

August 12, 2018
**Twelfth Sunday
after Pentecost**
11:00 am

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 Pastorale on FOREST GREEN Richard Purvis

*HYMN 320 **Deep in the Shadows of the Past** SHEPHERDS' PIPES

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Hebrews 4. 12-13 and Psalm 19:7-11) John M. Edgerton

One: The Word of God is living and active,
sharper than any two-edged sword,

All: piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow;

One: it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

All: The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul;

**Indicates all who are able may stand*

One: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;
All: the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;
One: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;
All: the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever;
One: the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether.
**All: More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.**

*A SIGN OF OUR UNITY AND RECONCILIATION

*We invite you to greet those around you,
wishing them "peace" or "the peace of Christ."*

WORDS OF WELCOME

ANTHEM

God Is Still Speaking

Marty Haugen

Refrain:

God is still speaking, blessed invitation!
God is still speaking, listen and draw near.
God is still speaking, see a new creation.
God is still speaking, stand and do not fear.

Open up your ears to hear: *God is still speaking.*
Living good news, strong and clear: *listen and draw near.*
Through the struggle, grief and pain: *God is still speaking.*
God can raise us up again: *stand and do not fear.* (refrain)

In the bleak and midnight hour: *God is still speaking.*
Sing the word of truth to power: *listen and draw near.*
To our fragile, wounded earth: *God is still speaking.*
God can bring new hope to birth: *stand and do not fear.* (refrain)

Though the nations rage and fight: *God is still speaking.*
Hear the voice of grace and light: *listen and draw near.*
Choose the way that leads to peace: *God is still speaking.*
True compassion, sweet release: *stand and do not fear.* (refrain)

LISTEN

SCRIPTURE

Selected verses from selected biblical books

One: From the Book of Genesis, the first verse:

All: In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

One: From Book of Numbers, the first verse:

All: The Lord spoke to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the tent of meeting, on the first day of the second month, in the second year, after they had come out of the land of Egypt.

One: From the Book of Job, the first verse:

All: There was once a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job.

One: From the Book of Ecclesiastes, the first verse:

All: The words of the Teacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem: 'Vanity of vanities,' says the Teacher. 'Vanity of vanities! All is vanity!'

One: From the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel, the first verse:

All: In the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, on the fifth day of the month, as I was among the exiles by the river Chebar, the heavens were opened and I saw visions of God.

One: From the Book of the Prophet Hosea, the second verse:

All: When the Lord first spoke through Hosea, the Lord said to Hosea, "Go, take for yourself a wife of harlotry and have children of harlotry, for the land commits great harlotry by forsaking the Lord."

One: From the Gospel according to Mark, the first verse:

All: The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

One: From the Acts of the Apostles, the first two verses:

All: In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven...

One: From the Revelation to John, verses one and three:

All: The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place; and God made it known by sending an angel to God's servant John. Blessed are they who read aloud the words of the prophesy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written therein.

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| *HYMN 319 | Sing Them Over Again to Me | WORDS OF LIFE |
| | <i>Children may leave for childcare</i> | |
| SERMON | The Greatest Story | Nancy S. Taylor |
| *HYMN 522 | I Love to Tell the Story | HANKEY |

RESPOND

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| *CALL TO PRAYER | Anthony T. Livolsi |
| 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. <i>(You may be seated)</i> | |

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*unison*)

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.

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| PRAYER RESPONSE | Canzona on LIEBSTER JESU | Purvis |
|-----------------|--------------------------|--------|

*"Blessed Jesus, at your word we are gathered all to hear you.
Let our hearts and souls be stirred and in glowing faith be near you.
By your gospel pure and holy, teach us, Lord, to love you solely."*

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

O God of Light

Robert A. Hobby

O God of light, your Word, a lamp unfailing,
Shall pierce the darkness of our earthbound way
And show your grace, your plan for us unveiling,
And guide our footsteps to the perfect day.

From days of old, through blind and willful ages,
Though we rebelled you gently sought again
And spoke through saints, apostles, prophets, sages,
Who wrote with eager or reluctant pen.

Undimmed by time, those words are still revealing
To sinful hearts your justice and your grace;
And questing spirits, longing for your healing,
See your compassion in the Savior's face.

To all the world your summons you are sending
Through all the earth, to ev'ry land and race,
That myriad tongues, in one great anthem blending,
May praise and celebrate your gift of grace.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

John M. Edgerton

*HYMN 17

To You, O God, All Creatures Sing
(verses 1-4 only)

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

Nancy S. Taylor

POSTLUDE

How Firm a Foundation

Dale Wood, *arr.*



Close-Up, a 20-minute tour of the Sanctuary, begins following
worship at the front of the Sanctuary. Led by docent Mary Hunter.

