



September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023 ❖ 11:00 a.m.

## Welcome Back 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                      Fugue in F Major, BWV 540b                      J. S. Bach

\*HYMN 70                      **God Is Here! As We Your People Meet**                      ABBOT'S LEIGH

\*CALL TO WORSHIP                      Katherine A. Schofield

One: Here in this place, there are no outsiders—

**Many: for all are welcome in God's house.**

One: Here in this worship, there is only acceptance—

**Many: for love is the language of faith.**

One: Here in our lives, there are no divisions—

**Many: for God dwells in each of us.**

**All: Come, let us worship in unity and love.**

*\* Indicates all who are able may stand*

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

SUNG RESPONSE

**Solo:** *Gathered in God's name 'round the living Word.*

*Gathered as one family in the name of love.*

**Congregation:**

Gath-ered from near and far, gath-ered in this ho - ly place,  
gath-ered as stran-gers and friends, gath-ered and gift-ed by grace.  
Gath - ered in God's name, 'round the liv - ing Word.  
Gath - ered as one fam-'ly in the name of love,  
*slowing*  
in the name of love, in the name of love.

Text and Music: Michael Burkhardt, 2021

WELCOME

# ATTEND

SCRIPTURE Ruth 1:1-18 Rachel Barton

REFLECTION Sonja PL

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS Kate M. Nintcheu  
*Following the blessing, children who wish to may meet childcare staff  
in the back of the sanctuary and proceed to the 3rd floor.*

REFLECTION Parnian

\*HYMN 274 **Womb of Life, and Source of Being** LADUE CHAPEL

REFLECTION Rubén Bonilla Santiago

PASTORAL PRAYER John M. Edgerton

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Creator in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**  
Ecumenical Version (1988)

PRAYER RESPONSE Hymn of Devotion Mary McDonald  
Sam Ou, *cello*

Where you go, I will go;  
where you stay, there I will stay.  
Your people will be my people,  
and your God will be my God.

Where you go, there I will go;  
where you stay, there I will surely stay.  
Where you die, there I will surely die;  
where you lie, there I will lie.

Where you go, I will go...  
...Your God will be my God.

REFLECTION

Joanne Herman

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

I Got a Robe

Moses Hogan, *arr.*

I got a robe, you got a robe, all God's children got a robe.  
When I get to heaven gonna put on my robe,  
I'm gonna shout all over God's heaven.  
Everbody talkin' 'bout heaven ain't going there—  
heaven, heaven,  
I'm gonna shout all over God's heaven.

I got shoes, you got shoes, all of God's children got shoes.  
When I get to heaven gonna put on my shoes,  
I'm gonna walk all over God's heaven.  
Everbody talkin' 'bout heaven ain't going there—  
heaven, heaven,  
I'm gonna walk all over God's heaven.

I got a harp, you got a harp, all God's children got a harp.  
When I get to heaven gonna play on my harp,  
I'm gonna play all over God's heaven.  
Everbody talkin' 'bout heaven ain't going there—  
heaven, heaven,  
I'm gonna play all over, gonna walk all over,  
gonna shout all over God's heaven.

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*HYMN 377                      **Forward through the Ages**                      ST. GERTRUDE

\*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE                      When We All Get to Heaven                      Diane Bish, *arr.*



Join us for Ice Cream & Fellowship outside under the Portico  
(weather permitting) or in the Gordon Chapel following the Postlude.

The flowers today are given  
in loving memory of Penny Kosturko  
by Bob and Candace Kosturko.  
We miss you, Mom!

*Close-Up*, a twenty minute tour of the Sanctuary,  
begins following Worship at the front of the Sanctuary.  
Led by docent Kate Silfen.



