

Second Sunday in Advent

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

**Indicates all who are able may stand*

Lighting of Candles & Prayer

O Prince of Peace, in a world torn asunder by war, violence seems to reign. There is unrest amongst the nations, in our country, in our communities, our families, and our own hearts. O God, bring your reign of peace. Kindle a flame within each of us that we might be people of peace. **Amen.**

SUNG RESPONSE

Choir:

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us;
make us your living voice.

Congregation:



Text and Music: Bernadette Farrell, 1993

WELCOME

Kat Woodard

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Nijjima Gakuen High School

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Ian Stanley

BLESSING THE WATER

Ashley J. Popperson

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 Ian 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

Rory Razon, *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 Psalm 122:1-9 Paul Brouillette

*HYMN 278 **Creator God, Creating Still** ST. ANNE

SCRIPTURE Matthew 24:36-44

SERMON The Little Apocalypse of *Lo Cotidiano* Ashley J. Popperson

*HYMN 121 ***Toda la Tierra (All Earth is Waiting)*** TAULE
A soloist sings the first verse in Spanish;
The congregation is then invited to sing verses 1 and 2 in English

RESPOND

*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

Savior of the Nations, Come
THE OLD SOUTH RINGERS
Peter Coulombe, *director*

Kathleen Wissinger, *arr.*

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

When the Trumpet Sounds

André J. Thomas

Where shall I be when the trumpet sounds,
when it sounds so loud till it wake up the dead,
tell me, where shall I be when the trumpet sounds?

Sinner, please don't let this harvest pass.
Oh in a-that judgment day, the sinner will run.
On that judgment day, where shall I be when the trumpet sounds?

Where shall I be when the trumpet sounds,
when it sounds so loud till it wake up the dead,
tell me, where shall I be in that great judgment day!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN 106

My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise

MARIAS LOVSÅNG

*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

Ashley J. Popperson

POSTLUDE

Vom Himmel hoch da komm' ich her, BWV 700

J. S. Bach



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

The flowers today are given by the staff of Old South Church
in honor of those who volunteered for 150th building anniversary celebration:
Phil Stern, Kate Silfen, Christina Gregg Fitzgerald, Todd Krohne, Ben Stern,
Helen McCrady, Rob Gabler, Esther Seguin, Rebecca Pasipanodya,
Jamie Garuti Sage, and Rachel Barton.

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



CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2025

Family Service with Impromptu Pageant | 5PM

Lessons and Carols | 8PM

Carols and Communion | 11PM

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 for Sunday worship services only. 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, *Nancy S. 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*

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* ❖ Ozo Nwodo, Richard Serebour, Tahmina Aktar & MD Rahman, *Sextons*

Corey Spence, *Weekday Receptionist*

Shirley Bivins, Shelia Randolph & Sarah Acheson-Field, *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

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

Looking for hope in these mean days? You're not alone! Hope is something that we create together. This Advent, we've created a devotional filled with entries from Old Southers and community partners about what is giving them hope. Hope always arises amidst trouble and we know that trouble abounds, and so we know that hope does too. Grab a copy at church, or find it online at oldsouth.org/advent.

ANNUAL ADVENT & CHRISTMAS POETRY FEST

Sunday, December 7 at 10am in Mary Norton Hall

Join as host Don Wells leads a wonderful hour of Advent poetry selected or written by members and friends of Old South. There will be poetry to pull on your heartstrings, engage your mind, and bring laughter to your soul. It is an occasion not to miss.

GODLY PLAY FOR FAMILIES

Sunday, December 7 at 10am in the Green Room

Families are invited to gather in the regular childcare room on the 3rd floor to hear a Godly Play story together, to wonder a bit about the story, and then to have some work time to play around with the ideas and stories we heard. This is a great way for families who have not yet become regulars at church school to begin hearing the stories and practicing together. Families of any age are welcome - though this is geared towards preschool age 3 and under.

PHOTO IDENTIFICATION PARTY

This Sunday, December 7, 11am-1pm, Phillis Wheatley Room

Come and help out the Old South archives by trying to put names to faces! Emily the Archivist is trying to create an index of Old South's photos but needs help with figuring out who's who. This event will be looking at photos from 2010-2020, so members from that period please stop by and help out! Coffee, tea & cookies provided.

OLD SOUTH RINGERS CONCERT: WITH ANTHEMS SWEET

Sunday, December 7 at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary and on live stream

Fun for the whole family, the annual Christmas Handbell Concert presented by the Old South Ringers will delight you with arrangements of beloved Christmas carols and songs that are sure to get you in the holiday spirit! Come and hear us in person if you can or join us online. Admission is free.

