blessed:

You come to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive free;
Be - fore you on the moun - tains shall peace, the her - ald, go,
To you shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows be said,
The tide of time shall nev - er your cov - e - nant re - move;

to take a - way trans - gres - sion, and rule in eq - ui - ty.
and righ - teous - ness, in foun - tains, from hill to val - ley flow.
your realm is still in - creas - ing, with you, O Christ, as head.
your name shall stand for - ev - er, your change - less name of Love.

*HYMN 104

We Hail You God's Anointed

ELLACOMBE

*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

Nancy S. Taylor

POSTLUDE

Vom Himmel hoch, da komm' ich her'

Johann Pachelbel



The large red poinsettia is given to the glory of God
and in loving memory of Anna Dartley and Dr. Seth Ephraim Dartley
by Saideh, Anna Nicole and Sara Ann.

A gift to the Allston Brighton Food Pantry
has been made by the Holland Family in loving memory of
Clarence Dauber by his grandchildren Pamela and Ian Holland
and his great-grandchildren Nolan and Aine Holland.



WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Mary Cresse

Born in Boston, Mary grew up in Winchester, then attended UMass Amherst. Two weeks after graduating she moved to Manhattan and spent more than a decade in publishing. After a brief stint in San Francisco, she returned to Massachusetts and settled on the North Shore, where she joined the First Congregational Church of Rockport. She is delighted to be back in Boston. She enjoys writing fiction and is a member of the Boston Athenaeum.

Neil Dugas

Neil grew up in Foxboro and has lived in Cambridge since 1977. He earned a degree in music from Boston University and served as organist in many Boston and suburban churches for over forty years. His favorite hobby is playing bridge competitively online and he has earned over one hundred Masterpoints.

Alexandra Kennedy

Alexandra is from Maplewood, MN and moved to Boston three years ago. She works in the Back Bay neighborhood as a data analyst for Blue Cross. For fun Alexandra loves to hike, bake, read and play with her parents' dogs. She is excited to affirm her faith by joining the Old South Church community.

Ramie Leibnitz

Ramie has spent almost eight years living in Europe. She enjoyed playing handbells at the American Church in Paris with Old South member Megan Staley until she and her husband, John, moved to Switzerland in 2018. When she and John learned that they were moving to Boston earlier this summer, Megan had the perfect suggestion for a new church home! Ramie is originally from the Pacific Northwest and has never lived in New England before. She is thoroughly enjoying exploring Boston and can't wait until spring to go sailing again with Community Boating.

André and Luke Milson

André and Luke still live in Cookeville, TN and were married on November 21st at Old South Church. They plan on moving to the Massachusetts area soon. They also look forward to expanding their family. They feel the northeastern United States is a better fit for a multi-racial gay couple than the south and are looking forward to feeling accepted by the church and community.

Sean Witty

Sean is an ordained minister and pastoral counselor with UCC roots in Connecticut. He has been a resident of Newton for ten years where he lives with his three young adult sons. He has been an admirer of Old South Church since attending Berklee as a college student many years ago. Since college, Sean worked at several churches in CT and MA, graduated from seminary along the way, and is especially fond of his years working with students. He spends his days as a pastoral counselor and is furthering his counseling training at UMass Boston.



NOTES ON TODAY'S MUSIC

Joseph Bonnet was a late nineteenth and early twentieth century French organist and composer. His principal teacher was Alexandre Guilmant, whom he succeeded as concert organist at the Paris Conservatory. From 1917 to 1919 he undertook a concert tour of the United States. He was forced to flee France at the beginning of World War II and settled in Montreal for the last few years of his life

His *Magnificat* consists of six brief variations on a plainchant setting of Mary's joyful response to the news that she would give birth to Jesus. In all but the second and sixth the chant is played unaltered on a solo stop. In the others it is cleverly woven into the keyboard figurations.



