



## Old South Church

*Copley Square, Boston*

*A Congregation of the  
United Church of Christ*

*Gathered 1669*

February 11, 2024

# Transfiguration Sunday

*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

Prelude on "Song 46"

Leo Sowerby

\*HYMN 1

**Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise**

ST. DENIO

WELCOME

John M. Edgerton

INVOCATION

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*Please greet those around you, wishing them "peace" or "the peace of Christ."*

*\* Indicates all who are able may stand*

ANTHEM

Send Down the Fire of Your Justice

Marty Haugen

*Send down the fire of your justice,  
send down the rains of your love;  
come, send down the Spirit,  
breathe life in your people, and we shall be people of God.*

Call us to be your compassion,  
teach us the song of your love;  
give us hearts that sing, give us deeds that ring,  
make us ring with the song of your love.

Call us to learn of your mercy,  
teach us the way of your peace;  
give us hearts that feel, give us hands that heal,  
make us walk in the way of your peace.

Call us to answer oppression,  
teach us the fire of your truth;  
give us righteous souls, 'til your justice rolls,  
make us burn with the fire of your love.

Call us to witness your kingdom,  
give us the presence of Christ;  
may your holy light keep us shining bright,  
ever shine with the presence of Christ.

## LISTEN

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kate M. Nintcheu

SCRIPTURE

Mark 9:2-10

Christina Gregg

\*HYMN 587

**Through All the World, a Hungry Christ**

DE TAR

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

SERMON

Noah Brewer-Wallin

\*HYMN 607

**We Would Be Building**

FINLANDIA

## RESPOND

\*CALL TO PRAYER

Madison Chau

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. *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

Be the Change

Marc Kaplan and Colin Britt

Be the change you want to see in the world, and change will come to you.

Be the voice you want to hear in the world, and change will come to you.

Be the light you want to shine in the world, and change will come to you.

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Ashley J. Popperson



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

Light of the World  
from *The Light of Life*, Op. 29

Edward Elgar

Light of the world, we know thy praise,  
the angels and arch-angels raise,  
and all the host of Heaven;  
more worthily than our faint hymns,  
whose jarring sound that glory dims,  
which God to thee hast given.

But thou didst not disdain to take our low estate,  
or even to make the tomb thy resting place;  
so thou might bring into our night  
the dawn of thine eternal light  
to shine upon our face.

Nor death, nor hell, nor sin is Lord,  
but thou, O Son of God.

Thy word is now our sovereign law.  
Therefore we thank thee and we pray  
thy light may shine unto the perfect day;  
thy light may shine on us for evermore.

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*HYMN 164

**Arise, Your Light Is Come**

FESTAL SONG

\*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

Noah Brewer-Wallin

POSTLUDE

Imperial March, Op. 32

Edward Elgar



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

The flowers today are given  
in loving memory of Elinor Lockwood Yeo  
by her family

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



## NOTES ON TODAY'S MUSIC

This morning's offertory, *Light of the World*, is excerpted from Sir Edward Elgar's small-scale oratorio, "The Light of Life," where it functions as the concluding chorus. The oratorio, which was to serve as prelude to a trio of larger-scale New Testament oratorios, is based on the story of Jesus's healing of a blind man, as told in the Gospel of John. A Catholic, Elgar had originally given the work the title *Lux Christi* — but when its publisher expressed concern about the Latin moniker within Anglican settings, Elgar suggested instead "The Light that Shineneth". In any event, he accepted the counteroffer of the publisher — the present title.

Though his first attempt at oratorio writing, Elgar achieves success with the work, which represents a marked advance in his development as a composer. At the time, it was the longest work Elgar had composed, and the first in which he adopted recurring motifs associated with the drama's characters and concepts. One such motif, a rising melody representing Jesus as the bringer of light, is recalled at the center of the chorus we hear this morning (at the text "So thou might bring into our night the dawn of thine eternal light..."). The moment harkens all the way back to the oratorio's beginning, when the motif is first introduced toward the end of the overture (which Elgar titles "Meditation").

