

December 2, 2018  
**First Sunday of Advent**  
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

*Today's music from* MESSIAH,  
G. F. Handel

*Accompagnato:*

Comfort ye; comfort ye my people, saith your God.  
Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her,  
that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned.

The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness;  
Prepare ye the way of the Lord;  
Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

*Air:*

Ev'ry valley shall be exalted,  
and ev'ry mountain and hill made low;  
the crooked straight and the rough places plain.

*\* Indicates all who are able may stand*

\*HYMN 112

**Keep Awake, Be Always Ready**

WACHET AUF

\*CALL TO WORSHIP *Isaiah 11*

Robert Higgins and Jovani Colon

One: A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

**Many: The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,**

One: the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

**Many: The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,**

One: the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.

**Many: The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.**

One: They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain;

**Many: for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord  
as the waters cover the sea.**

One: In the spirit of the prophet Isaiah, in the spirit of Hope,  
we light the first Advent candle.

\*LIGHTING THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE: Hope.

\*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

Donald A. Wells

CHORUS

Handel

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all flesh shall see it together:  
for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

*During the Choral Anthem, children may leave for choir or care.*

## LISTEN

SERMON

Hope

Nancy S. Taylor

\*HYMN 108

**Isaiah the Prophet**

JUDAS AND MARY

\*CALL TO PRAYER

John M. Edgerton

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 SILENT 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.**

## RESPOND

CALL TO THE OFFERING

*In thanksgiving to God and giving witness to generous hearts,  
our financial gifts support ministries of mercy, justice, and beauty.*

OFFERTORY

Handel

*Air and Chorus:*

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion,  
get thee up into the high mountain.  
O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem,  
lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid;  
say unto the cities of Judah, behold your God!

Arise, shine, for thy light is come,  
and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

## THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION AND PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Nancy S. Taylor

SHARING THE MEAL

**The Bread.** *Our communion table is open to all. Communion will be served in the pews.  
The bread will be served first. Please wait until all have been served.  
We will partake of it together, symbolizing our unity and community as God's people.  
Gluten-free crackers are available on each paten.*

“Pifa” (*Sinfonia pastorale*)

Handel

**The Cup.** *When served the cup, please partake of it immediately, symbolizing our solitariness  
as we each stand alone before our God. The cups contain non-alcoholic grape juice.*

*Air (Duet):*

He shall feed His flock like a shepherd;  
and He shall gather the lambs with His arm,  
and carry them in His bosom,  
and gently lead those that are with young.

Come unto Him, all ye that labor,  
come unto Him that are heavy laden,  
and He will give you rest.  
Take his yoke upon you, and learn of Him,  
for He is meek and lowly of heart,  
and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*HYMN 116	<b>O Come, O Come, Emmanuel</b> <i>verses 1-4 only</i>	VENI EMMANUEL
*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION		Nancy S. Taylor
POSTLUDE:	Toccatà on VENI EMMANUEL	Andrew Carter



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

Robert and Jovani, today's Advent Candle lighters, are members of the church.  
Robert assists with the Christmas gift drive for children in DCF  
and Jovani is in our Youth Group.

Today's flowers are given in loving memory of Clarence Dauber by his grandchildren, Pam  
and Ian Holland, and his great-grandchildren, Nolan and Aine Holland.

## CALENDAR

<b>Sunday, December 2</b>	9:00 am	FIRST Worship, <i>Nancy S. Taylor preaching</i>
	9:00 am	Children's Choir
	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
		Advent: Welcoming the Child into the World
	11:00 am	FESTIVAL Worship, <i>Nancy S. Taylor preaching</i>
	11:15 am	Children's Music
	12:15 pm	Fellowship Hour
	12:30 pm	350th Anniversary Committee and Task Forces
	12:30 pm	Advent Poetry Festival
	12:30 pm	Queer Brunch
	1:30 pm	O.W.L. Program
	2:00 pm	John Marttila Memorial Service
	4:00 pm	Community Chanukah Celebration at Central Reform Temple
<b>Monday, December 3</b>	4:30 pm	Leadership Committee
	6:00 pm	Theological Book Group
	6:00 pm	Finance Committee
	7:00 pm	Christian Service and Outreach
<b>Tuesday, December 4</b>	6:00 pm	Old South Ringers Rehearsal
	6:30 pm	Stewardship Committee
	7:00 pm	Christian Formation
<b>Wednesday, December 5</b>	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, December 6	12:00 pm	Women's Lunch Hour Small Group
	6:00 pm	JAZZ Worship, <i>John M. Edgerton 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, December 7	12:30 pm	Planned Giving Committee
Saturday, December 8	9:00 am	Gift Boxes for the Homeless
<b>Sunday, December 9</b>	9:00 am	FIRST Worship, <i>Christmas Pageant</i>
	9:45 am	Old South Café in Gordon Chapel
	10:00 am	HEALING Worship
	10:00 am	Lectionary Bible Study
	10:00 am	Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 am	Church School
	10:00 am	Community Hour A Child is Born: Welcoming the Christ Child at Home
	11:00 am	FESTIVAL Worship, <i>John M. Edgerton preaching</i>
	12:15 pm	Fellowship Hour
	12:30 pm	Connections Lunch
	12:30 pm	350th Faith in Action Task Force
	12:30 pm	Gospel Choir Rehearsal
	1:30 pm	O.W.L. Program