INFORMATION ABOUT OLD SOUTH

Check out the church website at
www.oldsouth.org/Sundays for everything Sundays,
www.oldsouth.org/calendar for a calendar of virtual 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

Nancy S. Taylor, *Senior Minister* ❖ James W. Crawford, *Senior Minister Emeritus*
Katherine A. Schofield, *Interim Associate Minister* ❖ Shawn M. Fiedler, *Acting Associate Minister*
Donald A. Wells, *Theologian in Residence* ❖ June R. Cooper, *Theologian in the City*
Reamogetje S. Ngoepe, *Pastoral Resident* ❖ Jessica Young Chang, *Seminarian*
David Story, *Wedding Minister* ❖ Ken Orth, *Healing Worship Minister*

Mitchell Crawford, *Minister of Music*
George Sargeant, *Associate Organist & Choirmaster*
Tim Harbold, *Director, Gospel Choir* ❖ Willie Sordillo, *Director, Jazz Worship Music*
Peter Coulombe, *Director, Old South Ringers*

Kate Nintcheu, *Director, Children & Family Ministries*
Martha Schick, *Youth & Young Adult Ministries Leader*
Summer Marsh and Carolyn Davis, *Co-Directors, Old South Preschool*

Helen McCrady, *Senior Church Administrator* ❖ John Braught, *Director of Operations*
Jamie Garuti, *Multimedia Director* ❖ Linda Van Praet, *Accounting & Human Resources*
Alex Pickering, *Administrative Assistant* ❖ Emily Ross, *Archivist*
Ralph Watson, *Snowden Partnership Coordinator* ❖ Karen Hand, *Wedding Coordinator*
Oussama Ouadani and William Wei, *Livestream Production Assistants*

Elias Perez, *Senior Sexton* ❖ Ozo Nwodo, Richard Serebour, and David Brode, *Sextons*
Corey Spence, *Weekday Receptionist*
Shirley Bivins and George Sargeant, *Evening & Weekend Receptionists*

Phil Stern, *Moderator* ❖ Rob Gabler, *Clerk* ❖ Bill Bulkeley, *Treasurer*
Kristi Geary, *Chair, Board of Trustees* ❖ Kate Silfen, *Historian*
Paul Brouillette & Susan Navia, *Senior Deacons* ❖ Vicki Newman, *Pledge Secretary*

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

ANNUAL ADVENT AND POETRY FEST

Sunday, December 5th, 2nd Floor Mary Norton Hall, Following Worship

Do you have a favorite poem or short prose selection that is meaningful to you or have you written a poem, prayer, or brief meditation that sheds light on the Christmas story? Then come and share your humorous, serious, or thought provoking selection that reflects some aspect of the season. To join in, email granwell@comcast.net to let Don Wells know the title of your selection.

OLD SOUTH RINGERS PRESENT: WE NEED A LITTLE CHRISTMAS

Sunday, December 5th, 6 p.m., in the Sanctuary

Come celebrate the joy and wonder of the Christmas season in music! The Old South Ringers are excited to revive our annual Christmas Concert tradition this year. We hope you and your whole family will join us for fun and festive handbell arrangements of some favorite classics. Free and open to the public, masks required.



NEW OSC SMALL GROUP: Cineminklings

Cineminklings (a twist on the J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis “Inklings” literary group) is a group for people who are ready to enjoy movies in the theatre once again. The group will meet monthly on Sunday afternoons (times TBD) at AMC Boston Commons 19. We will watch the movie, then transfer to a location (restaurant/coffee house) close by to discuss the film's story, hero's journey and spiritual themes.

- **Sunday: December 5th - “King Richard”** “King Richard” is based on the true story of Richard Williams, father of legendary tennis champions Venus & Serena, who overcame tremendous obstacles to help his daughters reach the pinnacle of success. The movie stars Will Smith. To join, contact Tish Dragonette at tishdragonette@me.com

LGBTQIA+ & FRIENDS COOKIE DECORATING

Sunday, December 12th, 11 a.m., 4th floor Guild Room

Make the yuletide gay this year by joining LGBTQIA+ and Friends in decorating Christmas cookies. Carols and cookies will be provided, but more cookies are always welcomed. Wear a festive sweater and be prepared for some good old fashioned merriment! Contact shawn@oldsouth.org for more information.

