



Old South Church *in* Boston

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 12, 2025 ❖ 11:00 a.m.

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

GATHER

PRELUDE

Les Rêves from “Chants du Rhin”

Georges Bizet

*CALL TO WORSHIP *from Psalm 36*

John M. Edgerton

O God, your constant love reaches to the heavens
your faithfulness extends to the skies.

**Your righteousness towers like the mountains,
your justice is deeper than the sea.**

All find protection under the shadow of your wings,

We feast upon the abundance you provide,

You give us drink from the river of your delights.

For with you is the fountain of life,

and in your light, we see light.

*HYMN 8

Praise to the Living God

DIADEMATA

*INVOCATION

**Indicates all who are able may stand*

***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

He Is Marvelous!

Rosephanye Powell

He is marvelous! Jesus is wonderful! Give him glory!
Shout to the Lord and proclaim:
he is marvelous, oh so wonderful!
Give him the glory and praise!

For he is King of Kings, and he is Lord of all creation!
Yes, he is King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.
Shout to the Lord!

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Victor Chipchase

Godparent Irwin Garcia

BLESSING THE WATER

John M. Edgerton

PRESENTATION AND INTRODUCTION

LITANY OF BAPTISM

Do you desire to be baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

I do.

Do you renounce powers of evil and desire the freedom of new life in Christ?

I do.

Do you profess Jesus Christ as your brother, Lord, and Savior?

I do.

And do you promise by the grace of God to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best as you are able?

I promise, with the help of God.

Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow in the Christian faith and to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, celebrating Christ's presence and furthering Christ's mission in all the world?

I promise, with the help of God.

People of God, will you promise to uphold and support Victor in his life in Christ through your prayers? If so, say we will, with the help of God.

We will, with the help of God.

BAPTISM

CONGREGATIONAL WELCOME

Richard Ling, *Baptismal Deacon*

We rejoice in God's empowering love, freely given to each and all. We welcome you, newly baptized, into the circle of love in Christ's Church. We promise to pray for you, to seek the depths of faith with you, to support you, and to love you. We covenant with you to love God with all our hearts, minds, souls, and strength, and our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.

LISTEN

SCRIPTURE

Nehemiah 4:1-6

Cathryn Griffith

*HYMN 461

Let Us Hope when Hope Seems Hopeless

LET US HOPE

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

SCRIPTURE

Romans 5:1-5

Ashley J. Popperson

SERMON

Discipline: The Dream that Hardens into Deed

*HYMN 538

Standing at the Future's Threshold (*verses 1-4*)

LUX EOI

*CALL TO PRAYER

Kat Woodard

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

Grace Greater than Our Sin

Smith and Hustad, *arrs.*

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

Oh, What a Beautiful City

Eurydice V. Osterman, *arr.*

*Oh, what a beautiful city,
oh, what a beautiful city,
oh, what a beautiful city,
twelve gates into the city, a-hallelujah!*

Three gates in the east, three gates in the west;
three gates in the north, three gates way down south.
Makin' it twelve gates into the city, hallelujah!

My Lord built that city, an' he said it was just four-square,
and he said he wanted you, sinner, to meet him in the air.
Makin' it twelve gates into the city, hallelujah!

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN 387

O Christ, the Great Foundation

AURELIA

*BENEDICTION

Ashley J. Popperson

POSTLUDE

The Majestic Trumpet

Robert Hebble



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

The flowers today are given by
Elizabeth and Betty Pitcher
in memory of David Mullen.

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

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*
Jonathan Reddix, *Collaborative Pianist* ❖ Jan Christoph Hadenfeldt, *Visiting Organist*
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

VESPERS HEALING WORSHIP

Next Service Sunday, October 12, 5pm on Zoom, 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.

PORTICO ART INSTALLATION - DISCUSSION PANEL

October 15, 2025 6:30-8:00pm at the Piper Auditorium in Cambridge,
Live stream also available.

Want to learn more about the art installation Old South Church has been hosting over the last two months? Join this Public Art and Social Change panel discussion in conjunction with the Boston Public Art Triennial. Here the artist will discuss the Cost of Living series that the neon sign at Old South is a part of. This series "serves as a platform to raise awareness, foster empathy, and promote understanding of the challenges unhoused young people face, elevating their voices and experiences through art."

JOIN GOSPEL CHOIR FOR A WEEK

First Worship: Sunday, October 19, 8:30am rehearsal

Thursday Night Church: Thursday, November 6, 7:00-7:30pm rehearsal

Thursday, November 13, 6pm worship

Contact Tim Harbold at tim@oldsouth.org for details and music in advance.

