



Old South Church *in* Boston
Fifteenth Sunday
after Pentecost
 September 21, 2025 ❖ 11:00 a.m.

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

GATHER

PRELUDE “Andante” from the Sonata in A-flat, Op. 26 Ludwig van Beethoven

*CALL TO WORSHIP Ashley J. Popperson

Beautiful are the works of God!

Beautiful also are the skins of God's people!

Beautiful is the mind of God!

Beautiful also are the hopes of God's people!

Beautiful is the heart of God!

Beautiful also are the souls of God's people!

God made the heavens and the earth!

To God be the Glory for the things God has done.

*HYMN 17 **To You, O God, All Creatures Sing** LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*INVOCATION

*PASSING THE PEACE

*As a sign of our reconciliation with God and each other,
 please greet those around you, saying “peace” or “the peace of Christ.”*

**Indicates all who are able may stand*

SUNG RESPONSE

Please be seated for the Sung Response.

Soloist:

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

ANTHEM

Day by Day from “Godspell”

Stephen Schwartz

Day by day, day by day,
oh, dear Lord, three things I pray:
to see thee more clearly;
love thee more dearly;
follow thee more nearly,
day by day.

LISTEN

SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1

Stephanie LaShoto-Westfield

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Kate M. Nintcheu

*HYMN 563

We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky

ENDLESS SONG

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

SCRIPTURE

Mark 1:14-20

SERMON

Jim Antal

*HYMN 470

Golden Breaks the Dawn

LE P’ING

*CALL TO PRAYER

Justin Dickerson

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.

PRAYER RESPONSE

Renewed Spirit
THE OLD SOUTH RINGERS
Peter Coulombe, *director*

Michael Mazzatenta

RESPOND

CALL TO THE OFFERING

John M. Edgerton



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

All Good Gifts from "Godspell"

Stephen Schwartz

We plow the fields and scatter the good seed on the land,
but it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand.
He sends the snow in winter, the warmth to swell the grain,
the breezes and the sunshine, and soft, refreshing rain.

*All good gifts around us are sent from Heaven above.
Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord for all his love.*

We thank thee, then O Father, for all things bright and good,
the seedtime and the harvest, our life, our health, our food,
no gifts have we to offer for all thy love imparts,
but that which thou desirest, our humble thankful hearts.

*(Though often ascribed masculine or feminine pronouns in prose and poetry,
God is unbound by human concepts of gender.)*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN 403

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

SOLID ROCK

*BENEDICTION

Jim Antal

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune and Chorale in D Major

David V. Hufford



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

The flowers today are given by Deb Washington
in celebration of Old South's Online Community.

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.



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

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

November 2, 2025 | 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 23, 2025 | 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 24, 2025

Family Service with Impromptu Pageant | 5PM

Lessons and Carols | 8PM

Carols and Communion | 11PM

HOLY WEEK 2026

Palm Sunday — March 29 | 9AM & 11AM

Maundy Thursday — April 2 | 6PM

Good Friday — April 3 | 7PM

EASTER SUNDAY

April 5, 2026 | 9AM & 11AM

The triumph of the Christian story of resurrection informs a service of worship that is characterized by joyous celebration.

MARATHON SUNDAY

April 19, 2026 | 9AM & 11AM

Hundreds of marathoners join us for worship, where we will pause to acknowledge the runners, their families, and volunteers in a special “Blessing of the Athletes.”

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 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

Hearing assist devices are available from Ava Welling, our Director of Audio. Please see Ava for a device and instructions on how to use it. For more information or answers to questions, please contact Ava at ava@oldsouth.org.

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*

Kat Woodard, *Taylor Resident for Mission in the City* ❖ Justin Dickerson, *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* ❖ Yuexuan Joyce Wang, *Children's Choir Accompanist*

Rory Razon, *Youth Group Co-Leader*

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*

Elias Perez, *Senior Sexton* ❖ Rahlek Givan, Ozo Nwodo, Richard Serebour, & M.D. Rahman, *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.



