

Old South Church
Copley Square, Boston
A Congregation of the
United Church of Christ
Gathered 1669

March 26th, 2023 **The Fifth Sunday**in Lent

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 Psalm-Prelude, Set I, No. 3 Herbert Howells

*HYMN 407 **How Firm a Foundation** FOUNDATION

*CALL TO WORSHIP adapted from Psalm 130 Ashley J. Popperson

One: From the depths I cry to You, O God;

Many: In your mercy, hear the voice of my prayers!

One: If you counted our straying against us, which of us could face you? Many: But somehow you are always ready to forgive and to heal.

One: My soul longs for you as the night watch awaits the dawn -

Many: as the night watch awaits the dawn, I long to live in your love.

One: I place my hope in the power of your forgiveness, O God;

Many: Only you can mend our brokenness.

^{*} Indicates all who are able may stand

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

*SUNG RESPONSE

Soloist, Choir:

Come, bring your burdens to God; Come, bring your burdens to God; Come, bring your burdens to God, for God will always be there.

Congregation:





Text: South African; English trans. Barbara Clark, Mairi Munro, and Martine Stemerick, 2008

Tune: WOZA NOMTHWALO WAKHO,

South African melody; arr. Welile Sigobi, 2008

WELCOME

ANTHEM

Like as the Hart (No. 3 from "Four Anthems" [1941])

Herbert Howells

Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks, so longeth my soul after thee, O God.

My soul is athirst for God, yea even for the living God. When shall I come to appear before the presence of God?

My tears have been my meat day and night, while they daily say unto me, 'Where is now thy God?'

—Adapted from Psalm 42

LISTEN

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Kate M. Nintcheu

SCRIPTURE Matthew 6:7-18 Tish Dragonette

*PSALM 18 see insert O God My Strength, NEUMARK

My Fort, My Haven

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

SERMON The Opposite of God Richard E. Spalding

*PSALM 130 see insert Beyond the Depths AUS TIEFER NOT

of Numb Despair

RESPOND

*CALL TO PRAYER Katherine A. Schofield

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

Loving God, 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

Cantabile THE OLD SOUTH RINGERS Peter Coloumbe, *director*

Emily Li

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Katherine A. Schofield



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

Geistliches Lied, Op. 30

Johannes Brahms

Laß dich nur nichts nicht dauren mit Trauren, sei stille! Wie Gott es fügt, so sei vergnügt mein Wille.

Was willst du heute sorgen auf morgen? Der Eine steht allem für, der gibt auch dir das Deine.

Sei nur in allem Handel ohn Wandel, steh feste! Was Gott beschleußt, das ist und heißt das Beste.

Amen.

Let nothing afflict you with grief; be calm! As God ordains, so may my will be content.

Why worry today about tomorrow? The One is in charge who gives also to you what is yours.

In all your doings be steadfast; stand firm! What God decrees is — and is acknowledged [to be] — the best.

Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN 444 We Are Often Tossed and Driven

BY AND BY

*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Fanfare William Mathias



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

The flowers today are given in loving memory of Elinor Yeo by Dick Yeo and the Yeo family.

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



NOTES ON TODAY'S MUSIC

Preeminent among 20th century British composer Herbert Howell's compositional output for organ solo were his two sets of three Psalm Preludes, the first dating from the World War I years and the second from the late 1930s as World War II approached. Each is a musical meditation on a verse from the Psalms, and with the exception of the last, follow a pattern of a quiet beginning, a gradual buildup to a sustained climax, and finally a fading away to near-nothingness. The first set are less stylistically mature than the second; Howell's distinct harmonic language, though hinted at, had yet to fully flower.

Set I, No. 3 takes as its inspiration Psalm 23:4, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." The repeated notes in the bass heard under the mournful melody at the beginning and which return at the end are suggestive of both walking and one's heartbeat.

—George Sargeant, Associate Organist and Choirmaster

Old South Church in Boston invites you to its Signature Services during the coming year.

HOLY WEEK 2023

Palm Sunday — April 2nd, 2023 | 9AM & 11AM Maundy Thursday — April 6th, 2023 | 7PM Good Friday — April 7th, 2023 | 12PM & 7PM Easter Sunday — April 9th, 2023 | 9AM & 11AM

Marathon Sunday — April 16th, 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 14th, 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.

All Saints Sunday — November 5th, 2023 | 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 19th, 2023 | 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 24th, 2023

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 Interim Associate Minister Katherine Schofield at <u>katherine@oldsouth.org</u>

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 nww.oldsouth.org/your-first-visit or see the front desk.

LEARN MORE

Check out the church website at <u>www.oldsouth.org/calendar</u> 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!

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OLD SOUTH CHURCH in BOSTON — MINISTERS, OFFICERS, & STAFF

Richard E. Spalding, Interim Senior Minister

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

Ashley J. Popperson, Associate Minister * Katherine A. Schofield, Interim Associate Minister

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

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

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

Kate Nintcheu, Director, Children & Family Ministries Summer Marsh, Director, 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
Rémy Hatfield-Gardner and William Wei, Livestream Production Assistants

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.



