

One: In the future, when we have turned to dust
and all we know has found its fulfillment,
Many: God will be.
One: Not denying the world, but delighting in it,
not condemning the world, but redeeming it,
through Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.
Many: God was. God is. God will be.
One: In the name of the God who was, and is, and will be ...
Many: let us greet one another.
One: The peace of Christ be with you.
Many: And also with you and with all who are here.
One: Please share Christ's precious peace, one with another.

*A SIGN OF OUR UNITY IN OUR DIVERSITY

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

WORDS OF WELCOME

Nancy S. Taylor

ANTHEM

At the River

Aaron Copland

Shall we gather by the river,
Where bright angels' feet have trod,
With its crystal tide forever
Flowing by the throne of God.

*Yes, we'll gather by the river,
The beautiful, the beautiful river,
Gather with the saints by the river
That flows by the throne of God.*

Soon we'll reach the shining river,
Soon our pilgrimage will cease,
Soon our happy hearts will quiver
With the melody of peace.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

INTRODUCTION AND ADDRESS

Nancy S. Taylor

Old South clergy assisting in today's baptisms:

The Rev. Emily Click, Assistant Dean, *Harvard Divinity School*

The Rev Frankie Doolittle, *Pastoral Counselor*

The Rev. William Ragan, *Ministerial Associate, Payson Park Church*

Betsy Wooster, *Seminarian*

LITANY OF BAPTISM

Minister: We are gathered to present Paula Grace, Martha Jane, Clara Maude, Maddison May, and Isabella to the Church and to dedicate them to God. What can we affirm about them?

People: They are children of God, made in God's image.

Minister: As these young ones grow and mature, how will they know they are children of God and how will they learn of the Christian story?

People: We will tell them about Abraham and Sarah, the parents of our faith; about Moses and Miriam who led our ancestors out of bondage; about Mary and Joseph's openness to mystery; about the Savior, Jesus.

Minister: In turn, what will we expect of them?

People: We look forward to sitting with them at the Lord's Table, sharing with them the costs and joys of discipleship, learning and growing with them in the Christian pilgrimage, and declaring with one voice our faith in God and God's son, Jesus.

Minister: Do you, Katie and Carrie, Alexander and Lisa, Andrew and Michelle, and Christina and Elizabeth, parents, assume your primary responsibility for fulfilling these expectations by growing with your children in the Christian faith, helping them to become faithful members of the church of Jesus Christ, and by offering them the nurture and support of the Christian church? And do you, Hannah and Stephanie, Anna and Michael, Sarah and Daniel, and Catherine and George, Godparents, agree to guide your godchildren into

becoming engaged and complete human beings, teaching them about personal sacrifice for a greater good, about grace and reconciliation at times of human weakness, and the power of unconditional love for all people?

Parents/Godparents: We happily and genuinely accept this serious duty.

Minister: And Old South Church, do you pledge to maintain a nurturing and challenging Christian environment for Paula, Martha, Clara, Maddison, and Isabella?

People: We do, for they belong to us as well.

Minister: Then, may God be with us.

People: God help us. Amen.

THE PRAYER AND ACT OF BAPTISM

CONGREGATIONAL WELCOME

Kate Silfen, *Deacon*

We rejoice in God's empowering love, freely given to each and all. We welcome you, newly baptized, into the circle of love in Christ's church. We promise to pray for you, to seek the depths of faith with you, to support you, and to love you. We covenant with you to love God with all our hearts, minds, souls, and strength, and our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.

HYMN OF BAPTISM 325 *seated*

Child of Blessing

STUTTGART

*Children may leave for care.
Children's Choir will not meet today.*

LISTEN

SCRIPTURE

Acts 9:36-42

Emily Click

One: Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas.

Many: She was devoted to good works and acts of charity.

One: At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request,

Many: "Please come to us without delay."

One: So Peter got up and went⁴ with them; and when he arrived, they

took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed.

Many: **He turned to the body and said, “Tabitha, get up.”**

One: Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive.

Many: **This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.**

SERMON When Water Is Thicker Than Blood Nancy S. Taylor

*HYMN 376 **God, We Thank You for Our People** HOLY MANNA

RESPOND

*CALL TO PRAYER

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. *You may be seated.*

PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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 Simple Gifts Copland

‘Tis the gift to be simple, ‘tis the gift to be free
‘Tis the gift to come down where you ought to be
And when we find ourselves in the place just right
‘Twill be in the valley of love and delight.

When true simplicity is gained
To bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed
To turn, turn will be our delight
'Till by turning, turning, we come round right.

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Frankie Doolittle

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Zion's Walls

Copland

Come fathers and mothers,
Come sisters and brothers,
Come join us in singing the praises of Zion.
O fathers, don't you feel determined
To meet within the walls of Zion?
We'll shout and go round
The walls of Zion.

