



May 14th, 2023

Phillis Wheatley Sunday

Warning! To enter into the life of this people of God is to encounter God's soul-challenging, life-changing, radicalizing love. Will you join us? Do you dare?

GATHER

PRELUDE

Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho

Calvin Taylor

*HYMN 310

It's the Old Ship of Zion

OLD SHIP OF ZION

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Katherine A. Schofield

from *An Hymn to Humanity* — P. Wheatley

One: Lo! for this dark terrestrial ball
Forsakes his azure-paved hall

Many: A prince of heavenly birth!

One: Divine Humanity behold,
What wonders rise, what charms unfold

Many: At his descent to earth!

** Indicates all who are able may stand*

One: The bosoms of the great and good
With wonder and delight he viewed,

Many: And fixed his empire there:

One: Him, close compressing to his breast,
The sire of gods and men addressed,

Many: “My son, my heavenly fair!

One: “Descend to earth, there place thy throne;
To succor man’s afflicted son

Many: Each human heart inspire:

One: To act in bounties unconfined
Enlarge the close contracted mind,

Many: And fill it with thy fire.”

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

WELCOME

ANTHEM

Stand Up
COMBINED OLD SOUTH GOSPEL
AND FESTIVAL CHOIRS
Jordan Pettis, *soloist*

Cynthia Erivo
& Joshua Campbell
arr. Mac Huff

I been walkin’ with my face turned to the sun,
weight on my shoulders the struggle is never done.
Oh, I got eyes in the back of my head just in case I have to run.
I do what I can when I can while I can for my people,
while the clouds roll back and the stars fill the night.

*That’s when I’m gonna stand up, take my people with me,
together we are going to a brand new home.
Far across the river, can you hear freedom calling?
Calling me to answer, gonna keep on keepin’ on.
I can feel it in my bones.*

Early in the mornin' before the sun begins to shine,
we're gonna start movin' towards that separating line.
I'm wadin' through muddy waters, you know I got a made-up mind,
and I don't mind if I lose any blood on the way to salvation.
And I'll fight with the strength that I got until I die.

And I know what's around the bend might be hard to face 'cause I'm alone
and I just might fail but Lord knows I tried sure as stars fill up the sky.

I go to prepare a place for you.

LISTEN

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Caroline CR

SCRIPTURE Romans 5:1-5 Ade Solanke

*HYMN 511 **I Love My God, Who Heard My Cry** SMALLWOOD

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

SERMON Unfailing Hope For a Time Like This June R. Cooper

*HYMN 403 **My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less** SOLID ROCK

RESPOND

*CALL TO PRAYER Ashley J. Popperson

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: May the peace of Christ dwell in your hearts.

Many: Christ is our peace, our light, and our hope.

One: Let us pray. *Please be seated.*

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Liberator, 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

We Are...

Ysaye M. Barnwell

For each child that's born a morning star rises
and sings to the universe who we are.

We are our grandmothers' prayers, and we are our grandfathers' dreamings.
We are the breath of our ancestors. We are the spirit of God.

We are mothers of courage and fathers of time.
We are daughters of dust and the sons of great visions.
We're sisters of mercy and brothers of love.
We are lovers of life and the builders of nations.
We're seekers of truth and keepers of faith.
We are makers of peace and the wisdom of ages.

We are our grandmothers' prayers, and we are our grandfathers' dreamings.
We are the breath of our ancestors. We are the spirit of God.

For each child that's born a morning star rises
and sings to the universe who we are.

THE OPEN DOOR AWARD

PRESENTATION

Tracy Keene, *on behalf of (G)race Speaks*

Melvin B. Miller

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Richard E. Spalding



To give via ApplePay, GooglePay, or with a Credit Card,
scan the QR code with your smartphone camera.
You can also Text 44-321 and enter OSC to make a gift.

