



One: In our hearts, our mouths, our actions,  
the Spirit of holiness gifts us with truth,  
**Many: Hoping our faltering, fumbling words might be transfigured  
into good news.**  
**All: May we each be transformed through our worship today.**

\*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

As Colors in the Sky

Daniel Charles Damon

As colors in the sky, we move and blend in love,  
a touch of this, a mix, a match, as gifts from heaven above.  
Our genders may seem fixed, but even these may change  
as we find beauty in-between that may at first seem strange.

Our bodies may not match the way we feel inside,  
but we can change, transform, and find your love still deep and wide.  
So if we break the mold traditions put in place,  
let us with courage live our lives with kindness, love, and grace.

Creating God, you dance, you move as one in three.  
Come show us, by your rainbow light, our shared humanity.  
The heavens and the earth are made new every day,  
help us discover by your grace, new truth, new life, new ways.

# ATTEND

SCRIPTURE Acts 8: 27b-31, 35-38 Rory Razon

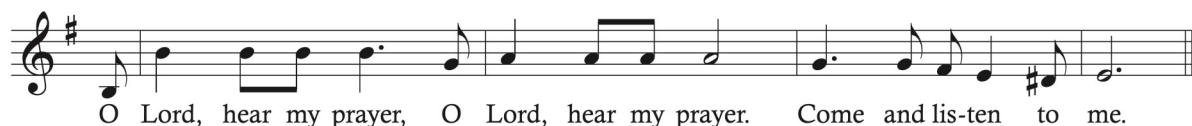
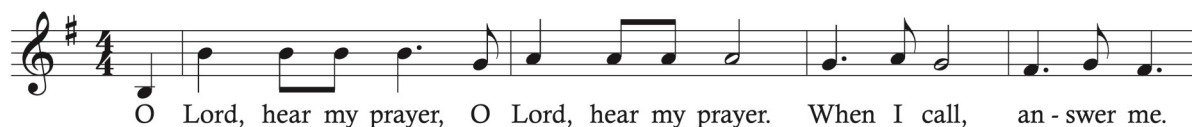
\*HYMN 177 **God of Change and Glory** KATHERINE

*During the hymn children are invited to leave for choir and care.*

SERMON More Than We Ever Imagined Katherine A. Schofield

\*HYMN *Insert* **God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me** GREEN TYLER

TIME OF PRAYERS AND SONG Introduced by Katherine A. Schofield  
Susan Navia, Dorothy Messenger, Leclerc Jean Louis, *readers*



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RESPONSE The LORD's Prayer Delvyn Case  
Alecia Batson, *soprano*

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.  
Give us 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

Shawn M. Fiedler

OFFERTORY

Down to the River to Pray

Mary McDonald, *arr.*

As I went down to the river to pray,  
studying about that good ol' way and who shall wear the starry crown,  
good Lord, show me the way.

O brother, let's go down— let's go down, come on down.  
O sister, let's go down— down to the river to pray.

O Lord, listen to your children praying;  
O Lord, send your spirit in this place.  
O Lord, listen to your children praying;  
Send us love, send us power, send us grace.

Something's gonna happen like the world has never known,  
when the people of the Lord get down to pray.  
A door's gonna swing open and the walls come a-tumbling down,  
when the people of the Lord get down to pray.

O children, let's go down— let's go down, come on down.  
O children, let's go down— down to the river to pray.

\* 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!**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*HYMN *Insert* **We Are One in the Spirit** THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS  
Verses 1-3

\*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION Katherine A. Schofield

POSTLUDE March from *An Occasional Oratorio* (HWV 62) G. F. Händel



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

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

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

The flowers today are given in honor of my parents,  
**Freda H. Kirk** and **Wesley E. Wetmore**,  
by **Karin Wetmore**.



## Notes on Today's Music

from MITCHELL CRAWFORD

Issues of gender and sexuality are emergent among those of prominence for the theologically progressive. The rapid sea-change in public opinion on (especially) marriage equality has been a bridge to areas that long existed at the margins of public awareness. At a broad, societal level, we are only beginning to grapple with their implications: the “public restroom” dog-whistle used by conservatives to pass restrictive laws targeting the transgender community is a potent example of the extent to which such groups are easily demonized for political gain. Similarly, ignorance and prejudice often reinforce harmful stereotypes which must be counterbalanced if equality is ultimately to prevail.

Into this breach have stepped a number of individuals concerned with the church's song — writers of hymns who have sought to craft texts fostering inclusion and understanding simultaneously; texts that call us to be mindful of the infinite dimensions of our ever-creating, still speaking God within this specific context. Foremost among these is **The Rev. Dr. Carl P. Daw** of the **Boston University School of Theology**, whose areas of interest have long included the concept of “the holy other”:

*Human otherness (of whatever kind) provides a sacramental reminder of the ultimate otherness of God, and openness to human otherness has the potential to enlarge our perception of and receptivity to divine otherness. It is also an essential element of human maturity to recognize otherness, i.e. to know where the self ends and otherness begins, whether that otherness be other people or non-human objects. From a theological perspective, “otherness” is a necessary dimension of the movement from the disappointments of self-sufficiency to the assurances of trust in God.*

Dr. Daw addresses the concept of “the other” directly in his hymn *All the Colors of the Rainbow* (2016) which, following an opening verse that suggests “*the church reveals most beauty where diversity is real: breadth of race and class and gender, room for doubt and space to heal,*” offers this entreaty in conclusion (the melody is the same as for *God Is Here*, #70 in the *New Century Hymnal*):

*Teach us, God, our need of others; through them, help us fully live. Wean us from our selfish habits; let us listen, learn, forgive. May we see your longed for image in each human heart and face, and behold how those around us can be channels of your grace.*

Many contemporary authors have sought to characterize gender as neither fixed nor binary, but something malleable and fluid instead. Amy Cerniglia's hymn *God of Many Faces* (2019) finds in the panoply of human expression reflections of God the Creator (the melody is the same as for *Be Now My Vision*, #451 in the *New Century Hymnal*):

*God of many genders, our world reflects you, sunrise and sunset uniting our hues, woven into a city with jewels of all shades, houses of ruby and walls rowed with jade.*

and:

*God of many bodies, abide within ours, shifting more each day through time and through scars. Come sanctify our bodies, all fashioned by you, holier everyday, still becoming more true.*

Today's anthem, *As Colors in the Sky* (2016), is still another text which seeks in no uncertain terms to expand our Christian sense of gender and community. Its author **Daniel Charles Damon** (b. 1955) is pastor of First United Methodist Church, Richmond, California and Associate Editor of Hymnody for Hope Publishing Company. A writer of hymns on a variety of social justice themes, the Rev. Damon has long been an ally and supporter of those struggling for inclusion within the church.



## **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.