



## Old South Church

*Copley Square, Boston*

*A Congregation of the  
United Church of Christ*

*Gathered 1669*

## First Sunday after the Epiphany

January 11, 2026 ♦ 11:00 a.m.

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

## GATHER

PRELUDE

Cello Sonata in G Minor, Op. 19  
III. Andante

Sergei Rachmaninoff

\*HYMN 558

**O How Glorious, Full of Wonder**

IN BABILONE

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Ashley J. Popperson

Our God invites us to stay awake

**For we do not know the day or the hour.**

In our wisdom and in our growing edges we gather

**We wait together for the expected One.**

Come beloveds, let us light our lamps and worship God

**Keep awake, for God is with us! Alleluia!**

**Amen.**

*\*Indicates all who are able may stand*

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

WELCOME

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Kate M. Nintcheu

**LISTEN**

ANTHEM

Keep Your Lamps!

André J. Thomas, *arr.*

*Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,  
the time is drawing nigh.*

Children, don’t get weary till your work is done.

Christian journey soon be over, the time is drawing nigh.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 25:1-13

Kara Duca-Johnson

\*HYMN 168

**O Radiant Christ, Incarnate Word**

DICKINSON COLLEGE

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

SERMON

John M. Edgerton

\*HYMN 163

**Many Are the Lightbeams**

LIGHTBEAMS

# RESPOND

## \*CALL TO PRAYER

Justin Dickerson

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

Adagio and Allegro  
in A-Flat Major, Op. 70  
I. Langsam, mit innigem Ausdruck  
Sam Ou, *cello*

Robert Schumann

## LAY REFLECTION

Bethany Duca-Johnson

## CALL TO THE OFFERING

Rachel J. Barton



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

Look at the World

John Rutter

Look at the world, everything all around us:  
look at the world, and marvel every day.  
Look at the world: so many joys and wonders,  
so many miracles along our way.

*Praise to thee, O Lord, for all creation,  
give us thankful hearts, that we may see:  
all the gifts we share, and every blessing,  
all things come of thee.*

Look at the earth bringing forth fruit and flower;  
look at the sky, the sunshine and the rain;  
look at the hills, look at the trees and mountains,  
valley and flowing river, field and plain:

Think of the spring, think of the warmth of summer  
bringing the harvest before the winter's cold.  
Everything grows, everything has a season,  
till it is gathered to the Savior's fold:

Every good gift, all that we need and cherish  
comes from the Lord in token of his love;  
we are his hands, stewards of all his bounty;  
his is the earth, and his the heavens above:

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*HYMN 160

**Hark! the Herald Angels Sing**  
(Jesus, the Light of the World)

ELDERKIN

\*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

John M. Edgerton

POSTLUDE



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

The flowers today are given in thanksgiving for the  
Old South Staff and Volunteers that made the holiday season sparkle.

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

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

### **ASH WEDNESDAY**

**February 18, 2026 | 12PM & 6PM**

At noon, a simple service of prayer, silence, confession, & imposition of ashes.

At 6PM, a special musical service featuring the Old South Festival Choir & incorporating “Holden Evening Prayer” by composer Marty Haugen.

### **HOLY WEEK 2026**

*Palm Sunday* — March 29 | 9AM & 11AM

*Maundy Thursday* — April 2 | 6PM

*Good Friday* — April 3 | 7PM

### **EASTER SUNDAY**

**April 5, 2026 | 9AM & 11AM**

The triumph of the Christian story of resurrection informs a service of worship that is characterized by joyous celebration.

