

Old South Church *in* Boston ❖ July 6, 2025 ❖ 11:00 a.m.

## Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

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

### GATHER

#### PRELUDE

\*HYMN 70

**God is Here! As We Your People Meet**

ABBOT'S LEIGH

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Ashley J. Popperson

God of endings and beginnings, we thank you for always starting anew with us.

**When we begin the day anew, unsure what it will hold,  
or how to best rise to the needs of the work, you are there.**

When we find ourselves at our wits' end, at the end of our rope,  
at the end of our patience, or even at the end of our hope, you are there.

**You find us and bring us into your new beginning, again and again.**

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

SUNG RESPONSE

**Come, Bring Your Burdens to God**



Come, bring your bur-dens to God; come, bring your bur-dens to God;



come, bring your bur-dens to God, for God will al-ways be there.

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

*\*Indicates all who are able may stand*

ANTHEM

What Does The Lord Require

Andrew Bruhn

What does the Lord, our God require of you?  
Be kind, and just, and walk humbly with God.

O God of mercy, God of light, in love and mercy infinite,  
Teach us, as ever in your sight, to live our lives in you.

You sent your Son to die for all, that our lost world might hear your call;  
O hear us lest we stand and fall: we rest our hope in you.

And may your Holy Spirit move all those who live to live in love,  
Till you receive in heaven above all those who live in you.

## ATTEND

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kate M. Nintcheu

SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:1-4

*Following the reading, children who wish to may meet childcare staff  
by the ushers and proceed to the 3rd floor.*

SERMON

John M. Edgerton

\*HYMN

**Canticle of the Turning**

Star of the County Down



My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the God of my heart is great,  
From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a stone will be left on stone,



and my spir - it sings of the won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
Let the king be - ware for your jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant from his throne.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my weak - ness you did not spurn,  
The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can nev - er earn;



so from east to west shall your name be blest, could the world be a-bout to turn?  
There are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry mouth be fed, for the world is a-bout to turn.



My heart shall sing of the day you bring, Let the fires of your jus - tice burn,



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a-bout to turn.

Text: *Rory Cooney, 1990*  
Tune: STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN,  
*Irish melody; arr. Rory Cooney, 1990*

## RESPOND

### \*CALL TO PRAYER

Rachel J. Barton

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

May the Spirit of the Living God fall afresh on us.

**The Holy Spirit guides our way and ignites 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.**

PRAYER RESPONSE



For the trou - bles and the suf - ferings of the world,  
Lend an ear to the ris - ing cry for help



God, we call up - on your mer - cy: the whole cre - a - tion's  
from op - pressed and hope - less peo - ple: come, has - ten your sal -



la - bor - ing in pain! love! We pray for  
va - tion, heal - ing



peace, the bless - ed peace that comes from mak - ing jus - tice.



Un - til your King - dom come, have mer - cy on us, God.

Text: Rodolfo Gaede Neto, 1998; trans. Simei Monteiro, et al., alt.  
Tune: PELAS DORES DESTA MUNDO, Rodolfo Gaede Neto, 1998

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

Built on the Rock

Larry Shackley, *arr.*

Built on the Rock the Church shall stand  
even when steeples are falling.  
Crumbled have spires in every land;  
bells still are chiming and calling:  
calling the young and old to rest,  
but above all the soul distressed,  
longing for rest everlasting.

Surely in temples made with hands  
God, the Most High, is not dwelling;  
high above earth God's temple stands,  
all earthly temples excelling.  
Yet Christ who dwells in heaven above  
chooses to live with us in love,  
making our bodies his temple.

Grant, then, O God, your will be done,  
that, when the church bells are ringing,  
many in saving faith may come  
where Christ his message is bringing.  
Here sound the scriptures that proclaim  
Christ yesterday, today, the same,  
and evermore our redeemer.

Built on the Rock!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*HYMN 81

**God Be with You Til We Meet Again**

GOD BE WITH YOU

\*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

SUNG RESPONSE

**Go Now In Peace**

*(Introduction)*

Go now in peace, ne-ver be a-fraid;  
God will go with you each hour of ev-'ry day. Go now in faith,  
stead-fast, strong and true, know God will guide you in all you  
do. A - men, a - men, a - men.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff is an introduction with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the notes. The second and third staves continue the melody with lyrics. The fourth staff concludes with a double bar line and the lyrics 'do. A - men, a - men, a - men.'