You deserve a week of joyful singing. Please join us!

NEW AROUND HERE?

October 19 and every 3rd Sunday in Rev. Ashley's office, meet in Elevator Lobby at 10:05

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! Questions? Email ashley@oldsouth.org.

RETIRED AND READY AT THE ARBORETUM

Tuesday, October 28, 10am, Hunnewell Visitor Center, Arboretum Gate, 125 Arborway, JP

Join us for a walk around Arnold Arboretum. This will be a self-guided tour focusing on fall highlights. Meet at the Hunnewell Visitor Center at the Arboretum Gate. Contact Mi Herzog at miherzog1@gmail.com or text 617-939-3966 to let us know you are coming to the Arboretum. Also indicate whether you plan to join us for lunch. We look forward to seeing you!

CONNECTIONS LUNCH

Sunday, November 2, 12pm in the Crawford Library, RSVP by October 29 to ashley@oldsouth.org

Interested in joining the church? To be a member of Old South Church is to enter the company of Revolutionary Era heroes, abolitionists, suffragettes, anti-poverty crusaders, and poets. Our saints include Benjamin Franklin, Samuel Adams, Phillis Wheatley... and maybe you! Want to learn more about the life of this community of faith while sharing lunch with other newcomers and church members? Join our Connections Lunch! Email ashley@oldsouth.org to sign up.

HEARD IT AT COUNCIL

Read the full report at oldsouth.org/news/heard-it-council-september-2025

September's Council meeting was full of finances, inclusion work, building issues, and small group news. Read all about it in Church Historian Kate Silfen's report.

JOIN A SMALL GROUP AT OLD SOUTH CHURCH

Wanting to deepen your relationships at OSC? If you enjoy movies, walking, eating, reading, crafting, studying the Bible or just being in community with others, you're invited to join our growing Small Groups program. We have all kinds of groups doing all kinds of things this fall at Old South Church, and you're invited to join in! Go to tinyurl.com/OSC2025Groups to get more details and to sign up. Questions? Contact Rachel at rachel@oldsouth.org.

HOST AN OSC GBIO HOUSE MEETING IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Navigating this moment requires getting back to the basics. In that vein, GBIO has just launched its House Meeting Campaign with the goal of engaging over 2,000 individuals at local small group gatherings across the city. This will be a time to deepen relationships, build power, and share stories that will get at the heart of our needs here in Greater Boston. Curious about hosting a house meeting? Reach out to Christina Gregg Fitzgerald at clg3792@gmail.com.



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 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.

October 12 at First and Festival Worship *Ashley Popperson*
Dream that Hardens into Deed | Nehemiah 4:1-6

October 16 at Thursday Night Church *Rachel Barton*
Keeping Watch Together | John 6:66-71

October 19 at First Worship *Justin Dickerson*
Fear of God | Proverbs 9:1-12

October 19 at Festival Worship *John Edgerton*
Fear of God | Proverbs 9:1-12

THE OLD SOUTH COMMUNITY HOUR

Sundays, 10am, Mary Norton Hall

- **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.
- **Youth Group Pancake Breakfast** | *November 2*
Join the Youth Group as they serve a delicious breakfast to raise funds and supplies for the Allston-Brighton Community Fridge
- **The Business of Incarceration** | *November 9*
Jimmy McCarty shares about his book, *The Business of Incarceration*, and we will gauge for congregational interest in going deeper on the prison industrial complex.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE AND OUTREACH

THE WEEKLY PUSHBACK - Dollar a Day Fund

Have other weekly action ideas? Email outreach@oldsouth.org

For Indigenous people's day, Old South is donating \$1,000 to the Dollar A Day fund. This fund provides grants to indigenous-led organizations that are supporting their communities and local environments. They've made grants to over 340 Indigenous organizations across the US and encourage donors to give \$1 per day or \$365 per year to support their work. To see their grantees or support their work, go to www.dollaraday.fund/

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 or email junercooper@comcast.net

GREEN TIP: Skip the fake Spider Webs—More at tinyurl.com/nofakespiderwebs

Talk about the tangled webs we weave. Those fake spiderwebs that give your house a creepy Halloween vibe are even scarier than you might think for wildlife. For some animals, they can be a literal death trap. Much like real spiderwebs trap insects, those fake ones do too. And it's not just teeny, tiny insects that can get caught in the sticky strings. Birds can get entangled in the fake webs, and so can any small animals that are not strong enough to break free,

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