*SONG OF PRAISE

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ the Word in flesh born low; Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise Holy Spirit evermore; One God, Triune, whom we adore.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen!**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN 8

Praise to the Living God

DIADEMATA

*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

Nancy S. Taylor

POSTLUDE

There Is a Happy Land

Larry Shackley, *arr.*



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

*Emily Click, today's Scripture Reader, is a ten year member of Old South
and serves as a docent and member of the 350th Anniversary Committee.*

Notes on Today's Music

from MITCHELL CRAWFORD

Music for Festival Worship today draws on the famous settings of *Old American Songs* composed by Aaron Copland (1900–1990) in two sets issued in 1950 and 1952. The songs were a response to a request from composer **Benjamin Britten**, who with tenor Peter Pears premiered the first set at the 1951 **Music and Art Festival in Aldeburgh, England**. Copland and baritone **William Warfield** would give the first American performances later that year. Of the ten solo songs comprised in the collections most have subsequently been arranged for choir.

At the River is derived from a much-loved hymn by **Robert Lowry**, who likewise penned *How Can I Keep From Singing*. Copland begins with a simple accompaniment which gains in strength and intensity beginning with the interlude before the final verse. It was fittingly included in memorial concerts for both Copland and his friend, Leonard Bernstein.

Simple Gifts is the most familiar of the tunes Copland uses in *Old American Songs*, and was used to great effect in his 1944 ballet, *Appalachian Spring*. The oddly offbeat accompaniment was said by Warfield to be Copland's appropriation of "recitative style," and gives the illusion of a slower tempo even though the hymn itself is fairly brisk.

Zion's Walls is a revivalist tune with words and music by **John McCurry**, a farmer from Georgia who in 1855 published *The Social Harp*, a collection "tunes, odes, anthems, and set pieces" from the shape-note tradition. Copland would develop the song further, using it as the basis for *The Promise of Living* in his opera *The Tender Land*.

Today's Music in Brief

We welcome the return of **Leslie Amper**, *pianist*.

George Shearing (1919–2011), British jazz pianist and composer of over 300 titles, including the jazz standard *Lullaby of Birdland*.

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 by Helen McCrady in loving memory of her parents Ned & Sally McCrady

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, October 7	9:00 am	FIRST Worship, <i>Nancy S. Taylor preaching</i>
	9:45 am	Old South Café in Gordon Chapel
	10:00 am	Lectionary Bible Study
	10:00 am	Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 am	Church School
	10:00 am	Community Hour
	11:00 am	FESTIVAL Worship, <i>Nancy S. Taylor preaching</i>
	11:15 am	Children's Music
	12:15 pm	Fellowship Hour
Monday, October 8	All Day	Church Closed for Indigenous Peoples' Day
Tuesday, October 9	5:30 pm	Membership Committee
	6:00 pm	Old South Ringers Rehearsal
	7:00 pm	Church Council
Wednesday, October 10	12:00 pm	Men's Lunch Hour Small Group
	6:00 pm	Young Adult Small Group – "The Beatitudes"
	6:45 pm	Young Adult Small Group
Thursday, October 11	12:00 pm	Women's Lunch Hour Small Group
	6:00 pm	JAZZ Worship, <i>Nancy S. Taylor preaching</i>
	6:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 pm	"Through the Bible" Study
	7:00 pm	Young Adult Book Group – "The Sin of Certainty"
	7:00 pm	Young Adult Open Small Group
	8:00 pm	Women's Christianity and Civic Life Small Group
Friday, October 12	6:00 pm	Parents Night Out

OLD SOUTH CHURCH IN BOSTON MINISTERS, OFFICERS, AND STAFF

Nancy S. Taylor, *Senior Minister*
John M. Edgerton, *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* ❖ Betsy Wooster, *Seminarian Intern*
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*
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 Bowler & Lena Rojas, *Administrative Assistants*
Elias Perez, *Senior Sexton* ❖ Ozo Nwodo, Oppong 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

COMMUNITY HOUR PROGRAMS

CITY STRINGS UNITED

Sunday, October 7th at 10am in Mary Norton Hall

The Music Committee is pleased to host a wonderful group from City Strings United, a local non-profit that provides free cello lessons for youth from economically-strained communities. In this session, we'll interact with a couple of their students and learn more about the program. City Strings will be holding a benefit concert in Gordon Chapel (with assistance from the Willie Sordillo Ensemble) on October 28th from 3-5 pm.

RESTORING GOD'S CREATION: A CHALLENGE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Sundays October 14, 21 and 28 at 10am in Mary Norton Hall

Because climate change is the existential and moral challenge of our time, we seek to increase awareness and understanding of the issues and to galvanize the congregation to be environmental stewards, both individually and collectively. We are inspired by Jim Antal's book *Climate Church, Climate World*: "As urgent as our crisis is, God offers us the courage we need to address the greatest moral challenge humanity has ever faced. With God's help, we can do this together".

OCT. 14 : ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP STARTS AT HOME

How energy is used and wasted in your residence and what you can do about it. Led by Rouwenna Altemose, Co-Founder, All in Energy.

OCT 21: WHO IS A CREATION CARE VOTER?

How your voice is heard and why your vote counts in the setting of climate policies. Led by Nathaniel Stinnett, Executive Director, Environmental Voter Project.

