

**Christmas Eve**  
December 24, 2019  
8:00 p.m.

**A CANDLELIGHT SERVICE  
OF LESSONS AND CAROLS**

*It is Christmas time, a halting of hate time.  
On this platform of peace, we can create a language  
to translate ourselves to ourselves and to each other.  
At this holy instant, we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.*

— *from Amazing Peace: A Christmas Poem, by Maya Angelou*

PRELUDE

Pastorale  
Greensleeves  
*Puer natus est*

J. S. Bach  
Richard Purvis  
Everett Titcomb

\*CAROL

**O Come, All Ye Faithful**

ADESTE FIDELIS

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;  
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!**

*refrain:*

**O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!**

**Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! (*refrain*)**

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born that happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! (*refrain*)**

\*CHRISTMAS CREED FROM LATIN AMERICA

Amo Ngoepe,  
*Pastoral Resident*

**I believe in Jesus Christ and in the power of the gospel, begun in Bethlehem.  
I believe in the One whose spirit glorified a small village, of whose coming  
shepherds saw the sign, and for whom there was no room at the inn.  
I believe in the One whose life changed the course of history, over whom the  
rulers of the earth had no power, and who was not understood by the  
proud.  
I believe in the One to whom the oppressed, the discouraged, the afflicted,  
the sick, the blind, the injured give welcome, and accept as Lord and  
Savior.  
I believe in the One who — with love — changed the hearts of the proud and  
with His life showed that it is better to serve than to be served, and that  
the greatest joy is giving your life for others.  
I believe in peace, which is not the absence of war, but justice among all  
people and nations and love among all.**

\* Indicates all who are able may stand

I believe in reconciliation, forgiveness, and the transforming power of the gospel. I believe that Christmas is strength and power, and that this world can change, if with humility and faith, we kneel before the manger. I believe that I must be the first one to do so.

WELCOME AND BIDDING PRAYER

The Rev. Dr. Nancy S. Taylor,  
*Senior Minister*

\*CAROL

**It Came Upon the Midnight Clear**

CAROL

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:  
“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven’s all-gracious King”:  
the world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long;  
beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled two thousand years of wrong;  
and we at war on earth hear not the tidings that they bring;  
O, hush the noise and cease the strife to hear the angels sing!

And you, beneath life’s crushing load, whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,  
look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing:  
O, rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,  
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
and all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.

THE FIRST LESSON *The angel Gabriel visits the Virgin Mary*  
Amo Ngoepe, *Pastoral Resident*

Luke 1: 26–35; 38

ANTHEM

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

Calvin Hampton

God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,  
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day;  
To save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray:

*O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy!*

From God our heavenly Father a blessed angel came;  
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same;  
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name: *(refrain)*

“Fear not, then,” said the angel, “Let nothing you affright;  
This day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright,  
to free all those who trust in him from Satan's power and might.” *(refrain)*

Sing praises, praises to the Lord, all you within this place,  
And with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace;  
This holy tide of Christmas doth bring redeeming grace: *(refrain)*

THE SECOND LESSON *Luke tells of the birth of Jesus*

Luke 2:1-7

Manuel Navia, *Old South Church Council and Board of Trustees*

ANTHEM

Shepherd's Pipe Carol

John Rutter

Going through the hills on a night all starry on the way to Bethlehem,  
Far away I heard a shepherd boy piping on the way to Bethlehem.

*Angels in the sky brought this message nigh: “Dance and sing for joy that Christ the new-born King  
is come to bring us peace on earth, and he's lying cradled there at Bethlehem.”*

“Tell me, shepherd boy piping tunes so merrily on the way to Bethlehem,  
Who will hear your tunes on these hills so lonely on the way to Bethlehem?” *(refrain)*

“None may hear my pipes on these hills so lonely on the way to Bethlehem;  
But a King will hear me play sweet lullabies when I get to Bethlehem.”  
*Angels in the sky came down from on high, hovered o'er the manger where the babe was lying  
cradled in the arms of his mother Mary, sleeping now at Bethlehem.*

“Where is this new King, shepherd boy piping merrily, is he there at Bethlehem?”  
“I will find him soon by the star shining brightly in the sky o’er Bethlehem.” (*refrain*)

“May I come with you, shepherd boy piping merrily, come with you to Bethlehem?  
Pay my homage too at the new King’s cradle, is it far to Bethlehem?”  
*Angels in the sky brought this message nigh: “Dance and sing for joy that Christ the infant King  
is born this night in lowly stable yonder — born for you at Bethlehem.”*

THE THIRD LESSON *The Angels and Shepherds pay homage to the babe* Luke 2: 8-14  
Liesel Krohne, *Old South Church Confirmation Class*

ANTHEM Go Tell It on the Mountain  
Evelyn Simpson-Curenton, *arr.*

*Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. (*refrain*)

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior’s birth. (*refrain*)

FOURTH LESSON *The wise men are led by the star to Jesus* Matthew 2: 1–12  
The Rev. Dr. James W. Crawford, *Senior Minister Emeritus*