Text: Don Besig and Nancy Price, 1988  
Tune: Don Besig, 1988; adapt. Mitchell Crawford, 2022

POSTLUDE



Join us for Refreshments & Fellowship at Café Perez under the portico following the Postlude.

The Flowers today are given by Nancy Richardson in loving memory of Elaine c. Huber.

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

## **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.oldsouth.org/your-first-visit) or see the front desk.

### **LEARN MORE**

Check out the church website [www.oldsouth.org](http://www.oldsouth.org) for more on the history and ministries of Old South. See [www.oldsouth.org/calendar](http://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*  
Kat Woodard, *Nancy S. Taylor Leadership Fellow*

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* ❖ Yuexuan Joyce Wang, *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* ❖ Ava Welling, *Director of Audio*  
Rémy Hatfield-Gardner & William Wei, *Livestream Production Assistants* ❖ Quinn Grant, *Communications Intern*

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

## **RETIRED AND READY AT THE AFRICAN MEETING HOUSE**

Purchase your ticket at [www.maah.org/boston-location](http://www.maah.org/boston-location) for Tuesday, July 8 at 10am and join our group at 46 Joy Street.

Email Charlotte at [char.r.simpson@gmail.com](mailto:char.r.simpson@gmail.com) if you want to participate

Want to learn the history that was missing from your history books? Join a guided tour of the Abiel Smith School, the oldest public school in the United States that was built for the sole purpose of educating African American children. We will also tour the African Meeting House, the oldest existing black church building in our country. A special exhibit "Black Voices of the Revolution" is also on display. Following our tour we plan to dine at Flour Bakery and Cafe, 209 Cambridge Street.

## **JAMAICA PLAIN / WEST ROXBURY ICE CREAM SOCIAL**

Saturday, July 12, 11am at JP Licks, Centre Street, JP

Calling all OSC folks from Jamaica Plain and West Roxbury!! Join us for an 'Ice Cream Social' for ice cream, coffee, pastries, and good conversation. We will meet rain or shine! So, mark the date in your calendar and join us. No sign up is needed! Just show up. We do ask that you plan on buying your own treats. Questions? Email Don Wells at [granwell@comcast.net](mailto:granwell@comcast.net).

## **GOD'S BIG BOOK OF FAITH ZOOM BIBLE STUDY DELVES INTO THE LIVES OF THE PROPHETS**

Study continues Wednesdays, 7pm, on Zoom

Interested? Contact Rich Nelson at [richnelson28@gmail.com](mailto:richnelson28@gmail.com) for link

Each week we take a look at one of the prophets (there are 16 of them) and focus on a substantial part of his (yeah, they were all guys) writings. Each study is complete so you can miss a week and not be lost when you return – plus there is a print version of all the studies to help you keep track. The sessions usually run an hour, give or take, depending on the conversation.

## **JUNE HEARD IT AT COUNCIL**

Read the whole blog at [oldsouth.org/news/heard-it-council-june-2025](http://oldsouth.org/news/heard-it-council-june-2025)

Church Historian, Kate Silfen, shares highlights of this month's Council meeting including good news about finances, discussion of the May leadership retreat, the Associate Minister Search Committee and ways to work towards being and antiracist church and a more multi-cultural faith community.

## CHRISTIAN SERVICE AND OUTREACH

### **THE WEEKLY PUSHBACK—Supporting History at Revolutionary Spaces**

Learn more at [revolutionaryspaces.org/](http://revolutionaryspaces.org/).

Have other Weekly Pushback ideas? Email [outreach@oldsouth.org](mailto:outreach@oldsouth.org).

Bad news comes fast and furious these days--for trans folks, for immigrants, for the disabled. But all across the country, people of goodwill are pushing back. Every week, Old South's Christian Service and Outreach Committee will be giving to an organization or individual who is serving the gospel in a world of bad news. America's history is intertwined with Old South. This week, Old South is donating \$1,000 to Revolutionary Spaces, a nonprofit that preserves the spaces and stories of the American struggle to create and sustain a free society, singularly evoked by Boston's Old South Meeting House and Old State House. Have other weekly action ideas? Email [outreach@oldsouth.org](mailto:outreach@oldsouth.org).

