



Old South Church *in* Boston
April 27, 2025 ❖ 11:00a.m.

CARE OF CREATION SUNDAY

Take heart: it is not too late to build a better world.

GATHER

PRELUDE

Arabesque No. 2
from *Deux Arabesques*, L. 66

Claude Debussy;
Léon Roques, *trans.*

*HYMN 556

God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens

HOLY MANNA

*CALL TO WORSHIP *from Psalm 24*

Ashley J. Popperson

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it

God has founded it on the seas

and established it on the rivers.

Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord?

And who shall stand in this holy place?

Those who have clean hands and pure hearts,

who do not lift up their souls to what is false

They will receive blessing from the Lord

and vindication from the God of their salvation.

Such is the company of those who seek the Lord,

who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

**Indicates all who are able may stand*

WELCOME

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kate M. Nintcheu

LISTEN

INTRODUCING CHELSEA CHEN, CONCERT ORGANIST

“Hills in the Springtime” from *Taiwanese Suite*

Chelsea Chen

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 2:4-9, 15-17

David Story

“Moonlight Blue” from *Taiwanese Suite*

Chelsea Chen

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

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 28:16-20

SERMON

The First Great Commission

Gracie Paterson

“Mountain of Youth” from *Taiwanese Suite*

Chelsea Chen

RESPOND

*CALL TO PRAYER

Rachel J. Barton

God be with you.

And also with you.

May the peace of Christ dwell in your hearts.

Christ is our peace, our light, and our hope.

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.

The Swan
from "Carnival of the Animals" Camille Saint-Saëns;
Alexandre Guilmant, *trans.*

CLIMATE CHAMPION AWARD TO BRADFORD SWING

Blessing

God of All Creation,

The whole Earth is filled with your glory.

The waters teeming with life,

the rich soil and verdant lands,

The myriad creatures display your creativity.

Every life imbued with dignity and worth.

We give you thanks for those who protect the Earth.

Today, we thank you for Brad Swing:

for his work on behalf of your creation,

for his efforts that have made a difference.

We pray your continued blessing upon him

and upon all who work to protect this sacred Earth.

Alleluia! Amen.

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Ashley J. Popperson



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

If you're new to Old South,
scan the QR code with your
smartphone camera
to tell us more about yourself.



OFFERTORY

Fugue sur le nom d'Alain, Op. 7

Maurice Duruflé

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN 230

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

ST. KEVIN

*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

Gracie Paterson

POSTLUDE

Tu es petra from *Esquisses byzantines*

Henri Mulet



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

The flowers today are given by Helen McCrady
in celebration of Old South member Bettina Blake
on the occasion of her 95th birthday

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



CLIMATE CHAMPION AWARD



Longtime Old South member Bradford Swing is the inaugural recipient of the congregation's Climate Champion Award, presented today by members of the Climate Crisis Task Force. Brad retired in June 2024 as the Director of Energy Policy and Programs for the City of Boston, where, for 29 years, he worked tirelessly to make Boston one of the cleanest, greenest, energy efficient cities in the US. Brad transformed Boston's energy production and built its green building program, ensuring that environmental sustainability did not come at the expense of equity. Under Brad's leadership, Boston was named the most energy efficient city in the US from 2013–2017. In 2015, Brad represented Boston at the Paris Climate Conference, where the city was recognized with a "Smart Cities and Smart Community Engagement" award. Renew Boston Trust, a city program Brad designed that conducts energy audits and invests in conservation upgrades for municipal buildings, is an important tool for Boston to reach its carbon neutrality goals. We thank Brad for his commitment to the City of Boston's green infrastructure and congratulate our 2025 Old South Climate Champion!

WELCOME TO OLD SOUTH CHURCH

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 serve as a sanctuary in the city of Boston.

NEW AT OLD SOUTH?

Welcome! We are so glad you're here! Please take a moment to fill out a friendship pad so that we can be in touch with you. If you have any questions or would like to talk to a minister to learn more about the church, contact Associate Minister Ashley Popperson at ashley@oldsouth.org.

Children are welcome in all aspects of worship. We also offer childcare from 8:20am-12:30pm every Sunday and Church School at 10am. For questions about our children's and family ministries, email children@oldsouth.org.

For LARGE print bulletins or children's bulletins, please ask an Usher.

