

October 27, 2019  
**Reformation Sunday**  
11:00 AM

## GATHER

*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?*

PRELUDE                      How Firm a Foundation                      Brian Childers  
   THE OLD SOUTH RINGERS  
   Peter Coloumbe, *Director*

\*HYMN 439                      **A Mighty Fortress Is Our God**                      EIN' FESTE BURG  
   Anne Dickinson Meltz and Harrison Reeder, *Banner Bearers*  
   John Wadlington, *Bible Bearer*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP    Shawn M. Fiedler

One: We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:

**Many: You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.**

\* *Indicates all who are able may stand*

One: You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.  
**Many: You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.**

One: In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.  
**Many: You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.**

One: You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.  
**Many: You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.**

One: Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you.  
**Many: Amen.**

—United Church of Christ Statement of Faith

\*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

*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.*



\*CALL TO PRAYER

Amo Ngoepe

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

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.**

HANDBELLS

Praise to the Lord the Almighty

Cathy Moglebust

## RESPOND

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Shawn M. Fiedler

OFFERTORY

A Place at the Table

Erik K. Gustafson

*(please see insert for additional information)*

For everyone born, a place at the table, for everyone born, clean water and bread,  
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing, for everyone born, a star overhead.

*And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace:  
yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!*

For woman and man, a place at the table, revising the roles, deciding the share,  
with wisdom and grace, dividing the power, for woman and man, a system that's fair.  
(*refrain*)

For young and for old, a place at the table, a voice to be heard, a part in the song,  
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled, for young and for old, the right to belong.  
(*refrain*)

For gay and for straight, a place at the table, a covenant shared, a welcoming space,  
a rainbow of race and gender and color, for gay and for straight, the chalice of grace.  
(*refrain*)

For everyone born, a place at the table, to live without fear, and simply to be,  
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship, for everyone born, the right to be free.  
(*The congregation is invited to join in the singing of the concluding refrain — see insert*)

\*DOXOLOGY

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Praise God above, you heavenly host:  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia!**

A WORD ABOUT OUR ANNIVERSARY HYMN

Mary Louise Bringle

*Mary Louise Bringle is the author of "Open a Doorway into God," Old South Church's 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Hymn. She is Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies and chair of the Humanities Division at Brevard College, North Carolina, and an award-winning author of hymn texts. The tune CONSTANTINE was composed by The Rev. Dr. James Gertmenian — a UCC minister and great friend of Don Wells — who named it for his father.*

\*HYMN

## Open a Doorway into God

CONSTANTINE



1. O - pen wide the eyes of won - der: bound-less gal - ax - ies in space,  
2. Stretch out wide the arms of kind-ness: nur - ture sheep from man - y folds.  
3. Fling out wide the gates of free-dom, to the suf - fering bring re - lief.  
4. God of mer - cy, love, and beau - ty, blaz - ing trails to mark our way,



fin - est flecks of whirl-ing mat - ter span the mag - ni - tude of grace.  
Wel - come cres - cent, star, and rain - bow, all whose seek - ing God up - holds.  
hearts im - pa - tient for de - liv - erance\* call for res - cue from their grief.  
still trans - plant - ing, still sus - tain - ing, ‡ you have brought us to this day.



Vaults that up - lift our sights to heav - en; mu - sic that leaves us hushed and awed;  
Peo - ples and crea - tures, poor and need - ing, hun - ger for mer - cies spread a - broad.  
Till hurt - ful walls of bi - as crum - ble, till hate - ful cag - es stand un - barred,  
In ev - ery e - ra, you have sought us, draw - ing your prom - ise in - to view.



arts that en - large our lives with beau - ty o - pen a door - way in - to God.❖  
Acts of com - pass - ion toward our neigh - bors o - pen a door - way in - to God.  
all those who dare to plead for jus - tice † o - pen a door - way in - to God.  
Strength - en our will to meet your fu - ture, o - pening new door - ways in - to you.

❖ “Behold, I have set before thee an open door,” — Revelation 3:8, carved into the Old South Church portico.

\* “In every human Breast, God has implanted a Principle, which we call Love of Freedom; it is *impatient* of Oppression, and pants for *Deliverance*.” — Phillis Wheatley [*emphasis added*]

† An allusion to Whittier’s famous phrase, “So long as Boston shall Boston be, and her bay-tides rise and fall, Shall freedom stand in the Old South Church and plead for the rights of all!”