### **THEOLOGICAL BOOK GROUP SUMMER READ**

*There is no sign up! Just get a copy of Liz Walker's book*

*"No One Left Alone: A Story of How Community Helps Us Heal" and read.*

*In September, there will be a one time hybrid session (date TBD) for a discussion of the book.*

*Questions? Contact Don Wells [granwell@comcast.net](mailto:granwell@comcast.net).*

Old South's Theological Book Group is having a 'Summer Read', and it is open to all! The book: Liz Walker's *No One Left Alone: A Story of How Community Helps Us Heal*. Many will remember her as Boston's first woman and first Black news anchor. After 19 years in broadcasting she went to seminary and became a Presbyterian Minister. Her book is a story of helping her congregation develop 'soft spaces' for people to gather for prayer and a renewed sense of community. This was especially important for those who had experienced grief and loss within the Black community. As those spaces were created, she helps distinguish between just 'hearing' and really 'listening'. She invites her readers to consider where those 'soft spaces' are in the context of their own lives. It is a book worth reading!

### **GREEN TIPS: AVOIDING MICROPLASTICS - Avoid Plastic Kitchenware**

Studies show that many kinds of plastic kitchenware introduce microplastics into food, including plastic cutting boards, bowls, blenders, electric kettles, and sponges. Food cut on bamboo cutting boards or water mixed in glass bowls or containers, on the other hand, did not contain microplastics. Kitchenware alternatives include stainless steel, glass, ceramic, bamboo and stoneware. For cleaning, consider non-plastic sponges, steel wool scrubbers, and dish brushes with non-plastic bristles. Learn more at [tinyurl.com/nrdcmicroplasticthreat](http://tinyurl.com/nrdcmicroplasticthreat).

## **SUMMER CHOIR**

Contact Mitchell Crawford at [mitchell@oldsouth.org](mailto:mitchell@oldsouth.org) for more information

The Old South Summer Choir is a welcoming and encouraging community of those who love to sing. This ensemble is an integral part of Festival Worship from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day, gathering at 10am to prepare for the 11am service. Summer Choir is a great opportunity to check out our music ministry, share your love of singing, grow your musical abilities, or try something new. No experience or preparation is necessary. Feel free to join us as your Sunday schedule allows!

## **VESPERS HEALING WORSHIP:**

*Next service Sunday, July 13, 5 p.m. on Zoom, [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.

## **THURSDAY NIGHT CHURCH AND SUPPER CLUB**

*Thursdays, 6pm Worship, 7pm Supper*

Thursday Night Church is a worship service where the music is contemporary, the space is open-hearted and in-the-round, and the preaching is focused on how we can be the church together in the world. After worship, join us for Thursday Night Supper Club. Each week, folks can gather after worship for dinner and an informal small group hosted by some of our friendly and hospitable lay leaders.

## **FIFTH THURSDAYS: A TNC OPEN MIC NIGHT**

*Thursday, July 31, 7pm, Gordon Chapel*

After Thursday Night Church, join us for our first TNC Open Mic Night. All are welcome to gather after worship for supper club and an informal sharing of poetry, music, story, and art hosted by our Creative Director, Audrey Woodhams. Contact Audrey at [audrey@oldsouth.org](mailto:audrey@oldsouth.org) to sign up, or just show up and there's a spot for you!

## **VOLUNTEER TO READ SCRIPTURE**

Go to [tinyurl.com/OSCScriptureSummer2025](https://tinyurl.com/OSCScriptureSummer2025) sign up

Reading the Bible in community is an essential Christian spiritual practice. Each week at Festival Worship a volunteer reads scripture before the sermon. People of all ages are encouraged to volunteer! Questions? Email [ashley@oldsouth.org](mailto:ashley@oldsouth.org).

## **JOIN OUR USHER TEAM**

Go to [oldsouth.org/hospitality](https://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](mailto:hospitality@oldsouth.org) for info.

## **FLOWER DEDICATIONS FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP**

To sign up visit [tinyurl.com/OSCFLOWERS25](https://tinyurl.com/OSCFLOWERS25). The cost is \$100, which can be paid via check, cash, or online [tinyurl.com/OSCGivingPortal](https://tinyurl.com/OSCGivingPortal)

Are you interested in honoring a loved one or commemorating a special occasion with a beautiful flower dedication? By making a flower donation, you can dedicate the altar flowers on a date that is meaningful to you. Each dedication includes a flower bouquet and a special message in the Sunday bulletin. Questions? Reach out to Amelia Gerrard, [amelia@oldsouth.org](mailto:amelia@oldsouth.org)

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### **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.

**VESPERS 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.



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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)