OCT 28: CHUCK THE THROW AWAY MINDSET

Reduce, reuse, recycle. What are our choices to lighten our impact on God's creation? Led by the OSC Climate Task Force.

CHILDREN + FAMILIES

OCT 7: CHILDCARE AVAILABLE, NO CHURCH SCHOOL

Please note that this Sunday, there will be childcare available all morning, but no church school or youth group, due to the All-Church Retreat.

PARENTS NIGHT OUT

Friday, October 12th, 6pm-10pm at Old South Church

Isn't it about time you had a date night? Parents Night Out is here to help! Drop the kids off at Old South for 4 hours of fun, games, and crafts while you head out to the Back Bay. Ages 6 months through 5th grade - RSVPs required, as space is limited. Visit www.oldsouth.org/parents-night-out or email Kate Nintcheu children@oldsouth.org.

ADULT EDUCATION

SNAILS'S PACE READ THROUGH OF THE WHOLE BIBLE

Thursdays at 7pm in the Sam Johnson Room

Join us as we journey through the Hebrew Bible with our new study leader, Jonathan Mason Wolfe, a PhD student at Harvard Divinity School. For more information, email Bev Hanna at hannab08@comcast.net.

WOMEN'S DAYTIME SMALL GROUP

Join this community of women in reading and reflecting together on faith and life and enjoying spiritual friendships. New members are always welcome at these Thursday 12 - 1pm gatherings. Email martha@oldsouth.org for information.

MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP

If you are interested in discussing the news of the day, theology and faith, or big ideas and issues with other men from Old South, drop by any Wednesday from 12 - 1pm at the church for conversation and fellowship. This group is casual and come-as-you-can, so no weekly commitment needed. Email martha@oldsouth.org for information.

FAITH INTO ACTION

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

REGISTER TO VOTE—However you plan to vote in the upcoming elections, we encourage every member and friend of the church to make a plan to vote. **We will have a voter registration table at church on Oct 11 and Oct 14.** Voting is the foundational act of civic engagement.

ATTEND THE OCT. 22 GBIO ACTION—The Greater Boston Interfaith Organization is hosting a public forum with candidates for Governor, District Attorney, Attorney General, and other high elected offices. Join us on Oct. 22nd from 6:30-9pm at the Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center, as we hear from the candidates on matters of critical public importance—like reducing racial disparities in our criminal justice system, protecting immigrants, and making homeownership more affordable. RSVP to John@oldsouth.org.

LEARN ABOUT QUESTION 3—As an Open & Affirming congregation, we strongly supported the passage of the 2016 equal protection law for trans* people. **Voting Yes on 3 would keep those legal protections in place.** Representatives from Freedom MA will be here on Oct 14th in coffee hour to answer any questions and let you know how to help.

PRAYER VIGIL AT ICE DETENTION CENTER

Sunday, October 14, 2pm at 20 Bradston St., Boston

Join us as we come together as a visible symbol to our siblings in detention to show them that they are not forgotten. For more information please email marie.f.hurd@gmail.com.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESPONSE TRAINING

Sunday, October 21st, 12:30pm-3pm at Old South Church

Safe Havens Interfaith Partnership against Domestic Violence is offering an intensive training on best practices around understanding and responding to disclosures from loved ones about domestic or intimate partner abuse. RSVP to john@oldsouth.org.

REUSABLE COFFEE HOUR MUG INITIATIVE

Blessing of the Mugs will be Sunday, October 14th during First & Festival Worship

In an effort to reduce waste, we're asking Old Southerners to contribute a spare mug from home (standard size, roughly 3.5" tall). Bring your mug to worship on October 14th for a Blessing of the Mugs, and we'll use your mug at Coffee Hour from here on out!

COMMUNITY LIFE

YOUNG ADULT APPLE PICKING TRIP

Sunday, October 14 following Festival Worship

Join the Old South Young Adults for a classic autumnal activity this October — apple picking! On October 14, we'll be heading to Honey Pot Hill Orchards in Stow, MA after Festival Worship. If you're interested, please email martha@oldsouth.org. Let us know if you can drive people or if you need a ride. Open to all 20s and 30s folks!

CONNECTIONS LUNCH

Sunday, October 14 at 12:30pm in the Guild Room

Interested in church membership? Or, just want to know more about us? Connections Lunch invites you to explore Christianity, the United Church of Christ, our rich history and offerings, and to consider your own place at Old South Church. RSVP to Nancy Taylor at nst@oldsouth.org.

DISASTER RELIEF: MATCHING DONATIONS

Our neighbors in Lawrence, Andover and North Andover are still reeling from gas explosions and fires, while people in North Carolina are just beginning the long work of rebuilding after the flooding from Hurricane Florence. We invite you to give to our denomination's disaster relief fund.

The UCC partners with on-the-ground organizations and directs funds where they can have impact over the long term. **If you give to either of these disaster relief funds, Old South's Christian Service and Outreach Committee is offering a \$4,000 matching grant.** To be part of the match, please give through our church giving portal at tinyurl.com/OldSouth-DisasterRelief

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