OLD
SOUTH
CHURCH
in BOSTON

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEETING THE MOMENT: FALL SERMON SERIES

Go to oldsouth.org/fall-sermon-series to learn more

This fall we delve into a sermon series about "Meeting the Moment". Together we'll find the spiritual strength and virtues we need to face the challenges of our world today. Through love, truth, wisdom, courage, and faith, we're invited to draw from the deep well of scripture and community. Throughout the season we will explore how ancient words speak powerfully into our present moment.

- **September 21 at First and Festival Worship** *Jim Antal*
Telling the Truth about Creation | Jeremiah 8:18-9:1
- **September 25 at Thursday Night Church** *John Edgerton*

SUN WAY PILGRIMAGE

Sunday, September 21, 1:00pm, march from Old South to the Boston Common

Please plan to join Boston Interfaith Climate Allies (BICA), including the Old South Climate Crisis Task Force, as we "pray with our feet" for climate justice. This public, prayerful, and joyful processional is a part of the wider international action that celebrates solar and wind power and the movement to free our world of fossil fuels.

NEW AROUND HERE?

Coffee at 10am this Sunday and every 3rd Sunday in Rev. Ashley's office, 3rd floor

Join Pastor Ashley and church members for informal conversation and coffee. If you've been coming for one week or a dozen, or just exploring online, join us to get to know more about the church and to make a friend or two! Meet in the elevator lobby at 10:05am to go to Ashley's office. Questions? Email ashley@oldsouth.org.

ALLSTON BRIGHTON FOOD PANTRY 2025 FUNDRAISER DINNER

Sept 25, 6-9pm, RSVP and directions here: tinyurl.com/ABCPantryDinner2025

Join our neighbor congregation as they kick off their 2025 Annual Fund Campaign with an evening of outdoor dining, live music, and a silent auction! Since 1974, the Allston Brighton Food Pantry has provided nourishing food at no cost to members of the Allston-Brighton community. Tickets to the Fundraiser cost \$65 and include dinner and an evening of programming.

RETIRED AND READY

Tuesday, September 30, 11am

Meet at the Massachusetts Historical Society, 1154 Boylston St, Boston

Join in a private tour to view the galleries and hear some interesting stories about the history of Boston and the treasures that the MHS now houses and protects. We will begin at 11am, followed by lunch at a nearby restaurant. Please contact Lynn Wegner at lynn.wegner@gmail.com or 617-851-4441 to make a reservation and to let me know if you will be joining for lunch. There is no cost for this tour, but a donation of \$5 or so would be appreciated to help the MHS carry on its good work.

SOLIDARITY AT MASS AND CASS

Thursday Mornings from 8:45 am -11:00 am

Beloved, if you feel called to embody the presence of God's love, you are invited to join faith leaders from across the city on Thursday mornings from 8:45 to 11am at Mass and Cass. The ministry focuses on praying and, if you wish, working alongside people to care for and clean the streets of the neighborhood. More info: bostonfaithjustice.org/housing-justice or email junercooper@comcast.net

GBIO DELEGATES ASSEMBLY

Sunday, October 5, 7pm at Union Combined Parish

Across Greater Boston, people of faith are organizing to make a difference in the things that matter the most to us. What is keeping you up at night? What issues are impacting your neighbors, your friends, your own family? The Greater Boston Interfaith Organization is launching hundreds of house-meetings to help organize people to make our community better. Come to the kick-off event for this exciting project on October 5th, where we'll learn organizing skills, build relationships with one another, and grow more powerful. Register at tinyurl.com/GBIOAssembly.

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

Every First Sunday of the Month, starting October 5 at 10am in the Columbarium

Need some space to breathe? Time to rest in the spacious silence of God's presence? Please join us for Contemplative Prayer. Together, we'll engage in practices of contemplative prayer, share from our hearts, and find strength and solace in God's abiding love. Questions? Email ashley@oldsouth.org.

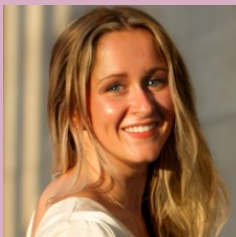
WELCOMING NEW STAFF

JUSTIN TYLER DICKERSON, SEMINARIAN

We're thrilled to welcome Justin as our seminarian for the year. Justin is a student at BU School of Theology pursuing a Masters of Sacred Theology. He graduated with a Masters in Divinity from Candler School of Theology in Atlanta in May 2025. Justin will offer worship leadership primarily at First and Festival Worship on Sundays.