On display this morning are three Old South Church “family” Bibles:



Small: A Danish Bible (printed in 1695) measuring 6 ¾” tall by 4” wide by 4” thick

Medium: The Mount Vernon Congregational Church Bible rescued from fire (printed in 1871)

Large: The pulpit Bible presented to our newly built Meetinghouse in 173 (Hebrew scriptures printed in 1717; New Testament printed in 1716). This is the Bible Samuel Adams and Phillis Wheatley would have heard read from during worship services.

Notes on Today's Music
from MITCHELL CRAWFORD

Featured at Festival Worship today are two works by American organist and composer **Richard Purvis** (1913–1994). A native of San Francisco, Purvis was naturally musically inclined, and became enamored with the pipe organ from an early age. As a teenager, he was already performing on the instrument publicly in both church and theatre — specifically at San Francisco's **Civic Auditorium**. He subsequently cultivated a radio personality (“Don Irving”), performing nightly broadcasts on KRE radio, a local station. After attending the **Curtis Institute of Music** in Philadelphia, Purvis continued his studies abroad, both in France and England. Following America's entry into the second World War, Purvis enlisted in the United States Army. He attended army music school in 1943 and was assigned to the 28th Infantry Division Band as bandmaster. Dramatically, he was captured in the Battle of the Bulge and held prisoner in Bavaria for over six months.

Purvis is closely associated with **Grace Cathedral** in San Francisco, where he served as Organist and Master of Choristers from 1947 until his retirement in 1971. At Grace, Purvis had at his disposal the stunningly beautiful 93 rank Aeolian Skinner pipe organ (“**Gussie**”) — among the first to be built by the firm in what would come to be known as the ‘American Classic’ style. The instrument is of singular importance in understanding his organ works, as its unique, elegant sonorities inform his compositional decisions. Among the hallmark features of the distinctive “Purvis sound” which emerged are tremulants regulated for maximum speed and depth, in the manner of theatre organs.

The two pieces heard today are taken from a larger set, *7 Chorale Preludes On Tunes Found in American Hymnals*, published in 1949.

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 outfit itself for mission and ministry in the 21st century as a thriving urban church in the heart of Boston. Join us immediately following worship for fellowship and refreshments in the Gordon Chapel.

The flowers today are given in loving memory of Charlotte Holmes by the Mount Vernon Church.

If you need to stretch your legs during worship the Gordon Chapel has full audio of the Sanctuary service throughout.

Name tags facilitate community and help newcomers feel welcomed. If you don't see a tag with your name on it, let us know. For LARGE print bulletins or hearing assistance devices ask an Usher.

HEARING ASSISTED DEVICES

Old South has installed a **Hearing Loop** in the Sanctuary, the latest technology in hearing assisted devices.

1. If you have a hearing aid: the loop works directly for those whose hearing aids have a "T-Coil."
2. If you are hard of hearing but don't use an aid: ask for one the devices that is paired with the loop.

Note: The sound will be best if you sit further inside the pews, away from the aisles. The loop does NOT work in the upper galleries.

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):

1. Park at the **Garage@100 Clarendon** (behind Back Bay Station), have your ticket validated at our Front Desk, and **you** pay the discounted rate of \$7 for up to 3 hours. Old South bears no cost.
2. Park at the **Prudential Garage** for up to 5 hours on Saturday or Sunday, have your ticket validated at our Front Desk, and the Prudential Garage will bill **Old South** (costing us \$15k - \$20k per year).

CALENDAR

Sunday, August 12 9:00 am FIRST Worship, *Nancy S. Taylor preaching*
 9:45 am Old South Café in Gordon Chapel
10:00 am HEALING Worship
10:00 am Lectionary Bible Study
10:00 am Summer Choir Rehearsal
10:00 am Summer Church School
11:00 am FESTIVAL Worship, *Nancy S. Taylor preaching*
12:15 pm Fellowship Hour in Gordon Chapel

Wednesday, August 15 7:00 pm Music Committee
 6:15 pm Young Adult Book Group

Thursday, August 16 6:00 pm Jazz Worship, *Cal Genzel preaching*
 7:00 pm Young Adult Book Group

Sunday, August 19 9:00 am FIRST Worship, *Cal Genzel preaching*
 9:45 am Old South Café in Gordon Chapel
10:00 am Lectionary Bible Study
10:00 am Summer Choir Rehearsal
10:00 am Summer Church School
11:00 am FESTIVAL Worship, *Cal Genzel preaching*
12:15 pm Fellowship Hour in Gordon Chapel
12:30 pm Climate Change Discussion Group