An accessible, single-stall restroom is available near Reception. More restrooms are available, ask at the reception desk.

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 & concerts). For more information check out www.oldsouth.org/your-first-visit or see the front desk.

LEARN MORE

Check out the church website www.oldsouth.org for more on the history and ministries of Old South. See www.oldsouth.org/calendar for a calendar of current events.

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 J. Barton, *Associate Minister for Transformation*
Gracie Paterson, *Nancy S. Taylor Leadership Fellow* ❖ Kat Woodard, *Seminarian*

Donald A. Wells, *Theologian in Residence* ❖ June R. Cooper, *Theologian in the City*
David F. Story, *Wedding Minister* ❖ Kenneth H. Orth, *Healing Worship Minister*

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

Mitchell Crawford, *Minister of Music*
Audrey Woodhams, *Creative Director for Thursday Night Church*
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* ❖ Juniper Mai, *Children's Choir Accompanist*

Amelia Gerrard, *Director of Administration* ❖ Rebecca Pasipanodya, *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 & William Wei, *Livestream Production Assistants* ❖ Ava Welling, *Sound Technician*

Elias Perez, *Senior Sexton* ❖ Ozo Nwodo, Richard Serebour, & David Brode, *Sextons*
Corey Spence, *Weekday Receptionist*
Shirley Bivins, Shelia Randolph, & William Wei, *Evening & Weekend Receptionists*

Maren Batalden, *Moderator* ❖ Rob Gabler, *Clerk* ❖ Donna Matson, *Treasurer*
Debby Kuenstner, *Chair, Board of Trustees* ❖ Kate Silfen, *Historian*
Rebecca Bowen & Laurie Stickels, *Senior Deacons*

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.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

FORUMS @ OLD SOUTH

ACTING LOCALLY ON CLIMATE CARE

*This Sunday, April 27, 10am, second floor Mary Norton Hall
or Zoom, tinyurl.com/2025ForumOSC, password community*

It's a challenging time for those of us worried about the health of the natural ecosystem. How do we keep hope alive? How do we bring an abundance mindset to our work? How do we continue to do transformative work? Kannan, Executive Director of Eastie Farm, and President of the Friends of Belle Isle Marsh, will lead a discussion on decisions / actions we can take locally/ personally to find harmonize our lives with the rhythms of Mother Earth. Together let's reach within ourselves and draw out what it takes to meet this moment.

WELCOMING THE STRANGER:

The Realities of Immigration Today

*Sunday, May 4, 10am, Second Floor Mary Norton Hall
or Zoom, tinyurl.com/2025ForumOSC, password community*

The U.S. immigration system is often described as “broken,” but who does it serve, and who does it harm? From asylum backlogs to detention and deportation, our immigration system shapes the lives of millions—yet few understand its full impact. Join us for a conversation on the realities of immigration today, the forces behind these policies, and what can be done to create change. Jonathan Goldman, Executive Director of the Student Clinic for Immigrant Justice (SCIJ), will also share how young leaders are stepping up to provide legal support and organize for immigrant justice.

CHELSEA CHEN, MASTER ORGANIST CONCERT

*Friday, April 25, 7:30pm, Sanctuary,
free admission for Old South and BAGO members.
Go to www.bostonago.org to learn more*

The Boston Chapter of the American Guild of Organists welcomes Chelsea Chen to Old South. Her concerts offer a unique mix of organ repertoire alongside transcriptions and contemporary music. Emerging Artists (organists 18-30 years) are invited to a free masterclass on Saturday, April 26, 10:00am - 12:00pm.



OLD SOUTH NAMES BRADFORD SWING A CLIMATE CHAMPION



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RETIRED AND READY

Sunday, May 4, 12:30pm, fourth floor Phyllis Wheatley Room

Are you interested in exploring new activities with members of our congregation? Does visiting the Audubon's Nature Center, attending a Handel and Haydn concert or touring Mass MoCA appeal to you? Bring your ideas for outings and events and join us! Contact Charlotte Simpson at char.r.simpson@gmail.com for more info.

VOLUNTEER TO HELP WITH *common cathedral* LUNCH

Sunday, May 18, from 9am-2pm, various locations All are welcome, including families.

There are many ways to participate! Join us for any part of the day:

- 9-10:30am—Make bag lunches in OSC Mary Norton kitchen.
- 12-1pm—Meet at Boston Common (near Park St station) to unload and hand out lunches to the Common Cathedral congregation. Join for lunch
- 1-2pm—Attend outdoor Common Cathedral service.