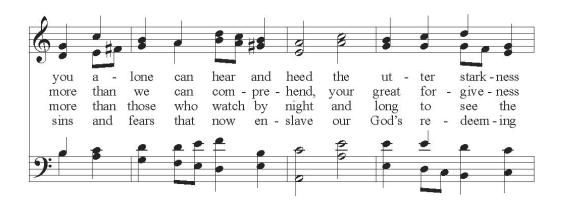
O God, My Strength, My Fort, My Haven



Beyond the Depths of Numb Despair



WORDS: Carl P. Daw, Jr. MUSIC Martin Luther, harm. Johann Sebastian Bach Words © 2005 Hope Publishing Company





Notes on Today's Psalms

Psalm 18 O God my strength, my fort, my haven

The Hebrew text of this psalm begins with an unusually long superscription. In addition to the customary inscription to "the [musical] leader" or "choirmaster" and an attribution to David, the psalm is identified as the song David sang "on the day when the Lord delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul." In corroboration of this assigned origin, an almost identical version of this psalm (with its superscription) appears at 2 Samuel 22:1–51. While the psalm may well have originated in David's time, scholars find evidence that it has been adapted over time and may even have been created later.

- Stanza 1: Much of this stanza is devoted to images of God's protection, which are backed up by the narrative of the closing couplet.
- Stanza 2: This is an especially vivid stanza, both in describing the despair of the psalmist and in telling of God's saving help. In this stanza and the following one, the association of distress with deep water reflects the ingrained fear of a land-based people for what they understood as a sign of the chaos that preceded creation.

- Stanzas 3–4: Although three of the five stanzas here are directed to God, these two are directed to other people. The third stanza is a narrative-based testimony of the psalmist's deliverance, moving from smothering circumstances to a wide-open, life-giving space. The fourth stanza offers generalizations derived from this personal experience.
- Stanza 5: The final stanza returns to addressing God, and its descriptions of God as "light" and "salvation" are reminiscent of the opening of Psalm 27.

Both the melodic shape of WEN NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT and the associations of that tune's original text offer suitable support for this paraphrase.

Psalm 130 Beyond the depths of numb despair

The Hebrew superscription of Psalm 130, "A song of ascents," seems more pertinent to its location among the pilgrimage songs than to its actual content. It deals more with waiting than with movement, and it has shaped the prayers of many generations of faithful people, both Jewish and Christian. Early in Christian tradition this psalm was one of seven identified as a set of penitential psalms (the others are 6, 32, 38, 51, 102, and 143), and they continue to be appointed for penitential seasons and occasions. Psalm 130, often called the *De profundis* from its opening words in Latin, has been widely used for situations of distress, suffering, and death.

- Stanza 1: References to "the depths" in the Psalms often concern the literal depths of the sea but also serve metaphorically as images of extreme distress and death. Those combined associations add urgency to the psalmist's appeal.
- Stanza 2: Robert Alter points out that the Hebrew verb here, acknowledging that God does not
- "watch for" sins, comes from the same root as the upcoming allusion to those who eagerly "watch for" dawn. That implicit comparison between divine graciousness and human longing is telling. The final line of this stanza serves as a reminder that "the fear of God" is not merely terror of God's power but awe that such power cannot be separated from God's compassion and forgiveness.
- Stanza 3: The awaited "declaration" of line 4 would seem to be a word of forgiveness. The resonant comparison with people watching for dawn is a classic example of how effective analogy clarifies and energizes the expression of ideas.
- Stanza 4: The final stanza takes a new direction, moving from the individual psalmist's plight to an exhortation for God's people to trust in God's forgiveness.

This text was intentionally created to fit AUS TIEFER NOT, the tune Martin Luther composed for his German version of this Psalm, memorable for its opening figure of descending and rising fifths.

— The Rev. Dr. Carl P. Daw, Jr.

Old South Church *in* Boston ***** Week of March 26th, 2023

OLD SOUTH FORUM

Sundays, 10 a.m., 2nd Floor Mary Norton Hall, and on Zoom, at <u>tinyurl.com/OSCForums</u> password: Community

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

Carl Daw Reflects on the Psalms This Sunday, March 26th



Old South welcomes renowned author Carl Daw — whose newly published metrical Psalter we're exploring throughout Lent in Festival Worship — to Community Hour for a two-part series exploring the emotional and spiritual range of the Psalms. The first session last week focused on the comfort and assurance of God's protection as exemplified by Psalm 23 (for good reason the most beloved

of all the psalms). This week we'll consider a Psalm at the other extreme: the despairing Psalm 130. Yet even this cry from the depths carries with it an undefeated confidence in God's power to rescue and to bless. Please join us for this rare opportunity to engage with one of the most celebrated hymn writers of the age!