LOOKING AHEAD

Thursday August 23 6:00 pm JAZZ Worship, *Anthony T. Livolsi preaching*

Sunday, August 26 9:00 am FIRST Worship, *Anthony T. Livolsi preaching*
 11:00 am FESTIVAL Worship, *Anthony T. Livolsi preaching*

Thursday, September 30 6:00 pm JAZZ Worship, *John M. Edgerton preaching*

Sunday, September 2 9:00 am FIRST Worship, *John M. Edgerton preaching*
 11:00 am FESTIVAL Worship, *John M. Edgerton preaching*

**OLD SOUTH CHURCH IN BOSTON
MINISTERS, OFFICERS, AND STAFF**

Nancy S. Taylor, *Senior Minister*
John M. Edgerton, *Associate Minister* ❖ Anthony T. Livolsi, *Associate Minister*
James W. Crawford, *Senior Minister Emeritus*
Mitchell Crawford, *Minister of Music*
Kate Nintcheu, *Director, Children & Family Ministries*
Donald A. Wells, *Theologian in Residence* ❖ June R. Cooper, *Theologian in the City*
Calvin Genzel, *Wedding Outreach Minister* ❖ Ken Orth, *Healing Worship Minister*
Martha Schick, *Youth & Young Adult Ministries Leader*
Carolyn Davis, *Director, Old South Preschool*
George Sargeant, *Associate Organist & Choirmaster*
Tim Harbold, *Director, Gospel Choir* ❖ Willie Sordillo, *Director, Jazz Worship Music*
Peter Coulombe, *Director, Old South Ringers* ❖ Amy Budka, *Children's Music Leader*

Deb Washington, *Moderator* ❖ Rob Gabler, *Clerk* ❖ Bill Bulkeley, *Treasurer*
Randy Billings, *Chair, Board of Trustees* ❖ Emily Click, *Historian*
Stephanie LaShoto & Ralph Watson, *Senior Deacons* ❖ Vicki Newman, *Pledge Secretary*

Helen McCrady, *Sr Church Administrator* ❖ Jamie Garuti, *Communications Administrator*
Linda Van Praet, *Accounting & Human Resources* ❖ David Albaugh, *Building Manager*
Allison Albaugh, *Wedding Coordinator* ❖ Lena Rojas, *Administrative Assistant*
Rebecca Bowler, *Administrative Assistant* ❖ Emily Ross, *Archivist*
Elias Perez, *Senior Sexton* ❖ Ozo Nwodo, Oponng Serebour, & David Brode *Sextons*
Corey Spence, Rubia Reyes & Carrie Swayne-Gerrish, *Receptionists*

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUMMER FUN

CHORUS PRO MUSICA SUMMER SINGS

August 13th and 20th from 7:30pm to 10pm at Old South Church

Come sing with Chorus pro Musica at their annual Summer Sings, held the first three Monday evenings in August! Each night, they'll rehearse a great work of choral literature with a short break to socialize and eat some snacks. Singers of all levels are welcomed. No experience necessary to participate. You are also welcome to sit and listen if you prefer.

YOUNG ADULT TRIVIA NIGHT AT CLERY'S

August 22nd, 7:45pm at Clery's

Join the Old South Young Adults for Stump! Trivia at Clery's, just down the street from OSC on Dartmouth Street. We'll split into teams when we arrive and try to beat our current record of third place! This is all about fun, so trivia newbies are more than welcome. Feel free to invite significant others or non-church pals in their 20s or 30s. RSVP to martha@oldsouth.org.

OLD SOUTH OUTDOORS

Sunday, August 26th at Church of the Woods

This summer Old South has gone on a series of group hikes and excursions, and we have one left! We'll deepen our experiences of community and discover God in the beauty and majesty of the natural world. Immediately following First Worship, at 10 a.m., we will depart, carpooling from the church. Send questions and RSVPs to Rev. Anthony Livolsi at anthony@oldsouth.org.

SUMMER FUN READING & SEPTEMBER MEET UP

Love reading but can't make the typical 12-week commitment to a small group? Our Monday evening Spiritual Classics small group invites all of Old South to read Elizabeth Strout's *Abide With Me* over the summer, then gather to discuss it in September. For more information, email David Becker david.becker@mac.com or Karen Hand kshand@mac.com

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

MOBILE SOUP KITCHEN FOR FAMILIES

Sunday, August 26th, 10am-12:30pm

We're at it again! It's time to feed our neighbors - and we're looking for 4-5 families to help out. We'll begin at 10am on the 2nd floor kitchen, preparing and assembling soup, sandwiches, and bags of goodies for our neighbors. Then we will load it up on a cart and take it outside to pass it out - this could take until 12:30pm (although we've generally wrapped up before 12).