"The Light of Life" was composed in 1896, making it a companion piece with Elgar's Imperial March, Op. 32, which dates from the following year. This rousing march — a foretaste of the later Pomp and Circumstance Marches — was composed to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee.



## 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto: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](http://www.oldsouth.org/your-first-visit) or see the front desk.

### LEARN MORE

Check out the church website at [www.oldsouth.org/calendar](http://www.oldsouth.org/calendar) for a calendar of events, and the general website [www.oldsouth.org](http://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 Barton, *Assistant Minister and Nancy S. Taylor Fellow*

Donald A. Wells, *Theologian in Residence* ❖ June R. Cooper, *Theologian in the City*

David Story, *Wedding Minister* ❖ Ken Orth, *Healing Worship Minister*

Madison Chau, *Seminary Fellow*

James W. Crawford, *Senior Minister Emeritus* ❖ Nancy S. Taylor, *Senior Minister Emeritus*

Mitchell Crawford, *Minister of Music*

George Sargeant, *Associate Organist & Choirmaster*

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*

Amelia Gerrard, *Church Administrator* ❖ John Braught, *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 and William Wei, *Livestream Production Assistants* ❖ Ava Welling, *Sound Technician*

Elias Perez, *Senior Sexton* ❖ Ozo Nwodo, Richard Serebour, and David Brode, *Sextons*

Corey Spence, *Weekday Receptionist*

Shirley Bivins, Shelia Randolph, and George Sargeant, *Evening & Weekend Receptionists*

Phil Stern, *Moderator* ❖ Rob Gabler, *Clerk* ❖ Bill Bulkeley, *Treasurer*

Debby Kuenstner, *Chair, Board of Trustees* ❖ Kate Silfen, *Historian*

Christine Del Favero and Tony Rich, *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



## THE COMMUNITY HOUR FORUM

*Sundays, 10 a.m., 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Mary Norton Hall and online,*

*go to [tinyurl.com/OSCForums](https://tinyurl.com/OSCForums) for Zoom link, password: Community*

This casual, no-commitment, come-when-you-can forum hosts series on a variety of topics. Clergy, lay, and special guests share in leading sessions.

## RACE RELATIONS IN BOSTON: Then and Now

### February 11 – Racial Segregation and the Affordable Housing Crisis

At least since the bussing crisis of the 1970s, Boston has had a reputation as a racist city. Boston's school system continues to struggle, and Boston is ranked as the 11th most segregated metropolitan area in the country. Yet today, Boston is a majority minority city, with an Asian-American mayor, a city council that is half BIPOC, and people of color in key roles like police chief and leaders of the MBTA. On this 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of the Boston bussing crisis, and during Black History Month, BU professor and Christian Formation chairperson Tim Longman will lead discussions around the history of racial discrimination and segregation in Boston and the state of race relations today. What are the legacies of racial animosity and division? What ongoing issues of racism confront the area today? How can Old South help in city-wide efforts to dismantle racism? Join us in person or online.

## CONNECTIONS CLASS

*Sunday, February 11, 10 a.m.*

To be a member of Old South Church is to enter the company of Revolutionary Era heroes, abolitionists, suffragettes, anti-poverty crusaders, and poets. Our saints include Benjamin Franklin, Samuel Adams, Phillis Wheatley... and maybe you! Want to learn more about the life of this community of faith and break bread with other newcomers and church members? Join our Connections Info Session! Contact Ashley Popperson for more info.

## SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 355<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF OLD SOUTH CHURCH

The 355<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of Old South Church is scheduled for March 3, 2024 following Festival Worship. Following Annual Meeting, all who wish are welcome to board a bus to raise their voice against housing inequality at the GBIO Housing Justice Campaign action:

### GREATER BOSTON INTERFAITH ORGANIZATION (GBIO)

#### Housing Justice Campaign ACTION

Sign up for a House Meeting here : [bit.ly/OldSouthHouseMeetings](https://bit.ly/OldSouthHouseMeetings),

Sign up to take action on Sunday, March 3 at 3pm: [bit.ly/gbiomarch3](https://bit.ly/gbiomarch3)

Housing in Boston and beyond is too often unaffordable, unattainable, and undignified -- and this affects both our neighbors and our own members. In February, Old South's GBIO team is hosting conversations (House Meetings) for us to reflect on how unaffordable housing touches our lives, connect more deeply with one another, and prepare to take action with 1700 of our neighbors on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Questions? Connect with Old South co-liaisons Harrison Reeder & Christina Gregg:

[reeder.h@gmail.com](mailto:reeder.h@gmail.com) or [clg3792@gmail.com](mailto:clg3792@gmail.com),

### GBIO IN-DISTRICT MEETING

#### with Representatives Livingston and Michlewitz

February 15, 7 p.m. at First Church Boston UU,

Register at [tinyurl.com/Feb15GBIO](https://tinyurl.com/Feb15GBIO)

This is one of several meetings we have been organizing with our state senators and representatives where we will be asking for their commitment to

- 1.6 billion dollars for state funded public housing
- at least 189 million for the operating budget in public housing.
- the real estate transfer fee to increase affordable housing
- State IDs for people who are returning from prison upon release
- \$9 million in rental assistance for those who are returning from incarceration

We are hoping to turnout 50 to 80 people to show our representatives that this matters to us. Bring your friends, neighbors, family members. The more people we have the more power we have to influence our legislators and hold them accountable- so let's turnout strong on February 15 for housing justice!



## **SEEING WITH THE EYES AND FEELING WITH THE HEART OF ANOTHER**

*Thursday, February 15, 7pm*

This program invites OSC members and friends to consider the experience of Black, Indigenous and People of Color in our beloved community. What might it be like to enter into the physical space of

Old South with the eyes or heart of another? We will use three short articles as the basis for our discussion. For more information visit: [tinyurl.com/GRACESpeaksFeb2024](https://tinyurl.com/GRACESpeaksFeb2024) or contact David O'Malley at [domalley@bridgew.edu](mailto:domalley@bridgew.edu).



## **CLIMATE CHANGE BANNER PAINTING**

*Sundays February 18 and 25 at 10 a.m., in the 4<sup>th</sup> floor Guild Room*

Remember those big, stained glass-esque climate change banners we started painting in the summer? Well, Finish it February has arrived and that is exactly what we're going to do! Join us in the Guild Room, pick up a paintbrush, and get your creativity on. With your help, we'll finish them in plenty of time to bless them on Care of Creation Sunday.



## **VESPERS HEALING WORSHIP:**

### **Celebrating the life of Peter Boyle**

*This Sunday, February 11, 5 p.m. on Zoom, [tinyurl.com/OSCH Healing](https://tinyurl.com/OSCH Healing) 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.



### **EASTER FLOWER DONATIONS** *requested contribution \$20*

Go to [tinyurl.com/2024OSCFowers](https://tinyurl.com/2024OSCFowers) and choose "Easter Flowers" to make your gift or fill out a card in the back of the Sanctuary and give it to the front desk. Messages 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. Contact [rémy@oldsouth.org](mailto:rémy@oldsouth.org) with questions.

### **GREEN TIP: Purchase Fair Trade Chocolate For Your Loved Ones!**

Consider purchasing some delicious and ethical fair trade chocolate for your loved ones. Fair Trade certified [fairtradecertified.org](https://fairtradecertified.org) products are much less harmful to the environment, as there are special regulations that often differ from commercial practices. Some regulations include better working conditions for farmers, as well as environmental impacts such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving soil and water quality, managing waste and avoiding harmful chemicals. Fair Trade America [fairtradeamerica.org](https://fairtradeamerica.org) has an extensive list of fair trade chocolates and goes more in detail on the positive impacts they can have! Check out the UC Santa Cruz Sustainability Office [sustainability.ucsc.edu](https://sustainability.ucsc.edu) for more green tips.

### **WEEKLY WORSHIP**

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

**TWILIGHT Worship**, 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 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.*

---

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](https://www.oldsouth.org)