



Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr Sunday

January 18, 2026 ❖ 11:00 a.m. ❖ Old South Church *in* Boston

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

GATHER

PRELUDE

Precious Lord, Take My Hand
Loraine Adeyemi, *soloist*

Thomas A. Dorsey

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near,
when my life is almost gone,
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall:
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When the darkness appears and the night draws near,
and the day is past and gone,
at the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

*HYMN 593

Lift Every Voice and Sing

LIFT EVERY VOICE

**Indicates all who are able may stand*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Kat Woodard

Walk together Children, don't get weary,
the God who inspires dreams of freedom beckons us to worship.

We have come to worship God, and God, alone.

Come, all those who are hungry and thirsty for the righteous reign of God,
be renewed here at this holy feast.

We have come to worship God, and God, alone.

Come, all those who are heavy laden,
for the blessed call of Jesus invites us towards rest.

We have come to worship God, and God alone.

Come, all seekers of liberty for the Spirit of Christ have made us free,
and therefore, we are free indeed.

**We have come to worship God who is our creator,
our shepherd, and our Help.**

**May our worship inspire us to love freely, confront injustice,
and press towards manifesting beloved community.**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

WELCOME

ANTHEM

I Need You to Survive
Ida Kamrara, *soloist*

David Frazier

I need you, you need me: we're all a part of God's body.
Stand with me, agree with me: we're all a part of God's body.
It is his will that every need be supplied;
you are important to me. I need you to survive.

I pray for you, you pray for me.
I love you; I need you to survive.
I won't harm you with words from my mouth;
I love you. I need you to survive.

LISTEN

SCRIPTURE

Luke 8:1-15

Jack Millard

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kate M. Nintcheu

*HYMN *see insert*

Walk Together, Children

Spiritual

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

SERMON

Good, Ground Work

Justin Tyler Dickerson

*HYMN 471

What a Covenant

LEANING

RESPOND

*CALL TO PRAYER

Ashley J. Popperson

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

Total Praise

Richard Smallwood

God, I will lift mine eyes to the hills,
knowing my help is coming from you.
Your peace you give me in time of the storm.

You are the source of my strength;
you are the strength of my life;
I lift my hands in total praise to you.

Amen.

LAY REFLECTION

Patrice Ficken

CALL TO THE OFFERING

John M. Edgerton



*To give via ApplePay,
GooglePay, or Credit Card,
scan the QR code.*

*If you're new to Old South,
scan the QR code
to tell us more about yourself.*



OFFERTORY

We Shall Overcome

Paul S. Morton, *arr.*

We shall overcome, we shall overcome,
we shall overcome some day.
But in my heart I do believe we shall overcome some day.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN *see insert*

We Shall Not Be Moved

*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

Justin Tyler Dickerson

POSTLUDE

I Wish I Knew

Billy Taylor & Richard Lamb

How It Would Feel to be Free
Ida Kamrara and Loraine Adeyemi, *soloists*

I wish I knew how it would feel to be free.
I wish I could break all the chains holding me.
I wish I could say all the things that I should say,
say 'em loud, say 'em clear, for the whole round world to hear.

I wish I could share all the love that's in my heart,
remove all the bars that keep us apart.
I wish you could know what it means to be me,
then you'd see and agree that everyone should be free.

I wish I could give all I'm longing to give.
I wish I could live like I'm longing to live.
I wish I could do all the things that I can do,
though I'm way overdue, I'd be starting anew.

I wish I could be like a bird in the sky;
how sweet it would be if I found I could fly.
I'd soar to the sun and look down at the sea.
Then I'd sing 'cause I'd know how it feels to be free.



We are grateful to today's Musicians
Willie Sordillo, *saxophone*
Doug Rich, *bass*
Aaron Trant, *percussion*
Tim Harbold, *piano; director, Old South Gospel Choir*



Join us for Refreshments & Fellowship

in the Gordon Chapel following the Postlude.

The flowers today are given by Melody Allen & family
in loving memory of The Hon. W. Lloyd and Gertrude M. Allen.