This is a limited-space opportunity, so RSVPs should be solid. Contact Kate Nintcheu at children@oldsouth.org to reserve your family's spot!

OUR WHOLE LIVES CLASSES

Our Whole Lives (OWL) is a comprehensive sexuality education program developed by the Unitarian Universalists and the United Church of Christ. This holistic program provides lessons around issues of relationship-building, boundaries, and personal spiritual development alongside practical and explicit information on sexual health and development.

Old South is partnering with sister UCC churches (First Cambridge and First Somerville) to present this school-year long class on Sunday afternoons from 1:30 - 3:15 beginning on September 16th. Our OSC teachers are Martha Schick and Rory Razon. If you know of a student who will be in grades 7 - 8 (or in special cases 9th grade), please talk to Kate Nintcheu about how to get involved!

PARENT MEETUP: WIGGLER'S EDITION

Sunday, August 26th at 10am

Who: Parents & Babies | **What:** Breakfast & Fellowship | **Where:** Green Room, Floor 3

New parents know how difficult it can be to connect with others who are also experiencing the joys and challenges of new parenthood. To help solve this problem, Old South is hosting its Family Meet-up: Wiggler's Edition! You're invited to join other families with "wigglers" (infants and toddlers) for food and fellowship. Drop in anytime between worship services, and feel free to bring strollers and diaper bags.

JUSTICE & ACTION

45 OLD SOUTHERS NEEDED FOR DA CANDIDATE FORUM

August 23rd 7pm-9pm

District Attorneys have enormous power in the criminal justice system--deciding on sentencing, bail, use of mandatory minimums, and more. A reform minded DA could go a long way to eliminating racial disparities in our criminal justice system. That is why the DA elections for Suffolk County and Middlesex County are perhaps the most important item that will be on your ballot. Hosted by GBIO, this forum features eight candidates running for DA. Learn where the candidates stand on the most important issues facing our criminal justice system. Old South is committed to bringing 45 people to this event, please seriously consider attending. RSVP to john@oldsouth.org

MARCH FOR OUR LIVES, 50 MILES MORE

August 23rd - August 25th

Following the school shooting in Parkland Florida, young people across this country took up leadership roles to help reduce gun violence. Here in Boston, young people are taking a bold, public stance. 125 teenagers are marching the 50 miles from Worcester to Springfield, to stage a protest in at the headquarters of Smith and Wesson, demanding that Smith and Wesson stop abusive business practices that put peoples' lives at risk.

You can support these young people by marching along with them for portions of the march. People of all ages are welcome, but they are particularly looking for adults. RSVP to John@oldsouth.org

CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP

Sunday, August 19th and Sunday, September 9th at 12:30 p.m. in the Guild Room

Climate change is one of the most pressing moral crises of our time, and Old South is gearing up to tackle it head on. Get in on the ground floor as we begin to build a team of Old Southerners ready to help our congregation take bold action on climate. Rev. Anthony Livolsi will help facilitate the meeting. Please RSVP to Mary Ann Lape at malape70@gmail.com.

COMMUNITY LIFE

OLD SOUTH ENCYCLOPEDIA

To celebrate our upcoming 350th anniversary, we're writing our very own encyclopedia, titled "Concise Encyclopedia: Theological, Historical & Whimsical of Old South Church in Boston". We need volunteers to do research and write entries!

So far 170 topics have been claimed by 64 writers. Sign up for a topic before they're all taken! To participate, visit www.oldsouth.org/encyclopedia. If you do not have access to the internet, you can still participate — simply pick up the submission form and instructions at the Front Desk.

ALL CHURCH RETREAT

October 5th - 7th at Craigville Retreat Center on Cape Cod

Join us for three days of learning, worship (on the beach!), and play at the annual All Church Retreat. This year—with environmental concerns on many of our minds—we will Encounter the Sacred in Nature. Rev Stephen Blackmer and Liz Hannah, from the Church of the Woods in Canterbury, NH, will help us explore our relationship to God and God's world, theologically, spiritually, and experientially. Register at tinyurl.com/OSCRetreat or grab a form from the front desk. Questions? Email anthony@oldsouth.org or children@oldsouth.org.

MONTHLY CAREGIVING SUPPORT GROUP

Meets the second Tuesday of every month, 11am, at Old South

Are you providing care for others and find the emotional burden to be sometimes overwhelming? Old South's monthly Caregiver Support Group, led by social worker and Old South member Rich Hassinger, is a structured space in which you can reflect, process, and be encouraged in your ministry of compassion. For more information, contact anthony@oldsouth.org.

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 in the Sanctuary, for any length of time.

OLD SOUTH CHURCH *in* BOSTON

(617) 536 - 1970 OldSouth.org