HELP MAKE AND SERVE LUNCH AT *common cathedral*

Sunday, December 14, contact Carolyn Clark to volunteer at carolyneclark@comcast.net

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

All are welcome, including families.

- **9:00-10:30am** Make bag lunches in Old South's Mary Norton Hall 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.

ADVENT SERMON CONVERSATIONS: PRECEDENTED TIMES

Sundays, 10am, in Mary Norton Hall

December 14—Ashley Popperson; December 21—Rachel Barton

The world feels as if it is spiraling out of control. Institutions that once seemed sturdy teeter, national commitments are abandoned, and rights are under attack. How is a Christian to understand these days? Join our ministers throughout Advent for conversations about their sermons and a chance to reflect together, ask questions, and share insights as we explore this year's Advent theme as a community.

SAVE THE DATE: CHURCH CENTER TRAINING ON DECEMBER 14TH

Our new church software, **Church Center**, will be launching soon! Starting December 1st, you will be able to access the church directory on the Church Center website and app. In January, we will introduce the giving and church calendar features. Please join Amelia Gerrard, Director of Administration, on December 14th, as they introduce the Church Center app and online directory. The training will be in-person from 12:15-1:00 PM and online from 2-2:45 (Zoom: <https://tinyurl.com/OSCCChurchCenterTraining>). They will also be answering questions at the 10 AM coffee hour on December 7th and 14th. In the meantime, be sure to log in and update your profile information, including your profile photo, or create an account, by visiting <https://oldsouthchurch.churchcenter.com/me/profile-and-household>. If you have questions, email Amelia Gerrard at amelia@oldsouth.org.

CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS (IN LIEU OF FLOWERS)

Donations due by Sunday, December 14th, Questions? Email Remy Hatfield-Gardner remy@oldsouth.org

The needs of the Allston Brighton Food Pantry are even greater this year. Your donation of \$20 in honor or memory of loved ones or special occasions will help our less fortunate neighbors. Go to oldsouth.org/donate and click on "Christmas Memorials" to make your donation and enter your message on the second page. The needs of the Allston Brighton Food Pantry are even greater this year. Your donation of \$20 in honor or memory of loved ones or special occasions will help our less fortunate neighbors. Go to oldsouth.org/donate and click on "Christmas Memorials" to make your donation and enter your message on the second page.

NEW AROUND HERE?

December 21 and every 3rd Sunday, in Rev. Ashley's office, meet in Elevator Lobby at 10:05am

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.

BOSTON FIRST NIGHT: PIPES AND POPS CONCERTS

Wednesday, December 31st at 6:30 and 8 p.m., Old South Church in Boston

The best of Boston's brass and percussion artists join organist Mitchell Crawford in a supersonic program of popular classics. Featuring fun and engaging programming for the whole family, this concert includes a seasonal sing of "Auld Lang Syne." Experience Old South's incredible E. M. Skinner organ, with over 7,000 room-shaking pipes! Free and open to the public.

GIVING BACK: THE TRUE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

As we prepare our hearts for Christmas, Old South has several opportunities to give to the wider community. Beginning on November 13th, a Christmas tree will be near the reception desk decorated with ornaments. Each ornament will have instructions for a gift for one of the gift drives listed below. You can select an ornament from the tree or you can participate online at oldsouth.org/true-spirit-Christmas

THE TWELVE GREEN TIPS OF CHRISTMAS

3. Use LED lights for house and tree lighting.
4. Make homemade cards and gifts.

HEARD IT AT COUNCIL

Church Council on Tuesday, November 11, 2025 was the setting for early 2026 budgetary discussions, reminders about our buildings' multi-year maintenance needs, and the official sanctioning of a new group to specifically address congregational belonging and engagement: BELONG. Find out about all this and more by going to tinyurl.com/OSCNov2025Council for the full report from special guest writer Church Clerk Rob Gabler.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE AND OUTREACH

THE WEEKLY PUSHBACK - BIJAN

Learn more about their work at www.beyondbondboston.org/donate-2

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

To get involved or ask questions email Kat Woodard at kat@oldsouth.org

As this week's Advent candle calls us toward a Peace that is rooted in safety, welcome, and faithful companionship, we lift up the work of BIJAN. BIJAN is a community network of individuals, faith communities, and activist groups working to reduce the escalating harm of our immigration system. They provide court accompaniment, legal referrals, and fundraising support to immigrants and asylum seekers. They also offer rides to visit detained loved ones, and help with housing, transportation, and other immediate needs for those released on bond without resources. Old South is giving BIJAN \$10,000 to help support them as they continue building peace by ensuring no one faces the immigration system alone.

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WEEKLY WORSHIP

Join us in person, on Facebook, and YouTube

Thursday Night Church, Thursdays at 6:00 p.m., no service 12/25 and 1/1

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