Get to Know Pastor Ashley at the Forum! Sunday, April 2nd

On Palm Sunday we welcome Pastor Ashley in the Forum. Pastor Ashley began serving as our Associate Minister in February and has become a great part of the OSC team. Ashley is originally from Evergreen, Colorado, but now lives in Jamaica Plain with her family. She earned Master's Degrees in both Divinity and Social Work from Boston University (2014) and most recently served as Associate Pastor at United Church of Christ, Norwell for four years. Join us to learn more about Ashley's spiritual



journey, her favorite theological quandaries, and her famous dog Pope Joan.



REMEMBERING ELINOR YEO

This Sunday, March 26th, 2 p.m.

All are invited to a Memorial Service for the Rev. Elinor Yeo, followed by a reception and an opportunity to greet Dick and the Yeo family.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Happy Birthday to our members born in the month of March. Join us for cake and singing at Coffee Hour following Festival Worship this Sunday, March 26th.



RESTORATIVE JUSTICE IN A MASSACHUSETTS FEDERAL COURT

Monday, March 27th, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m., go to tinyurl.com/3-2023Justice to register and for more info



Can Restorative Justice be effective in dealing with drug and gun trafficking? How are the roles of Judge, Prosecutor, and Defense Attorneys changed using the process? Why would a prosecutor be interested in restorative justice? What are the effects of restorative justice on sentencing? How is the effectiveness of the restorative justice program assessed? Find answers to these questions and your own at the SNEUCC Restorative Justice Team's webinar panel. A one-hour

presentation will be followed by Q&A.

VESPERS HEALING WORSHIP

NOTE DATE CHANGE: Sunday, April 2nd, 5 p.m. on Zoom, go to <u>tinyurl.com/OSCHealing</u> 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

Due by Sunday, April 2nd, requested contribution \$20

Go to <u>tinyurl.com/OSC-online-giving</u> and choose "Easter Flowers" to make your gift. 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. The list of messages will be in the bulletin and online on Easter Sunday, April 9th. Contact Alex Pickering at *alex@oldsouth.org* with questions.

YOUNG ADULT AFTER-JAZZ DINNER

Next Dinner April 13th, email Sarah Cowles with any questions
Join us for a casual hangout with other 20s and 30s Old Southers. We meet in the chapel after Jazz service at 6:45pm on the first Thursday of every month. We grab take out food in the area or bring food from home and gather in the Tower room to catch up, meet new folks, and enjoy a meal together.



BLESSING OF THE ATHLETES

Sunday, April 16th, Services at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Join us for our annual Marathon Sunday worship services, featuring the Blessing of the Marathon Athletes and Highland Cathedral for bagpipes, drum, and organ.

GREEN TIP: Join the Climate Crisis Task Force!

Contact katherine@oldsouth.org for info.

Join the OSC Climate Crisis Task Force! We can always use new members and great ideas as we fight against the climate crisis and care for God's good earth.



OLD SOUTH PRESCHOOL BOOK FAIR



Old South Preschool is celebrating National Reading Month. To cap off several special school events throughout the month, we are holding a Used Book Fair the last week of March, in the 4th floor Guild Room. Books will be organized on tables and available for purchase for a small price. The children will also be selling unique repurposed cardboard bookmarks

We are accepting donations of used books (all genres and audiences). If you have books that you no longer need and would like to see them find a new home, kindly bring them in. There is a donation box on the side of the reception desk, in the elevator lobby. This fundraiser will directly support Arts & Literacy here at OSP, and also captures our spirit of recycling and upcycling. Thank you for your participation!

HEARD IT AT COUNCIL

Go to www.oldsouth.org/news/heard-it-council-march-2023 to read the latest news about the March Council meeting including staff transitions by Kate Silfen, Church Historian.

GREATER BOSTON INTERFAITH ORGANIZATION

"This is not just a housing crisis, it's a human crisis." 300 GBIO leaders - including our OSC GBIO Core Team, demanded Housing Justice at a rally March 15 outside the State House. This rally marked the launch of an ambitious, multi-pronged Housing Justice campaign. To get involved with GBIO and show your support visit gbio.org or contact katherine@oldsouth.org.





TAKE OUR QUICK WEBSITE USER EXPERIENCE SURVEY

Go to tinyurl.com/2023OSCWebSurvey to take the survey

Old South Church in Boston would like to learn from **you!** Our website is a place that allows us to connect to congregants and newcomers all over Boston and the world. We want it to be easy to use so you can find the information that is important to you. **We ask that you fill out the short survey so we can better learn about how you use the website and how we can improve it.** Thank you for helping make our website more user friendly and accessible to all.

HOLY WEEK 2023

Palm Sunday — April 2nd, 2023 | 9AM & 11AM Maundy Thursday — April 6th, 2023 | 7PM Good Friday — April 7th, 2023 | 12PM & 7PM Easter Sunday — April 9th, 2023 | 9AM & 11AM

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 5:30 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 4 645 Boylston Street, Boston 02116 * www.oldsouth.org