## 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*  
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, *Sr 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.



## HOLIDAY SEASON

### ADVENT COMMUNITY HOUR: A CHILD IS BORN

*December 2, 9, 16 and 23 at 10am in Mary Norton Hall*

This Advent we'll explore welcoming the Christ child at home, as a family, as a church, and throughout the year. Led by Christian Formation members Kathleen Simone and Megan Smith.

### ADVENT POETRY FEST

*Sunday, December 2nd, 12:30pm at Old South Church*

Bring your favorite poem or prose selection that has enriched your celebration of the season. Or if you would rather listen, then come as well! Sign up by contacting Don Wells at [granwell@comcast.net](mailto:granwell@comcast.net). A light lunch will be provided.

### COMMUNITY CHANUKAH CELEBRATION

*Sunday, December 2nd, 4pm at Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St., Boston*

Central Reform Temple extends a special welcome to Old South Church in Boston for the 10th annual "A Light Through the Ages," a celebration of Chanukah.

### CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

*Sunday, December 9th at 9am in Gordon Chapel*

Prepare yourself for a re-telling of the ancient story Boston-style, with humor, truth, and wonder, performed by the children of Old South.

### CAROLS & POTLUCK LUNCHEON

*Sunday, December 16th, 12pm in Mary Norton Hall*

Eat, sing, be merry! Celebrate the season and sing carols together over a lunch you help to provide. An all-church event at 12pm in Mary Norton Hall.

## CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Old South is accepting \$20 donations for the display of poinsettias that will be on the chancel from Dec. 16—New Year's Eve. Visit [tinyurl.com/oldsouthgiving](http://tinyurl.com/oldsouthgiving) to make your donation. Your message in honor or memory of loved ones can be entered in the box on the second page of the donation screen. Questions? Email [helen@oldsouth.org](mailto:helen@oldsouth.org).

# COMMUNITY LIFE

## QUEER BRUNCH

*Sunday, December 2nd, 12:30-2pm at City Table*

Calling LGBTQIA+ Old Southerners: come brunch with us! We'll be heading over to City Table (less than a block away) after Festival Worship to enjoy good food and fellowship. We'll have childcare available at church and extra funds if money is a barrier. Please RSVP -- yeses only! -- to [martha@oldsouth.org](mailto:martha@oldsouth.org) by November 29th.

## CONNECTIONS LUNCH

*Sunday, December 9th at 12:30pm in the Guild Room, 4th floor*

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. RSVP to Nancy Taylor at [nst@oldsouth.org](mailto:nst@oldsouth.org).

# CHRISTMAS SERVICES

## BLUE CHRISTMAS JAZZ WORSHIP

*Thursday, December 20th at 6pm*

While we're bombarded with words lauding the wonders of the season, many people find the holidays anything but joyful. Blue Christmas provides an opportunity to step away & let go into music and readings that acknowledge your feelings without trying to talk you out of them. Even if you love the holidays, you may find comfort in this special service.

## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

**5:00pm Candlelight Family Service:** Children are invited to participate in an impromptu Christmas Pageant, with simple costumes provided. We sing carols to tell the Christmas story together. Childcare provided.

**8:00pm Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols:** An elegant telling of the Christmas story in carols and readings with music for choir and organ, culminating in the singing of "Silent Night" in our candle-lit sanctuary. Childcare provided.