‡ A reference to the Latin motto *Qui transtulit sustinet* (carved into Old South’s portico), meaning “The God who transplanted us sustains us still.”

Text: *Mary Louise Bringle (2019)*

Tune: CONSTANTINE, *James Gertmenian (1986)*

\*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

Nancy S. Taylor

POSTLUDE

Sonata in B-flat major, Op. 65, No. 4  
IV. *Allegro maestoso*

Mendelssohn

*The large Bible processed into worship today by Old South member Dr. John Wadlington, was published in 1716 (New Testament) and 1717 (Old Testament & Apocrypha). It was a gift to the church from Sir Francis Wilkes upon the completion in 1730 of our new meeting house, today's Old South Meeting House. It is from this Bible that Phillis Wheatley and Samuel Adams heard the scriptures read. We bring it out today in honor of Reformation Sunday and the reformers' reliance on scripture and informed interpretation.*

*Following the Postlude you are invited to meet the Sr Minister on the Chancel to view the Bible.*



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

**New here?** Join a few Old Southerners at **The Welcome Hub**  
by the piano immediately following the Postlude.

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

Today's flowers are given by **Ginger Rotundo**,  
in loving memory of departed loved ones.



## Notes on Today's Music

from MITCHELL CRAWFORD

Reformation Day commemorates the date (October 31, 1517) that Martin Luther nailed his *Ninety-five Theses* on the door of the *Schlosskirche* of Wittenberg Castle, an action which reverberated across the Holy Roman Empire and heralded the start of the Protestant Reformation. Owing to the centrality of Luther to the events that shaped the reformation, it has become routine for churches to mark the occasion with musical tributes of a Germanic flavor: indeed, this is how Old South observed Reformation Sunday last year, with music of Baroque composer Heinrich Schütz alongside a *concertato* setting of the Lutheran chorale *Wer nur den lieben Gott*. Today's service, however, takes as its point of departure the UCC notion that "God is still speaking," and our choral music reflects this wide embrace. The texts of our anthems make clear the priorities of the modern, progressive church, and serve as an implicit call to action to those (we) who have for many decades allowed spurious, selective orthodoxies espoused by the theologically conservative to nevertheless define the general public's perception of what it means to be a Christian in the United States.

It is also a great honor, and highly appropriate, that we should have worshipping with us this Reformation Sunday two individuals who have profoundly shaped the way we Reformed Christians sing about our faith: Old South's Senior Minister Emeritus, **The Rev. Dr. James W. Crawford**, who chaired the committee responsible for *The New Century Hymnal* (1995), and **Mary Louise Bringle**, chair of the Presbyterian Committee on Congregational Song, responsible for creating the hymnal *Glory to God* (2013), and author of our 350th Anniversary Hymn. While Dr. Crawford's work on *New Century* is well known — especially among this congregation — it bears repeating that it effectively moved the needle on inclusive language to such extent that nearly every mainline hymnal since has incorporated its reforms to some degree. Likewise, Dr. Bringle has guided the creation of a hymnal celebrated for its emphasis on justice and successful blending of many musical traditions and eras. It is my great delight to welcome them, and to thank them for their lasting contributions to congregational song.



## **WELCOME TO OLD SOUTH CHURCH**

For LARGE print bulletins or children's bulletins please ask an Usher.  
The Chapel has full audio of the service if you need to stretch your legs.

## **HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES**

Our hearing loop works directly with devices equipped with a "T-Coil." The sound is best if you sit further inside the pews, away from the aisles. The loop does not work in the upper galleries. If you would like to borrow a device paired with our system, please ask an usher.

## **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). For more information check out <https://www.oldsouth.org/your-first-visit> or see the front desk.

## **OTHER INFORMATION ABOUT OLD SOUTH**

Check out the church website at [www.oldsouth.org/calendar](http://www.oldsouth.org/calendar) for a calendar of events, and the general website [www.oldsouth.org](http://www.oldsouth.org) for more on the history and other information about this storied ship of faith!

CCLI #2802138

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

Nancy S. Taylor, *Senior Minister*  
Katherine A. Schofield, *Interim Associate Minister* ❖ Shawn M. Fiedler, *Acting 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*  
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.