## NOTES ON TODAY'S MUSIC

**Moses Hogan**, one of the last century's greatest and most significant arrangers of the negro spiritual, was born in New Orleans to a musical family which included his father (who sang in the choir at A. L. Davis New Zion Baptist Church) and uncle (who was the church's Minister of Music and Organist). Hogan's musicianship was prodigious: by the age of 9, he was already an accomplished pianist. As a sophomore, he enrolled in the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts High School and was a member of its very first graduating class in 1975.

Further study followed at Oberlin Conservatory of Music and the Juilliard School, and he later studied in Vienna. During his years as (primarily) a piano soloist, Hogan won a number of competitions, including first prize in the Kosciuszko Foundation's Chopin Competition in New York. Increasingly, though, Hogan was engaging with and arranging choral music. In 1980, he formed the *New World Ensemble*, which became an early vehicle for his compositions. By 1993, he'd gone on to found the eponymous *Moses Hogan Chorale*, which was supplanted in 1997 by the *Moses Hogan Singers*. Their first album, a priceless compendium of Hogan's spiritual arrangements, was released in 2002.

Hogan died just a year later at the age of 45. His impact on choral music was profound — you can find his arrangements in the repertoire of most any high school, college, church, community, or professional choir. Moreover, his treatment of the spiritual opened new avenues of stylistic development within the genre. He was a natural successor to the era of arrangers which included William Dawson, who'd similarly raised the form to new heights and unlocked possibilities previously latent within. Hogan's spirituals embrace a dizzying number of influences, from blues to barbershop, and are incredibly well crafted — Hogan knows the voice and, as a result, can coax a colorful array of sounds, textures, and moods from the ensemble. In "I Got a Robe", which we hear this morning, a soloist weaves the melodic thread overtop backing vocals from the choir (which makes the most of its interjections between verses!). There is a discernible playfulness in the setting, especially evident in the winking statement, "Everybody talkin' 'bout heaven ain't going there".

— Mitchell Crawford, *Minister of Music*

# 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 Interim Associate Minister Katherine Schofield at [katherine@oldsouth.org](mailto:katherine@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* ❖ 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*

Rachel Barton, *Nancy S. Taylor Fellow and Youth & Young Adult Leader*

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*

Alex Pickering, *Administrative Assistant* ❖ Kathleen Steen, *Staff Accountant*

Emily Ross, *Archivist* ❖ Karen Hand, *Wedding Coordinator*

Jamie Garuti, *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

## DISASTER RELIEF: MAUI FIRES

To give visit [oldsouth.org/donate](https://oldsouth.org/donate)

The United Church of Christ Global H.O.P.E. team, in partnership with the Hawai'i Conference UCC, is launching an appeal to provide support for victims of the wildfires. As we send our prayers, Old South will also send funds to support the relief and recovery efforts. The Christian Service and Outreach Committee will match any donations up to \$2,000 to support relief efforts in the area.



## WELCOME BACK SUNDAY AND POTLUCK

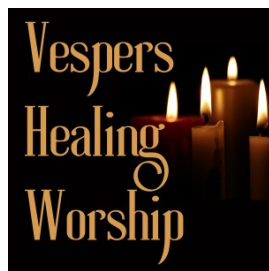
Sunday September 10<sup>th</sup>, see more at [oldsouth.org/welcome-back-sunday](https://oldsouth.org/welcome-back-sunday)

Join us as we kick off the program year! We're excited to welcome back familiar faces and extend a warm greeting to our new Senior Minister, Rev. John Edgerton. At both the **9 a.m. First Worship** and **11 a.m. Festival Worship** services, we'll hear compelling tales that resonate with the spirit of coming home. The service will also feature the **Blessing of the Backpacks**, a touching tradition that encompasses the hopes and aspirations of students and all who carry life's journey with them. If you are or have a student in your life, be sure to bring a backpack. Bring a **dish to share** to our 10:00 a.m. Potluck Brunch in Mary Norton Hall between services.