OFFERTORY

Let Everything that Hath Breath
Sherylynn Sealy and Geoff O'Hara, *soloists*

Jeffery Ames

Sing unto the Lord a new song.
Sing unto the Lord all the earth.
Declare his glory among the nations.
Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord.

Magnify the Lord with me, and exalt his name together.
Hallelujah, bless his name, for he's worthy to be praised.
Clap your hands, all ye people. Shout with a voice of triumph!
For the mighty Lord is great and greatly to be praised.
Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord.

Come on and praise the Lord. Let's all praise his name.
Give him the highest praise.

Praise him with the timbrel, praise him with the dance.
Stand up on your feet and just lift up holy hands.
Sing "Hallelujah," praise his holy name.
For the Lord is worthy to be praised!
Let's praise the Lord.

Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord.
You ought to praise him!

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN 437

We Shall Not Give Up the Fight

ONLY STARTED

The choirs will introduce the refrain, followed by an invitation to all to join.

*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

We Shall Not Give Up the Fight/
Siyahamba

South African songs



Following worship we will promenade to the Boston Women's Memorial to fete Phillis Wheatley on the occasion of her birthday.

Join us for Refreshments, Conversation, and Community in the Gordon Chapel following the Postlude.

The flowers today are given in loving memory of Faye Eleanor McInturff and Elizabeth Dunbar Roberts by the Roberts McInturff family.

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

Today's Musicians
Willie Sordillo, *sax*
Doug Rich, *bass*
Aaron Trant, *percussion*



Melvin B. Miller,
Open Door Recipient

Today, with joy, Old South Church recognizes Melvin B. Miller with its Open Door Award, presented annually on Phillis Wheatley Sunday to a hero of social justice and civil rights, inclusivity and equity.

Mr. Miller's career of active involvement in Boston's political and public affairs spans more than five decades. He is perhaps best-known and most admired as the groundbreaking journalist who, in 1965, founded the Bay State Banner, a weekly newspaper advocating for the interests of Boston's African American community, which he served as publisher and editor until his recent retirement. Among his many forms of civic and governmental engagement, he served terms as Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Massachusetts, and as a member of the National Advisory Council to American Companies doing business in South Africa under the Sullivan Principles until the fall of apartheid and has somehow found time to serve as well on banking boards, civic commissions, and academic trustees.

Throughout his long career, Mr. Miller has been a champion of civil rights and social justice, and fundamentally helped to shape the conversation around these issues in our city and far beyond. Today, in the spirit of Phillis Wheatley, Old South Church honors his dedication and courage in presenting the Open Door Award to Melvin B. Miller.

Adeola Solanke,
Scripture Reader

Ade is an award-winning playwright and screenwriter and founder of Spora Stories. Her plays include her acclaimed debut, Pandora's Box, which won a Best New Play nomination in the Off-West End Theatre Awards and was shortlisted for the \$100,000 Nigeria Prize for Literature, Africa's biggest literary award. It toured to 17 UK venues. Her play The Court Must Have a Queen, commissioned by Historic Royal Palaces, was performed in the Great Hall at Hampton Court Palace. A double Fulbrighter, Ade is a '22-'23 Fulbright Distinguished International Scholar at Emerson College. Her original new play, Phillis in London, dramatizes and re-imagines Phillis Wheatley as an enslaved African Woman writer abroad in Georgian London, 'celebrated' by the elite of the capital of the British empire, at the height of the Transatlantic Slave Trade. She's become a friend of Old South, and we're so pleased to welcome her back on Phillis Wheatley Sunday!