### **MARATHON SUNDAY**

**April 19, 2026 | 9AM & 11AM**

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

### **ALL SAINTS SUNDAY**

**November 1, 2026 | 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 22, 2026 | 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 for Sunday worship services only. 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*

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



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **EXTRA! EXTRA! MARY NORTON TO VISIT OLD SOUTH! MEET THE LEGEND!**

*Sunday, January 11, following Festival Worship, Mary Norton Hall*

*Go to [tinyurl.com/1-2025MaryNortonRSVP](https://tinyurl.com/1-2025MaryNortonRSVP) to let us know you want to join us!*

Enjoy a delicious 17th century lunch by Carol Blair that includes ham, cornbread, coleslaw, baked beans and desserts. If you would like to contribute a pie or cobbler, it would be appreciated. Then wonder at a dramatic performance starring Pam Roberts, John Edgerton, Laurie Stickels, and Scott McInturff. The script, written by Debbie Weiss, will be read by the actors. It is based on an original premise by Mary Kohak and Debbie Wiess.

## **REVOLUTIONARY GENEROSITY— 2026 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN**

*Sunday Forum, January 11, 10am Mary Norton Hall*

*Questions? Contact Amelia Gerrard at [amelia@oldsouth.org](mailto:amelia@oldsouth.org) or 617-536-1970*

Come join us for conversation and coffee about Old South's Stewardship Campaign, and how congregational giving grows our church and lifts up so many beyond our doors. 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](https://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.

## **VESPERS HEALING WORSHIP**

*Next service January 11, 5pm on Zoom, Go to [tinyurl.com/OSCHealing](https://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.

## **COMMUNITY BUILDING WITH OUR MUSLIM NEIGHBORS**

*Sunday, January 11, 5-7pm, Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center, Roxbury*

*RSVP by email to John Edgerton at [jme@oldsouth.org](mailto:jme@oldsouth.org)*

We are living in days when immigrants in general, and Somalians in particular, are isolated and under attack. Our neighbors at the Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center are graciously inviting us to participate in an evening of community building and faith sharing. Islam and Christianity both share Jesus as a central figure in the faith. We'll share some light refreshments (they have an AMAZING cafe!) and also meet and build relationship with our neighbors.

## **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. If you are interested, please email Jenny Keenan at [JenniferHKeenan@gmail.com](mailto:JenniferHKeenan@gmail.com).

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

## **THEOLOGICAL BOOK GROUP NEWS**

New Book Begins Monday, January 26, on Zoom

Contact Don Wells at [granwell@comcast.net](mailto: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.

## **GREEN TIP—Harness Natural Heat and Light**

During the daylight hours, open your blinds and curtains. Sunlight not only is a natural light source but is also a source of heat. As night falls, close your curtains and blinds to trap the warmth inside.

## **OLD SOUTH PRESCHOOL CREATES DIAPER DROP OFF SITE**

Old South Preschool is partnering with local organization Diaper Circle to serve as a drop-off location. Diaper Circle collects items and distributes them to families in need across Greater Boston. The collection bin is in the lobby by the reception desk. We are accepting:

- new, unopened packs of diapers
- opened packs of diapers
- loose diapers (clean, of course!)
- new, unopened containers of wipes

## WINTER WALK TO END HOMELESSNESS:

Sunday, February 8th at 10 AM

Questions? Email Kat Woodard at [kat@oldsouth.org](mailto: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>.

## 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](https://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](mailto: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 BUDGET | February 1

Maren Batalden and council folks share budget plans for coming year

## DONATE FLOWERS FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP IN 2026

Email Amelia Gerrard at [amelia@oldsouth.org](mailto: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](https://oldsouth.org/donate).

## THURSDAY NIGHT CHURCH

*Thursdays, 6pm* Thursday Night Church is a worship service where the music is contemporary, the space is open-hearted and in-the-round, and the preaching is focused on how we can be the church together in the world.

## THURSDAY NIGHT SUPPER CLUB

*Thursdays, 7pm, Dinner returns January 8*

After worship, join us for Thursday Night Supper Club. Each week, folks can gather after worship for dinner and an informal small group hosted by some of our friendly and hospitable lay leaders.

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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.

**VESPER HEALING Worship**, Second Sundays at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom

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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)