UP COMING COMMUNITY HOUR FORUMS

Sundays, following All-Church Worship, 2nd Floor Mary Norton Hall

Favorite Festive Foods

December 12th

Join us for a discussion on the history of traditional holiday dishes. Don't forget to bring your own well-loved recipe to share.

Holiday Hymn Sing

December 19th

Minister of Music, Mitchell Crawford will lead us in a singalong of some Christmas Classics. We'll also learn the history of our best loved holiday tunes.

GREEN TIP: 12 Green Tips of Christmas

3. Use LED lights for house and tree lighting.
4. Make homemade cards and gifts.

LOOKING FOR HOSPITALITY VOLUNTEERS, CAN YOU HELP?

Go to <https://tinyurl.com/OSCHospWinter2022> to sign up by December 5th

We are scheduling usher and welcomers for Sunday All-Church Worship and Thursday Jazz services. This is an important part of our welcome. Folks who have ushered and greeted in the past tell us they love the experience. Visitors and friends coming through our doors for first time (or second, or third) tell us how much our welcome meant to them. Please fill out the form by Sunday, December 5th so we can distribute the schedule before the first week in January.

IN LIEU OF CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Please make your donation by Thursday, December 9th

Instead of our usual Christmas Flower donations, we will be directing the funds to the Allston Brighton Food Pantry. The requested contribution is still \$20. You can go to www.tinyurl.com/oldsouthgiving and choose "Christmas Memorial" to make your gift. Your message in honor or memory of loved ones, or special occasions, can be entered on the second page of the donation screen or you can give anonymously. The list of messages will be available in the Sunday bulletin and online beginning December 13th. Questions? Email helen@oldsouth.org.

STEWARDSHIP: AN EPIPHANY!

January is Stewardship month at Old South Church, the month we pledge our financial resources to fuel our 2022 ministries of Mercy, Justice & Beauty. Following the journey of the Magi, we will take our turn, bearing our own gifts for the Christ child as we, too, STEP INTO GOD'S FUTURE.

HOW WE (YOU!) FUND OLD SOUTH CHURCH'S MINISTRIES AND WORK

2021 AT A GLANCE

299 households pledged a total of \$1,159,843
Here's how it breaks down:

2021	# Households	Total
\$10,000-\$60,000	23	\$477,700
\$5,000-\$9,999	43	\$287,970
\$2,500-\$4,999	64	\$218,217
\$1,000-\$2,499	95	\$144,821
\$1-\$999	74	\$31,135

The AVERAGE household pledge: \$3,880

The MEDIAN household pledge: \$2,000

BLESS YOU!

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS EVE AT OLD SOUTH

Go to www.oldsouth.org/Advent to get more information and sign up for events or donate

ADVENT FAMILY SERVICE PROJECT

Saturday, December 18th, 9:00 a.m. at the church

Families of the church will gather to assemble, pack and wrap Christmas gifts that we will then take to the streets to deliver to our unhoused neighbors. Please help us by adding to the gifts.

We are now collecting the following items:

- **small toiletries**
- **hand warmers**
- **warm socks, gloves, mittens, hats, and scarves**
- **cash donations (to be converted into Dunkin gift cards)**

Physical items should be new, and can be brought (or mailed) to the reception desk. Monetary donations can be marked "Gift Boxes" and left for Kate at the front desk. RSVP to Kate at children@oldsouth.org if you'd like to come on December 18th!

BLUE CHRISTMAS JAZZ WORSHIP

Thursday, December 23rd, 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 & 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 AT OLD SOUTH

- **5 p.m. Online pageant by the Church School**
- **6 and 8 p.m. Service of Lessons and Carols with candle lighting**
- **11 p.m. Candlelit Chapel Service**

Please note: Only the 5 p.m. Pageant and 8 p.m. service of Lessons & Carols will be livestreamed.

WEEKLY WORSHIP

Join us for worship in person and on Vimeo.

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

ALL-CHURCH Worship, Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Our monthly **HEALING Worship** is held the second Sunday at 12:30 p.m. via Zoom

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.