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

PHILLIS WHEATLEY SUNDAY — May 14th, 2023 | 9AM & 11AM

Old South honors and learns from one of the saints of this church who was stolen from Africa, suffered the Middle Passage, was sold into slavery, and triumphed through her awesome wit and the mighty power of her pen.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY — November 5th, 2023 | 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 19th, 2023 | 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 24th, 2023

FAMILY SERVICE WITH IMPROMPTU PAGEANT | 5PM

LESSONS AND CAROLS | 8PM

CAROLS AND COMMUNION | 11PM

HOLY WEEK 2024

PALM SUNDAY — March 24th | 9AM & 11AM

MAUNDY THURSDAY — March 28th | 7PM

GOOD FRIDAY — March 29th | 12PM & 7PM

EASTER SUNDAY — March 31st | 9AM & 11AM

MARATHON SUNDAY — April 14th, 2024 | 9AM & 11AM

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

WEEKLY WORSHIP

First Worship *informal & vibrant* Sundays at 9 a.m. with communion

Festival Worship *grand & expressive* Sundays at 11 a.m.

Jazz Worship *with sax & soul* Thursdays at 6 p.m. with communion

Healing Worship *gentle & tender* 2nd Sundays at 12:30 p.m.

WELCOME TO OLD SOUTH CHURCH

For LARGE print bulletins or children's bulletins, please ask an Usher.

Restrooms are available. Just ask!

An accessible, single-use restroom is available near Reception.

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 outfit itself for mission and ministry in the 21st century as a thriving church in the heart of Boston. If you are interested in deepening your participation, or if you just love Old South, it's time to think about **membership**. Contact Interim Associate Minister Katherine Schofield at katherine@oldsouth.org

HEARING ASSISTANCE

Our hearing loop works directly with devices equipped with a "T-Coil." The sound is best if you sit further inside the pews, away from the aisles. The loop does not work in the upper galleries. If you would like to borrow a device paired with our system, please ask an usher.

GARAGE PARKING VALIDATIONS

We have arrangements for discounted parking with two nearby garages for Old South Church worship or church business (excluding weddings and concerts). For more information check out www.oldsouth.org/your-first-visit or see the front desk.

LEARN MORE

Check out the church website at www.oldsouth.org/calendar for a calendar of events, and the general website www.oldsouth.org for more on the history and other information about this storied ship of faith!

OLD SOUTH CHURCH *in* BOSTON — MINISTERS, OFFICERS, & STAFF

Richard E. Spalding, *Interim Senior Minister*
James W. Crawford, *Senior Minister Emeritus* ❖ Nancy S. Taylor, *Senior Minister Emeritus*
Ashley J. Popperson, *Associate Minister* ❖ Katherine A. Schofield, *Interim Associate Minister*
Donald A. Wells, *Theologian in Residence* ❖ June R. Cooper, *Theologian in the City*
David Story, *Wedding Minister* ❖ Ken Orth, *Healing Worship Minister*

Mitchell Crawford, *Minister of Music*
George Sargeant, *Associate Organist & Choirmaster*
Tim Harbold, *Director, Gospel Choir* ❖ Peter Coulombe, *Director, Old South Ringers*
Willie Sordillo, *Director, Jazz Worship Music*

Kate Nintcheu, *Director, Children & Family Ministries*
Summer Marsh, *Director, Old South Preschool*

Helen McCrady, *Senior Church Administrator* ❖ John Braught, *Director of Operations*
Jamie Garuti, *Multimedia Director* ❖ Linda Van Praet, *Accounting & Human Resources*
Alex Pickering, *Administrative Assistant* ❖ Emily Ross, *Archivist*
Rémy Hatfield-Gardner and William Wei, *Livestream Production Assistants*
Karen Hand, *Wedding Coordinator*

Elias Perez, *Senior Sexton* ❖ Ozo Nwodo, Richard Serebour, and David Brode, *Sextons*
Corey Spence, *Weekday Receptionist*
Shirley Bivins, Shelia Randolph, and George Sargeant, *Evening & Weekend Receptionists*

Phil Stern, *Moderator* ❖ Rob Gabler, *Clerk* ❖ Bill Bulkeley, *Treasurer*
Debby Kuenstner, *Chair, Board of Trustees* ❖ Kate Silfen, *Historian*
Christine Del Favero and Tony Rich, *Senior Deacons* ❖ Vicki Newman, *Pledge Secretary*

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.