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



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, *Taylor Resident for Mission in the City* ❖ Justin Tyler 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, Richard Serebour, & M.D. Rahman, *Sextons*

Corey Spence, *Weekday Receptionist*

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

Hymn Insert for Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday 2026

Walk Together Children



Walk to - geth - er child - ren, don't you get wea - ry. Walk to - geth - er child - ren, don't

you get wea - ry. Walk to - geth - er child - ren don't you get wea - ry, there's a

great camp meet - ing in the prom - ised land. We're gon - na

walk and nev - er tire, walk and nev - er tire,

walk and nev - er tire. There's a great camp meet - ing in the prom - ised land.

2. Sing together

3. Pray together

4. Work together

We Shall Not Be Moved

Leader All Leader All

The musical score is written for a vocal melody and piano accompaniment. The key signature is D major (two sharps) and the time signature is 4/4. The vocal melody is written on a single staff with a treble clef. The piano accompaniment is written on a single staff with a bass clef. The score is divided into five systems. The first system shows the vocal melody for the first two phrases, with the piano accompaniment starting on the second phrase. The second system continues the vocal melody. The third system includes a piano accompaniment section with a repeat sign and the instruction 'Repeat ad lib.'. The fourth system shows the vocal melody for the final phrase, with the piano accompaniment starting on the second phrase. The fifth system shows the piano accompaniment for the final phrase.

We shall not be moved. We shall not be moved, just like a

tree that's plant - ed by the wa - ter. We shall not be moved.

We shall not, we shall not be moved. we shall not be moved. shall not be

moved. Just like a

tree that's plant - ed by the wa - ter, We shall not be moved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REVOLUTIONARY GENEROSITY— 2026 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Questions? Contact Amelia Gerrard at amelia@oldsouth.org or 617-536-1970

Our 2026 stewardship campaign, Revolutionary Generosity, is underway! Old South revolutionaries of today practice radical change in our society, serve neighbors, and open doors wide to the city. Join us in practicing revolutionary generosity by pledging online at: tiny.oldsouth.org/pledge2026. At the end of the month, we will lift up our communal generosity at our Stewardship Celebration services, as well as a celebration lunch on February 1.

NEW AROUND HERE?

January 18 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.

WINTER WALK TO END HOMELESSNESS:

Sunday, February 8, 10 AM

Questions? Email Kat Woodard at kat@oldsouth.org

Old South is once again participating in the **Winter Walk to End Homelessness**, a two-mile walk around Boston Common during the coldest month of the year. Winter Walk raises both awareness and critical funds to support organizations working to prevent homelessness and provide care, accompaniment, and resources for our unhoused neighbors. This year, Old South will be walking as part of the common cathedral team and **all funds raised by individual Old Southerners will go directly to common cathedral** <https://commoncathedral.org>. To further amplify this impact, an anonymous donor from Old South has generously committed to **matching up to \$5,000 in individual donations!** To register for the walk, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/OSC2026WinterWalk> and select "Walk With Us" if you would like for the proceeds from your registration fee to go to our partners at common cathedral. If the registration cost would be a financial barrier for you, you are welcome to use Old South's sponsor code: select "I have a promo code" and enter **OSC26**. If you're unable to walk but would still like to support this important work, you can donate directly to the common cathedral's Winter Walk team here: <https://tinyurl.com/commoncathedralWinterWalk>.

GBIO LISTENING SESSION

Sunday, January 25th, 12:15-1:15 PM, Mary Norton Hall

Questions or for Zoom Link, contact Alliea E. Groupp at aegroupp@gmail.com

Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) Listening Session: Democracy is rooted in our stories. Together, we are working to build a movement that is Relational, Equitable, Actionable, and Led by the people. For 25 years, GBIO has organized thousands of people across lines of faith, class, race, and culture in order to fight and win on issues like housing, criminal justice reform, and healthcare. Your voice, your story, matters, and we want to hear it. The stories told across the 50-member organizations of GBIO during these sessions will help shape organizational priorities and enable us to utilize our collective power to address shared challenges.