## COMMUNITY HOUR FORUMS

Sundays, 10 a.m. in Mary Norton Hall on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Zoom at [tinyurl.com/OSC23-24Forum](https://tinyurl.com/OSC23-24Forum)

- **September 10<sup>th</sup>** - Welcome Back Potluck Brunch and Program Overview.  
Join us for an informal potluck breakfast, plenty of fellowship, and a short orientation to church school / adult programs for Fall 2023. (bring food to share - something breakfast-y)
- **September 17<sup>th</sup>** - Meet Rachel: Our New Taylor Fellow and Youth and Young Adult Ministry Leader
- **September 24<sup>th</sup>** - Meet Madison: Our New Graduate Student Intern!



## VESPERS HEALING WORSHIP

Sunday, September 10th, 5 p.m. on Zoom, go to [tinyurl.com/OSCHealing](https://tinyurl.com/OSCHealing) 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.

## YOUNG ADULT AFTER JAZZ DINNER

Next dinner September 14<sup>th</sup>

Join us for a casual hangout with other 20s and 30s Old Southerners. We meet in the chapel after Jazz service at 6:45 p.m. one Thursday 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. Email Sarah Cowles with any questions.



## CHANGING JUSTICE FROM THE GROUND UP: Addressing Urban Violence and its Root Causes Using the Principles and Values of Restorative Justice

Monday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 6 - 7 p.m. followed by Q&A

To register go to [sneucc-reg.brtaapp.com/changingjustice](https://sneucc-reg.brtaapp.com/changingjustice) or scan the QR code

Want an end to trauma and the school to prison pipeline? Prevent violence in our communities? How do restorative and transformative justice address systemic harm and conflict? · Why are these more effective than the punitive discipline model? To find answers to these questions and more, attend this webinar presentation by Valleria Miranda-Ferrick, Executive Director of Unity Circles, and Tha Thai, Assistant Director of Roca Boston.



## ALL-CHURCH RETREAT

Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup> - Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, Craigville Retreat Center, Cape Cod

Go to [tinyurl.com/OSC2023Retreat](https://tinyurl.com/OSC2023Retreat) to register, go to [oldsouth.org/all-church-retreat](https://oldsouth.org/all-church-retreat) to learn more

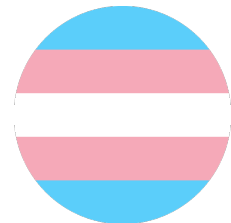
Get excited! It's time for the All-Church Retreat -- our yearly weekend on the Cape. This intergenerational opportunity to connect, relax, play, and learn together is unique - and we hope you will join in! This year we are ecstatic that our special guest will be Rev. Dr. Mary Luti, world-renowned author, professor and theologian - and long time member of Old South Church. Online registration is now open. Adult price for the weekend is \$190 - which includes 2 nights lodging, 5 meals, and the program. Teens and children are free. Day visitors may join in for \$40. Scholarships are available - please reach out to Kate Nintcheu at [children@oldsouth.org](mailto:children@oldsouth.org).

## SNEUCC JUSTICE SUMMIT: Trans and Nonbinary Belonging in the Church

Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 10am-5pm, in person at Old South and online

Go to [tinyurl.com/2023SNEUCCJustice](https://tinyurl.com/2023SNEUCCJustice) to register by September 16<sup>th</sup>,

The Justice Summit on Trans & Nonbinary Belonging in the Church is a chance for worship, learning, and connection for people on all stages of their journey of trans-affirmation. These conversations will help us explore how we can deepen our Open & Affirming commitments as a church and bring those values into our wider communities. Youth & Adults welcome!



## CHURCH SCHOOL BEGINS

Go to [oldsouth.org/children-youth-families](https://oldsouth.org/children-youth-families) to learn more about Old South's offerings to students of all ages. Email Kate Nintcheu for more information at [children@oldsouth.org](mailto:children@oldsouth.org).

## MUSIC AT OLD SOUTH

Visit [oldsouth.org/music](https://oldsouth.org/music) to learn more.