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OLD
SOUTH
CHURCH
in BOSTON

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PHILLIS WHEATLEY SUNDAY

Sunday, May 14th

Join us as we celebrate this extraordinary young woman (who was baptized into the church on August 18th, 1771). Join us following each service as we promenaded to the Boston Women's Memorial to fete Phillis Wheatley on the occasion of her birthday. You are also welcome to view the recently updated Phillis Wheatley Room (4th Floor) including her portrait and a historical display.



MELVIN B. MILLER TO RECEIVE OPEN DOOR AWARD

Go to tinyurl.com/OpenDoorMelvinMiller for more info

This Sunday Old South is pleased to recognize Melvin B. Miller with its Open Door Award, presented annually on Phillis Wheatley Sunday to a hero of social justice, inclusivity and equity. Mr. Miller is a renowned journalist and publisher with more than 50 years of active involvement in Boston's political and public affairs. He founded the Bay State Banner in 1965, a weekly newspaper advocating for the interests of Boston's African American community, and served as publisher and editor until his recent retirement. Miller has championed civil rights and social justice throughout his career, shaping the conversation around these issues in Boston and beyond.

VESPERS HEALING WORSHIP

This Sunday, May 14th, 5 p.m. on Zoom, go to 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.

BOSTON HANDBELL FESTIVAL

Tuesday, May 16th, 7:30 p.m., Free Admission

On the third Tuesday of May, Old South Church hosts the Boston Handbell Festival, an annual celebration of handbell musicianship co-sponsored by the Back Bay Ringers and Old South. The Festival brings together local community handbell ensembles—the Back Bay Ringers, Merrimack Valley Ringers, New England Ringers, and Old South Ringers—and this year's guest choir, the Highland Ringers of Danvers, MA for an evening of ringing in Old South's beautiful sanctuary. The concert is free and open to the public. A freewill offering will be taken to support Back Bay Ringers' Chime donation program.



OLD SOUTH FORUM

Sundays, 10 a.m., 2nd Floor Mary Norton Hall, and on Zoom, password: Community

This casual, no-commitment, come-when-you-can forum hosts series on a variety of topics. Clergy, congregation members, and special guests share in leading sessions.

Theology Deep Dive

We'll wrap up the Forum program year with a word from our clergy leaders about those areas of theology that get them most excited. How does theology shape their ministry work, and what growing edges are they exploring in these areas?

May 21st - Rick Spalding will lead a discussion about Interfaith Engagement.

May 28th - Ashley Popperson will lead a discussion about Theopoetics.

SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR 2023 CHRISTIAN SERVICE AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE GRANTEES

Submit recommendations at tinyurl.com/2023CSOCNominations by Friday, May 26th

The Christian Service & Outreach Committee (CSOC) continues Old South's history of service by supporting the work of local non-profits through grant giving and by connecting our grantees with the vast human capital our congregation has to offer. We will be making one new grant award in 2023 and are soliciting recommendations from the congregation for organizations to consider. Grant awards are typically \$20,000 per year for a maximum of three years. We are particularly interested in learning about Boston-based non-profits that serve the local Boston community, with a focus on organizations led by people with lived experience on the issues they are addressing.

VOLUNTEER WITH OUR PARTNERS: MATTAPAN FOOD AND FITNESS COALITION

Go to tinyurl.com/2023MattapanFarmersMarket to sign up
Mattapan Food and Fitness Coalition is one of our Christian

Service and Outreach Grantees. In addition to their amazing work advocating for community health, they operate the Mattapan Square Farmer's Market. Helping with the Farmer's Market is one of the ways that Old Southerners can volunteer and make a difference in partnership with this great organization. The market runs on Saturdays from July to October and typically sees 200-400 shoppers per week. It is not only a place to purchase healthy food, but also serves as a place to bring residents together and as a resource for health education and other social issues. The market's 17th season starts July 8th and ends October 28th. There are lots of ways to help.