**11:00pm Candlelight Communion:** A warmly traditional service with festive carol singing, sermon, and communion in our garland-bedecked chapel. We greet the birth of Christ by singing "Silent Night" outdoors by candlelight just after midnight.

# FAITH INTO ACTION

## TAKING CHRISTMAS TO THE STREETS

**Collections:** Now - December 8

**Event:** Saturday December 8th, 9am - 11am

Our Hands-On Advent Service Project is here! We are collecting donations that could be useful for our unhoused or transient neighbors. On Saturday Dec. 8th, families are invited to help assemble these donations into sturdy boxes that we will then wrap and deliver to our homeless neighbors.

Donations sought include travel size toiletries, hand warmers, non-perishable snacks, warm socks, hats, gloves, hand sanitizer (small), \$10 Dunkin Donut or 7-Eleven giftcards (only these please).

Monetary donations can be directed to Kate Nintcheu - please write 'Advent Service Project' on the memo line.

## COAT BOSTON

*Please bring donated coats to coffee hour on Dec. 2nd and 9th*

OSC is collecting warm winter coats for our partner, City Mission Society, to distribute to Boston school children. Coats must be new. Please include your name and phone number, so we know who to thank.

If you don't have time to shop, money can also be donated at [www.citymissionboston.org/give](http://www.citymissionboston.org/give), or by check made out to City Mission Society Coat Drive. Please give checks to Karin Wetmore, or deliver them to the OSC Care & Support committee mailbox at the front desk.

## DCF CHILDREN'S GIFT DRIVE

**Sunday, December 2nd is the last day to sign up to help make this Christmas brighter for a child in in foster care!** You can help by purchasing a Christmas present on a child's wish list. Once you sign up to participate, you will receive your child/children's clothing sizes and wish list. You are responsible for purchasing at least one clothing item, one gift, and putting it in a labeled gift bag.

Please note that most gifts will total \$45 or more and gift drop off at Old South will occur after service on Sundays, December 2, 9, and 16. If you want to participate but cost or drop off dates don't work for you, please email us. To participate, please send your name and the number of children you'd like to sponsor to [oscgiftdrive@gmail.com](mailto:oscgiftdrive@gmail.com) or find Laura Spooner-Fleming or Robert Higgins after service. (They'll be the ones with the Santa hats!)

# HOLIDAY CONCERTS AT OLD SOUTH

## BOSTON CONSERVATORY CONCERTS

**Choruses:** Wednesday, Dec. 5th at 8pm. Free admission.

**Conductors' Orchestra Concert:** Thursday, Dec. 6th at 8pm. Free admission.

**Brass Ensemble Concert:** Friday, Dec. 7th at 8pm. Free admission.

**Wind Ensemble Concert: Gran Partita:** Saturday, Dec. 8th at 2pm. Free admission.

## BOSTON CAMERATA: A MEDIEVAL CHRISTMAS

Join The Boston Camerata on Dec. 9th at Old South Church for Puer Natus Est, an intimate candlelit glimpse of Christmas spirituality from Medieval France, Italy, England & Provence. Tickets: <https://bostoncamerata.org/performances/boston-series/>

## APOLLO CLUB OF BOSTON HOLIDAY CONCERT

The Apollo Club of Boston is the second-oldest continuously-active men's singing group in the US. Join them for a concert on Tues., Dec. 11th at 8pm. Free admission.

## CHORUS PRO MUSICA CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS

Join Chorus Pro Musica on Friday, Dec. 14th at 8pm. The candlelit evening features holiday classics, new works, and plenty of opportunities for the audience to sing along. Tickets at [choruspromusica.org/concert/candlelight-Christmas-at-old-south](https://choruspromusica.org/concert/candlelight-Christmas-at-old-south)

## BOSTON CHORAL ENSEMBLE HOLIDAY CONCERT

Get into the holiday spirit with Boston Choral Ensemble on Sat., Dec. 15th at 3pm. Concert includes carols for choir & audience. Visit [bostonchoral.org/engage/masterworks-holiday](https://bostonchoral.org/engage/masterworks-holiday)

## BACK BAY CHORALE: A BOSTON CHRISTMAS

*Thursday, Dec. 20th at 7:30pm and Saturday, December 22nd at 4pm*

Scott Allen Jarrett conducts this beloved concert. Join the singing carols in an evening celebrating the joy, mystery, and glory of the holidays. Tickets at [bbcboston.org](https://bbcboston.org)

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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 in the Sanctuary, for any length of time.

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