KAT WOODARD, TAYLOR RESIDENT FOR MISSION IN THE CITY



Kat served previously as our Seminarian last year and this year will be serving full-time as our Taylor Resident for Mission in the City, funded by the Taylor Fellowship and the funds from City Mission. Kat graduated with a Masters in Divinity from Harvard Divinity School last spring and is pursuing ordination in the United Church of Christ with First Church Somerville. Kat will be present at all three worship services and lending her skills and passion to our Christian Service & Outreach Committee.

THE OLD SOUTH COMMUNITY HOUR

Sundays, 10am, Mary Norton Hall

- **150 Years of Doing Justice and Loving Mercy at 645 Boylston Street | September 21**
This December, Old South Church will celebrate 150 years of worship and community at 645 Boylston Street. In anticipation of this milestone, we invite you to join church historian Kate Silfen for a look back at the journey that shaped us into the inclusive, justice-oriented congregation we are today. Come learn about key initiatives led by our ministers and members over the decades—and how their work continues to inspire us. There will be time for reflection, questions, and open discussion as we consider how faith and justice intersect in our lives today.
- **Game Day | September 28**
Want to play a game? Bring your favorite games to share, and spend an hour playing with your Old South friends.
- **Deepening Community at Old South Church: Small Groups 101 | October 5**
Like walking, cooking, reading, crafting or community? Join us for a peek into our growing Small Groups program. Come hear more about why we're investing in Small Groups as part of our strategic planning work, and learn more about the Small Groups you can join this fall!
- **Watch This Space | October 12**
Something's brewing... and it's not just church coffee!
- **Homelessness 101: Beyond the Label | October 19**
- **Homelessness 202: Humanizing Homelessness | October 26**
How does our faith guide us to respond to homelessness? Join Rev. June Cooper and invited guests to learn about Boston's homelessness situation, sharing valuable information, challenging stereotypes, and fostering empathy. In what ways can we respond to Boston's homeless community with dignity and compassion? Join us for both or either session! Questions: email Paul Brouillette at brouillettepaul@gmail.com

PIANO DEDICATION

Friday, October 3 at 7pm in Gordon Chapel

Join us as pianist D.J. Cleavinger dedicates Old South's new Mason and Hamlin Model BB piano with repertoire including the stunning Études, Op. 10, of Frédéric Chopin. A native of Cincinnati, D.J. recently completed the Master of Music degree from Boston University, where he studied with Pavel Nersessian. He has appeared in recitals and festivals across the eastern United States, Austria, Puerto Rico, and Spain. For more information or to get in touch, visit djcleavinger.com

GREEN TIP: Getting Your Garden Ready for Winter: Prune Sparingly and Leave the Leaves

Gently prune any dead, damaged, or diseased parts of your perennial plants and remove them from your garden. While it may be tempting to do a big fall cleanup, consider resisting the temptation. For more information about the benefits of "leaving the leaves" [click here](#). Go to [here](#) for more tips.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE AND OUTREACH

THE WEEKLY PUSHBACK - Alternatives for Community and Environment

Go to ace-ej.org/ to learn more or get involved.

Have other weekly action ideas? Email 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. Alternatives for Community and Environment (ACE), based in Boston's Roxbury neighborhood, has worked since 1994 to advance environmental justice and empower residents to fight for clean air, safe housing, and equitable transit. Their community organizing has secured victories against polluting industries, expanded affordable transit access, and built leadership among youth and residents most impacted by inequities. At a time when climate change, displacement, and public health disparities are intensifying, ACE's work is critical to ensuring that low-income and communities of color have the power and resources to shape a healthier, more just future. Old South has supported them with over \$40,000 in grants over the past few years and is contributing an additional \$1,000 this week in honor of the Sun Way action.

HEARING ASSIST DEVICES

Hearing assist devices are available from Ava Welling, our Director of Audio. Please see Ava for a device and instructions on how to use it. For more information or answers to questions, please contact Ava at ava@oldsouth.org.

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.



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