Contact Carolyn Clark at carolyneclark@comcast.net if you would like to participate in any of these activities. See commoncathedral.org for more about this organization's important work. Old South Church provides funds to *common cathedral* each year.

PHILLIS WHEATLEY PLAY + CASTLE OF OUR SKINS PERFORMANCE



Sunday, May 18, 2:30pm, in the Gordon Chapel and on live stream

Old South's (G)RACE Speaks Committee is teaming up with playwright Debra Wiess to present "A Revolutionary Encounter in London", a 70-minute one-act play about the little-known meeting in 1773 between two of Boston's Colonial icons: enslaved African Poetess Phillis Wheatley and American Founding Father Benjamin Franklin. Witness these two important figures in Old South's history converse in their

spiritual home, 252 years after their famous encounter. There will also be special music by Castle of Our Skins and refreshments to enjoy. You don't want to miss it!

GODSPEED TO KAT WOODARD AND GRACIE PATERSON

Thursday, May 8 and Sunday, May 18

This academic year, Old South has been blessed by Kat Woodard as our Seminarian and Gracie Paterson, our Nancy S. Taylor Fellow. We are grateful for their leadership and contributions to Old South. Kat's last Thursday will be May 8. Gracie's last Sunday will be May 18. Come celebrate with us and bless them on their way!

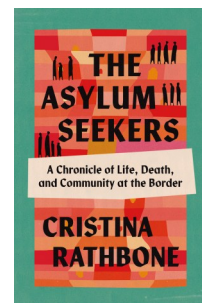
THEOLOGICAL BOOK GROUP ANNOUNCES NEW BOOK

The Asylum Seekers: A Chronicle of Life, Death, and Community at the Border, by Christina Rathbone.

4-6 week series beginning Monday, May 5, via Zoom

Contact Don Wells at granwell@comcast.net to be added to the waitlist

Rathbone, an Episcopal Priest, and personal friend to several of us, weaves an intimate portrait of both individuals and the community being formed under a bridge between Mexico and the United States. In makeshift tents where families wait to see if they can cross the border, she finds hope and faith despite horrendous conditions. While the book group is now full, I urge Old South members to read the book on their own and see that many of the stories being told about those seeking access to our country are essentially lies. Rathbone experiences these seekers as families and individuals fleeing extreme violence in their home towns. They are simply seeking a better life. But also, please let me know if you are interested in joining the group should a sudden opening occur. That does happen! It will be a 4-6 week series beginning Monday, May 5th, via zoom.



JOIN OUR USHER TEAM

Go to oldsouth.org/hospitality to sign up

Looking to meet more people at Old South? Wondering how you can contribute to our wide open door? Think about serving as an usher! Ushering is an easy way to get more involved at Old South. Everyone is welcome, and you only need to be friendly and willing to help. Email hospitality@oldsouth.org for info.

EASTER SUNDAY FLOWER DONATIONS

Our beautiful display of spring bulbs and other flowering plants for Easter Sunday was made possible by generous donations in honor and memory of Old South's friends and families. There are sheets on the table in the back of the Sanctuary listing the donations.

GREEN TIPS: Working In Your Spring Garden

Tips from Texas A&M Alum Barry Johnson. More at tinyurl.com/OSCspringgardentips

- Bury some treasure: When his children were small, Johnson planted crops that grew mostly under the soil. "I'd let my kids dig them up to harvest, and they couldn't have imagined that so many potatoes would be just under the surface." When you reach for seeds this year, consider sharing the surprises of tubers and other root vegetables.
- Prune for a garden boon: Pruning is tricky; it depends on both the weather and the plant in question. "I tell people to prune when it's colorful and the weather is mild, like in the spring or fall." Avoid pruning in the winter, because a warm spell after a winter prune could trigger the plants to start growing before the weather is right.

WEEKLY WORSHIP

Join us in person, on Facebook, and YouTube

Thursday night church, Thursdays at 6:00 p.m.

FIRST Worship Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

FESTIVAL Worship Sundays at 11:00 a.m.

VESPER HEALING Worship, Second Sundays at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom



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

If you're new to Old South, scan the QR code with your smartphone camera to tell us more about yourself.



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