CELEBRATING HELEN McCRAHY!



HELEN CELEBRATION DAY

Sunday, May 21st

We hope that you'll join us at church (in person if you can) for the tributes and accolades, the prayers and blessings, the laughter and tears and gratitude with which we'll send Helen off into retirement, and mark an important milestone in the story of Old South. There will be commissionings at both First and Festival Worship, and a festive celebration at the Fellowship Hour following the Festival service (beginning at about Noon). A group led by Candace Kosturko has been hatching plans that will include music, photographs, tributes, and blessings. Don't miss it!

HELEN'S RETIREMENT PURSE

In keeping with Old South tradition, as our gift to honor Helen's service we're gathering a purse to enable her and John to celebrate retirement in style - and at their discretion! (In this case, keeping this tradition is a tad more complicated than usual because for two decades it's been Helen herself who has marshaled such collections!) If you prefer electronic donation, scan the QR code or go to <https://oldsouth.org/donate> and add your contribution to the collection for Helen. Or you can simply write a good old-fashioned check with "Helen's retirement" on the memo line (made out to Old South) and mail it to the church (attention: Alex Pickering) or drop it in the offering plate on Sunday. Alex, our Administrative Assistant, will be screening the mail so that checks for the purse are carefully put aside before Helen digs into the mail. Gifts can be made any time between now and May 21st - and will be accounted so as to ensure tax deductibility for contributors.



LEAVE HELEN KUDOS

Go to tinyurl.com/OSCHelenKudos to leave a memory or tribute before May 21st

Candace Kosturko and the celebration planners - Christine del Favero, Karen Hand, Kathy Wade, Ralph Watson and Stephanie LaShoto-Westfield - have created a special vessel for tributes, remembrances, well-wishes on a user-friendly website called KUDOBOARD. You can add photos (and video!), tributes and memories at will, any time between now and Helen Celebration Day. Though Helen is aware of this in-gathering of well-wishes and kudos, she won't be monitoring this site - so whatever you post won't be unveiled for her until May 21st. The plan is to make all the kudos into a book and a slide show, so the more the better!

GREEN TIP: Don't Idle

We idle our cars often and don't even think about it – like in drive-throughs, in traffic, and waiting to pick up our kids. But letting your car idle is bad for the environment. According to the US Department of Energy, idling reduces your vehicle's fuel economy, costs you money, and creates pollution. Idling for more than 10 seconds uses more fuel and produces more emissions that contribute to smog and climate change than stopping and restarting your engine does.

JAZZ WORSHIP

Thursdays, 6 p.m., in the Gordon Chapel or at oldsouth.org/jazz

Join us on in Gordon Chapel on Thursday evening for Jazz Worship! You don't have to be a jazz aficionado to feel at home - just someone who wants to immerse yourself in soulful music, inspiring words, and creative liturgy. It's intimate and it's welcoming. We start preludes shortly before 6:00 p.m.

SEEKING STAFF ACCOUNTANT

Full announcement at oldsouth.org/news/now-hiring-staff-accountant

Old South Church in Boston is seeking a full-time Staff Accountant to execute the day-to-day duties of the business office including paying invoices, completing payroll bi-weekly, basic HR duties, making bank deposits, data entry, and maintaining and monitoring financial records.



WEEKLY WORSHIP

**Join us in person, on Vimeo,
Facebook, and YouTube**

First Worship *informal & vibrant* Sundays at 9 a.m. with communion

Festival Worship *grand & expressive* Sundays at 11 a.m.

Jazz Worship *with sax & soul* Thursdays at 6 p.m. with communion

Vespers Healing Worship *gentle & tender* 2nd Sundays at 5 p.m.



*To give via ApplePay, GooglePay, or with a Credit Card,
scan the QR code with your smartphone camera.*

You can also Text 44-321 and enter OSC to make a gift.

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