



**\*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."*

**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

This is the Day  
The OLD SOUTH CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Dora Ann Purdy

Aislin Kate Anderson, *director*  
Yuxuan Joyce Wang, *accompanist*

This is the day the Lord has made  
Let us rejoice and be glad

Alleluia, sing to the Lord, sing alleluia.  
Alleluia, let us rejoice and be glad!

## LISTEN

SCRIPTURE

Romans 12: 10-18

David Story

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kate M. Nintcheu

\*HYMN 417

**This is a Day of New Beginnings**

BEGINNINGS

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

SCRIPTURE

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-15

SERMON

Kat Woodard

\*HYMN 436

**God of Grace and God of Glory**

CWM RHONDDA

\*CALL TO PRAYER

John M. Edgerton

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

If We Are Living

Martin Haugen, *arr.*

If we are living, we are in the Lord,  
And if we die, we are in the Lord.  
For if we live or if we die . . .

*We belong to God, we belong to God.*

Throughout our lives we have fruit to bear;  
All of our good works are for us to share.  
Whether we give or we receive . . .

When there is sadness, when there is pain,  
In Christ the Lord, we have love to gain.  
Whether we suffer or we rejoice. . .

And in this world we will always find  
Those who are weeping, sick in heart and mind.  
They need our help, they need our care.

# RESPOND

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Justin Dickerson



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

For the Beauty of the Earth

John Rutter

For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth over and around use lies:

*Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.*

For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light:

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild:

For each perfect gift of thine to our race so freely given,  
graces human and divine, flowers of earth and buds of heaven:

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*HYMN 42

**O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing**

AZMON

\*BENEDICTION

Kat Woodard

POSTLUDE

Gott der Vater wohn' uns bei

J.S. Bach



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

The flowers are given to by Zack Zhang in loving gratitude  
to his dearest friends Lily and Adam - God's angels in his life.  
Thank you for the warmth and support through all the difficult times,  
and for being with him no matter where he is.

*Close-Up*, a twenty minute tour of the Sanctuary,  
begins immediately following worship at the front of the Sanctuary.  
Led by David Story.



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.

## **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 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**

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](mailto: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](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, *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* ❖ Tahmina Akter, 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

## THE WEEKLY PUSHBACK

### Helping the Family of Edgar Hernan Elias Escobar

Donate directly at [gofundme.com/hernans-family-fund](https://gofundme.com/hernans-family-fund)

In the early morning hours of September 17, Edgar Hernan Elias Escobar was violently detained near his Malden home by masked ICE agents. His vehicle was sideswiped by the agent's car, his window was shattered, and ICE agents threatened Hernan with a taser, despite his peaceful demeanor. Hernan was taken to the ER for his injuries and discharged directly into ICE custody—despite the fact that there was no warrant for his arrest. Though Hernan has no criminal record and has lived in the U.S. for nearly a decade, he is now being held in ICE custody. His detention not only causes daily uncertainty and hardship for his loved ones, but also cuts off much of the income his family relied on. In this difficult season, the funds from Old South's Weekly Pushback will help Hernan's family with rent, groceries, & daily essentials, as they prepare for what could be a long, expensive legal struggle ahead.



## PIANO DEDICATION

Friday, October 3 at 7pm in Gordon Chapel, more info about D.J. at [djcleavinger.com](https://djcleavinger.com)



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.

## BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Sunday, October 5, 9am in the Chapel

Join us for a special Blessing of the Animals service in the Chapel, where we'll celebrate and bless our beloved pets. Bring your furry friend, your scaley sidekick, a fetching photo, or even a stuffed animal - all are welcome! For those animals that may not do well inside with others, we'll offer a blessing outside following the service.

## CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

Every First Sunday of the Month, starting October 5, 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](mailto:ashley@oldsouth.org).

### **GBIO DELEGATE 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](http://tinyurl.com/GBIOAssembly).

### **ONLINE SMALL GROUP**

*First Sundays starting October 5, 7:30pm EST, join at [tinyurl.com/OSCOOnlineSmallGroup](http://tinyurl.com/OSCOOnlineSmallGroup)*

Gather with other online members and Rev. Ashley for a time of fellowship, communion, and deepening our relationships with one another. Please bring something to eat (bread, cracker, cookie) and something to drink (juice, water, coffee) as your communion elements.

### **SOLIDARITY AT MASS AND CASS**

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

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](http://bostonfaithjustice.org/housing-justice) or email [junercooper@comcast.net](mailto:junercooper@comcast.net)

### **RETIRED AND READY**

*Tuesday, September 30, 11am, meet at the Massachusetts Historical Society, 1154 Boylston St*

Join in a private tour to view the galleries and hear some interesting stories about the history of Boston and the treasures in the MHS collection. We will begin at 11am, followed by lunch at a nearby restaurant. Contact Lynn Wegner [lynn.wegner@gmail.com](mailto: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.



### **CELEBRATING 150 YEARS AT BOYLSTON STREET**

***Save the date—Saturday, December 6, 7pm***

It has been 150 years since Old South Church moved into its historic building at 645 Boylston Street. Join us for a celebration of the church's storied legacy in the heart of the city with a special concert program *If These Walls Could Talk: A Celebration of Sanctuary in the Heart of Boston*, to be followed by a festive reception in the Chapel. Registration details to follow.

## MEETING THE MOMENT: FALL SERMON SERIES

Go to [oldsouth.org/fall-sermon-series](https://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 28 at First and Festival Worship** *Kat Woodard*

Marking our Time | Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

**October 2 at Thursday Night Church** *Audrey Woodhams*

Imagination | Acts 17:16-37

**October 5 at First Worship**

Blessing of the Animals | Psalm 148

**October 5 at Festival Worship** *John Edgerton*

Give us This Day our Daily Bread | Matthew 6:9-13

## THE OLD SOUTH COMMUNITY HOUR

*Sundays, 10am, Mary Norton Hall*

- **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!
- **Old South Pushes Back | October 12**  
Phil Dearing (chair of Christian Service and Outreach Committee) will share the story and impact behind Old South's Weekly Pushback, donating \$1000 every week to a local organization.
- **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](mailto:brouillettepaul@gmail.com).

### **VOLUNTEER TO READ SCRIPTURE**

Go to [tinyurl.com/OSReadBible](https://tinyurl.com/OSReadBible) to 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 Popperson at [ashley@oldsouth.org](mailto:ashley@oldsouth.org).

### **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](mailto:ava@oldsouth.org).

### **GREEN TIP: Getting your Garden Ready for Winter—Mulch It Up**

Mulch is your garden's best friend in winter. A thick layer of mulch (about 2-4 inches) will help insulate your plants' roots and protect them from the harsh cold. Use organic mulch such as leaves, straw, or compost. This not only keeps the soil temperature more stable but also enriches it with nutrients for the coming spring.. Go to [tinyurl.com/FallGardenTips](https://tinyurl.com/FallGardenTips) for more info.

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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)