Old South is home to a vibrant array of vocal, choral, and instrumental ensembles, and no matter your age or ability, there is a place for you in our music ministry. This Fall, we're delighted by the return of our First Singers!

**First Singers**—rehearse Sundays at 8:30 a.m.

**Festival Choir**—rehearse Thursdays at 7 p.m. and Sundays at 10 a.m.

**Children's Choir**—rehearse Sundays at 9 a.m.

**Old South Ringers**—rehearse Tuesdays at 6 p.m.

**Gospel Choir**—rehearse once monthly; visit [oldsouth.org/music](https://oldsouth.org/music) to see the full schedule.

## SMALL GROUP SIGN UPS

Fill out the interest form at [oldsouth.org/seasonal-small-groups](https://oldsouth.org/seasonal-small-groups)

Do you seek to deepen your experience of community at Old South Church, cultivate spiritual friendships, and grow in your faith? Consider joining a Small Group! We are currently forming groups for the fall season (September through December). Some groups are meeting online while others meet in person (or a mix of both).

## SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

Sundays, 10am, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Phillis Wheatley Room,

go to [tinyurl.com/OSC23-24BibleStudy](https://tinyurl.com/OSC23-24BibleStudy) to join via Zoom, password: BibleStudy

Delve into the day's scripture passage heard in worship. This no-homework Bible study delights in taking a scholarly look at ancient texts. Don't leave your questions at the door; we need them. For more information contact Katherine Schofield.

## THROUGH THE BIBLE

Thursdays, 7pm, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Phillis Wheatley Room, go to [tinyurl.com/OSCThroughBible](https://tinyurl.com/OSCThroughBible) for Zoom link

Join us as we journey at a reflective and thorough pace through the Hebrew Bible. We are about to begin studying the Book of Isaiah. For more information contact Katherine Schofield.

## NANCY MARTTILA MEMORIAL SERVICE

Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 12 p.m. in the Chapel

Nancy was a regular at First Worship and was known for her quick wit and friendliness. To read her obituary go to [tinyurl.com/MarttilaObituary](https://tinyurl.com/MarttilaObituary).

## WHAT'S NEXT FOR JAZZ WORSHIP

Following Willie's retirement, Zoë Krohne will lead the newly formed Copley Corner Quartet at Jazz Worship through the Fall. We are blessed and grateful for her velvet voice and faithful leadership. The need for a dynamic, non-traditional service is still very much alive, though what that looks like in this new era may be different than it has for the past eighteen years. Go to [oldsouth.org/jazz-worship-news](https://oldsouth.org/jazz-worship-news) to learn more about the future of Thursday Worship at Old South Church. Questions? Email [ashley@oldsouth.org](mailto:ashley@oldsouth.org).

## BACK TO SCHOOL GREEN TIP:

### Continue Green Practices During the School Year

Some simple practices can keep you engaged in sustainability all year long: Use your notebooks all the way through. Print on both sides of the paper. Recycle all paper and cardboard supplies, and compost your lunch.

## HOSPITALITY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

*Scan the QR code with your phone camera to sign up*

Fall 2023 is almost upon us, and we are looking forward to all the activity at OSC. Our church's open door is a big part of who we are, and we are looking for Ushers, Welcomers and Coffee Hour Volunteers to swing it open wide. Thank you in advance for signing up to assist with hospitality at one or more Sunday or Thursday services! We are looking forward to seeing you this fall!

Christine Del Favero and Tony Rich, Co-Senior Deacons



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## WEEKLY WORSHIP

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

**All-Church Worship** Sundays at 10 a.m.

**Summertime Jazz** Thursdays at 6 p.m. with communion

**Vespers Healing Worship** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays at 5 p.m.



*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.*

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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.

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Old South Church in Boston ❖ 645 Boylston Street, Boston 02116 ❖ [www.oldsouth.org](http://www.oldsouth.org)