DONATE FLOWERS FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP IN 2026

Email Amelia Gerrard at amelia@oldsouth.org to sign up for a Sunday

Every week, the church has beautiful flowers in front of the pulpit. Would you like to give the flowers one Sunday - in memory or in honor of a special person or event? It is quite meaningful every Sunday to read the flower message. The price is \$100. If cost is prohibitive, please reach out to Amelia Gerrard for more information. Please send your message along with your payment. You can drop it off, send a check, or donate online at oldsouth.org/donate

GREEN TIP—Use Non-toxic De-icing Substances

Consider using non-toxic de-icing substances such as clean clay cat litter, sand, or fireplace/stove ash to prevent hazardous waste from chemicals. Chemical de-icers can be hazardous to your pets, your trees and shrubs, and the environment. Antifreeze leaking from car engines and chemical snow melters on driveways can pollute surface waters and groundwater through the soil.

THE SPIRITUAL REBELS: In Person Small Group

Monday Nights, 7pm, Gordon Library

The in person Monday Night Small Group, The Spiritual Rebels, will be reading and studying the 1st Century (CE) from the perspective of the Romans and Nero, the Roman ruler. We'll be reading *The Splendor Before the Dark: A Novel of the Emperor Nero*. This is the time when the early Christians were being persecuted by Roman authorities. We've studied the time of Jesus from the early Christian perspective; this will look at what's going on in 1st Century from the perspective of the ruling Romans, gaining insight into what made them tick so to speak. Interested? Email Jenny Keenan at JenniferHKeenan@gmail.com.

THEOLOGICAL BOOK GROUP NEWS

New Book Begins Monday, January 26, on Zoom

Contact Don Wells at granwell@comcast.net for more information and Zoom Link

The Theological Book Group's new book's focus is 'forgiveness': Not So Sorry: Abusers, False Apologies and the Limits of Forgiveness by Kaya Oakes. She delves into the misuses of forgiveness, arguing that it has its limits and can even become a form of spiritual abuse when victims are encouraged or even forced to forgive. And how do we understand Jesus' concept of forgiveness in a first century world? This will be a challenging 8-9 week series.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY HOUR FORUMS | SUNDAYS AT 10AM

CHURCH CENTER TRAINING | January 18

10am in person and 2pm Zoom

You can access the church directory, Giving, and Calendar on the Church Center website and app. Go to oldsouthchurch.churchcenter.com/home to sign in and <https://oldsouth.org/church-center> for our FAQ. We will have an all-church training on how to use the giving and calendar features on January 18, in-person at 10am and online at 2pm. Reach out to Amelia Gerrard at amelia@oldsouth.org with any questions.

WHY WINTER WALK | January 25

Join Kat Woodard (Nancy Taylor Resident) and Meag Shaffer (Winter Walk) to learn more about the origins of Winter Walk, discuss why Old South believes in this immersive experience, and reflect together on the realities of urban homelessness in our present moment.

OLD SOUTH CHURCH FINANCES | February 1

Join Old South lay leaders Maren Batalden, Christine Del Favero, Paul and Debby Kuenstner, and Donna Matson for an open discussion about Old South Church finances as we anticipate our 2026 budget discussion at the upcoming Annual Meeting. Get a basic introduction to Old South finances, learn about sources of revenue and categories of expense. Understand the guiding principles underlying the development of the budget and engage with others in understanding some of the challenges we are facing.

THE WEEKLY PUSHBACK—Christian Service and Outreach

WOMEN'S LUNCH PLACE

Learn more about their work and volunteer opportunities [womenslunchplace.org/](https://www.womenslunchplace.org/)

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

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

Women's Lunch Place is a daytime shelter and advocacy center in Boston that offers a safe, welcoming space for women experiencing homelessness, hunger, and poverty. Founded in 1982 by Jane Alexander and Eileen Reilly, the organization began out of a commitment to provide a place where women could meet with dignity as they received a meal and rested during the day. Today, Women's Lunch Place continues this work by serving nutritious meals several days a week, offering access to showers and hygiene supplies, and providing on-site medical care and wellness programming. During these cold winter months, we affirm the great need for people to be met with a space for physical and emotional warmth, and Old South is proud to donate \$1,000 to WLP as they continue to pursue this vital goal.

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.



If you're new to Old South,
scan the QR code
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