\*CAROL **We Three Kings** Steve Pilkington, *arr.*

**We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.**

*refrain:*

**O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!**

**Born a King on Bethlehem’s plain, gold I bring to crown him again,  
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign. (*refrain*)**

**Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a deity nigh;  
prayer and praising voices raising, worshiping God on High. (*refrain*)**

*choir alone: (the refrain is sung by all)*

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

**All:** (*refrain*)

**Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! sounds through the earth and skies. (*refrain*)**

A CHRISTMAS WORD

Nancy S. Taylor

\*CAROL

**Joy to the World**

ANTIOCH

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;  
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.**

THE CHRISTMAS OFFERING

The Rev. June R. Cooper,  
*Theologian in the City*

OFFERTORY

O Holy Night

John Rutter, *arr.*

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining, it is the night of the dear savior's birth;  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining, till he appeared, and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.  
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices! O night divine! O night when Christ was born.

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming, with glowing hearts by his cradle we stand.  
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming, here came the wise men from Orient land.  
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger, in all our trials born to be our Friend!  
He knows our need—to our weakness is no stranger.  
Behold your King; before him lowly bend!

Truly he taught us to love one another; his law is love and his gospel is peace.  
Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother,  
and in his name all oppression shall cease.  
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we, let all within us praise his holy Name.  
Christ is the Lord, then ever, ever praise we, his power and glory evermore proclaim.

PASSING THE CHRIST LIGHT

The Rev. Shawn M. Fiedler,  
*Acting Associate Minister*

PASSAGES OF LIGHT

*Members of our Youth Group*

CAROL

**Silent Night**

STILLE NACHT

**Silent night! Holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright  
'round yon virgin mother and child!  
Holy infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace,  
sleep in heavenly peace.**

*(continued, next page)*

Silent night! Holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight.  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
heav'nly hosts sing: "Alleluia!  
Christ the Savior is born!  
Christ the Savior is born!"

Silent night! Holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light  
radiant beams from Thy holy face  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth!  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth!

*Be sure to extinguish your candle before rising.*

BENEDICTION

Nancy S. Taylor

\*CAROL

**Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

MENDELSSOHN

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity,  
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"



POSTLUDE

*In Dulci Jubilo*, BWV 729

J. S. Bach



## MERRY CHRISTMAS!

The poinsettias are given by Old South members and friends,  
in honor and in memory of loved ones.  
A listing of gifts is available in the back of the Sanctuary.



## NEW YEAR'S EVE AT OLD SOUTH

*Tuesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>*

### **MEET THE KING OF INSTRUMENTS** *3 p.m. in the Sanctuary*

Experience the “sensurround” magnificence of Old South Church's mighty 1921 E. M. Skinner pipe organ — affectionately dubbed the “Copley Philharmonic Organ.” In repertoire designed to showcase its myriad colors, Old South Minister of Music Mitchell Crawford offers a diverse program the whole family is sure to enjoy. Free and open to the public.

### **FIRST NIGHT PIPES AND POPS CONCERT** *6:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. in the Sanctuary*

The best of Boston's brass and percussion artists join Old South Minister of Music Mitchell Crawford in a supersonic program, presenting fun and engaging arrangements of popular classics, as well as a seasonal sing of “Auld Lang Syne.” Free and open to the public.

### **WORSHIP WITH US**

**First Worship** *informal & vibrant* Sundays, 9 am

**Festival Worship** *grand & expressive* Sundays, 11 am

**Jazz Worship** *with soul & sax* Thursdays, 6 pm

**Healing Worship** *gentle & tender* Second Sundays, 10 am

## OLD SOUTH CHURCH IN BOSTON MINISTERS, OFFICERS, & STAFF

Nancy S. Taylor, *Senior Minister* ❖ James W. Crawford, *Senior Minister Emeritus*  
Katherine A. Schofield, *Interim Associate Minister* ❖ Shawn M. Fiedler, *Acting Associate Minister*  
Mitchell Crawford, *Minister of Music*  
Kate Nintcheu, *Director, Children & Family Ministries*  
Donald A. Wells, *Theologian in Residence* ❖ June R. Cooper, *Theologian in the City*  
Amo Ngoepe, *Pastoral Resident*  
David Story, *Executive Assistant to the Senior 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* ❖ Evan Shu, *Historian*  
Stephanie LaShoto & Ralph Watson, *Senior Deacons* ❖ Vicki Newman, *Pledge Secretary*  
  
Helen McCrady, *Senior Church Administrator* ❖ Jamie Garuti, *Communications Administrator*  
Linda Van Praet, *Accounting & Human Resources* ❖ David Albaugh, *Building Manager*  
Allison Albaugh, *Wedding Coordinator* ❖ Emily Ross, *Archivist* ❖ Rebecca Pasipanodya, *Administrative Assistant*  
Elias Perez, *Senior Sexton* ❖ Ozo Nwodo, Richard Serebour, & David Brode, *Sextons*  
Corey Spence, Rubia Reyes, & Shirley Bivins *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.