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Gingerbread Competition 2015*

All Church Worship **Old South Church *in Boston***

December 19th, 2021 ❖ 10:00 a.m.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

*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?*

*RESPONSE

He Came Down

Cameroon Melody

1st time: *Choir alone*

2nd time: **Choir and Congregation**

He came down that we may have love; He came down that we may have love;

He came down that we may have love; Hal-le - lu - jah for-ev - er - more.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Please greet those around you, wishing them "peace" or "the peace of Christ."

WELCOME

Nancy S. Taylor

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-9

Rabbi Or Rose

Rabbi Rose is the Director of the Miller Center for Interreligious Learning and Leadership, based at Hebrew College. Nancy Taylor serves on the Center's Advisory Board.

*CAROL

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ES IST EIN' ROS

**Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming, as saints of old have sung.
It came, a flow'ret bright, amid the cold of winter,
When half-spent was the night.**

**Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind;
With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior,
When half-spent was the night.**

THE SECOND LESSON

The Risk of Birth
Madeleine L'Engle

Katie Spurlock

ANTHEM

Brightest and Best

Shawn Kirchner, *arr.*

Hail the blest morn! See the Great Mediator
down from the regions of glory descend!
Shepherds, go worship the babe in the manger;
Lo, for a guard the bright angels attend.

*Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid.
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.*

Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining,
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall.
Angels adore him in slumber reclining,
Maker and Monarch and Savior of all. (*refrain*)

Shall we not yield him — in costly devotion —
odors of Edom and offerings divine,
gems of the mountains and pearls of the ocean,
myrrh from the forest, and gold from the mine? (*refrain*)

THE THIRD LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

Mercedes Ridaó

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to

her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

*CAROL

The Angel Gabriel

GABRIEL'S MESSAGE

The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
 "For known a bless - ed Moth - er you shall be,
 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
 Of her, Em - ma - nu - el, the Christ, was born

his wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame;
 all gen - er - a - tions praise con - tin - ual - ly,
 "To me be as it pleas - es God!" she said.
 in Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn;

"All hail," said he, "O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,"
 Your son shall be Em - ma - nu - el, by seers fore - told.
 "My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly name."
 And Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:

"Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy!" Glo - - - ri - a!

THE FOURTH LESSON Amazing Peace: A Christmas Poem Jessica Young Chang
 Maya Angelou

*CAROL

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

IN DULCI JUBILO

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
on and on before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!**

THE FIFTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-14

Reamoetje S. Ngoepe

*CAROL

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.**

refrain:

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

**Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song? (*refrain*)**

**Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. (*refrain*)**

THE SIXTH LESSON

The Work of Christmas
Howard Thurman

Tracy Keene

*CAROL

The First Noel

THE FIRST NOEL

**The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

refrain:

Noel, Noel! Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

**Then they looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.**

(refrain)

**This star drew nigh to the northwest; o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay. *(refrain)***

**Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of nought, and with his love our life hath
bought. *(refrain)***

*CALL TO PRAYER

Shawn M. Fiedler

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift our hearts to God.

One: Let us pray. *Please be seated.*

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER *unison*

Our Creator, 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 O Blessed Christ, Love's Radiant Star ERMUNTRE DICH

O blessed Christ, love's radiant star, suffuse us with your splendor.
Stream through our darkness from afar; cast light serene and tender.
Redeem creation, loose its plight; enlighten veiled eyes, grant us sight.

O Light Divine, gift holy: illumine all hearts lowly.

—*The Rev. Dr. James W. Crawford, Christmas Eve, 1983*

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Katherine A. Schofield



*To give via ApplePay, GooglePay,
or with a Credit Card,
scan the QR code with your
smartphone camera.
You can also Text 44-321 and enter
OSC to make a gift*

OFFERTORY

In the Bleak Midwinter

Dale Wood, *arr.*

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan;
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall pass away when he comes to reign:
in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there;
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
only his mother, in her maiden bliss,
worshiped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

THE SEVENTH LESSON

John 1:1-14

Jack Millard

*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.**

**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.**

*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

Nancy S. Taylor

POSTLUDE

Toccata 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 Led by docent Stephanie LaShoto.



NOTES ON TODAY'S MUSIC

Andrew Carter hails from Leicester in the English Midlands and studied music at Leeds University before settling in York. During his time there, he founded the Chapter House Choir, an award winning mixed-voice concert group which he conducted for seventeen years, and for whom he penned many of his early published arrangements. Today his choral and instrumental music is performed worldwide. Though not an organist, his lifelong love for the instrument has led him to compose many works for it such as the acclaimed *Toccata on "Veni, Emmanuel."* The well-known Advent hymn serves as the basis for a toccata in the French style. An opening flourish for a solo trumpet stop precedes the entrance of the melody in the pedal accompanied by carillon-like passages for the manuals.

—George Sargeant, *Associate Organist and Choirmaster*



INFORMATION ABOUT OLD SOUTH

Check out the church website at
www.oldsouth.org/Sundays for everything Sundays,
www.oldsouth.org/calendar for a calendar of virtual events,
and the general website www.oldsouth.org
for more on the history and other information about this storied ship of faith!

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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*
Donald A. Wells, *Theologian in Residence* ❖ June R. Cooper, *Theologian in the City*
Reamogetje S. Ngoepe, *Pastoral Resident* ❖ Jessica Young Chang, *Seminarian*
David Story, *Wedding Minister* ❖ Ken Orth, *Healing Worship Minister*

Mitchell Crawford, *Minister of Music*
George Sargeant, *Associate Organist & Choirmaster*
Tim Harbold, *Director, Gospel Choir* ❖ Willie Sordillo, *Director, Jazz Worship Music*
Peter Coulombe, *Director, Old South Ringers*

Kate Nintcheu, *Director, Children & Family Ministries*
Martha Schick, *Youth & Young Adult Ministries Leader*
Summer Marsh and Carolyn Davis, *Co-Directors, Old South Preschool*

Helen McCrady, *Senior Church Administrator* ❖ John Braught, *Director of Operations*
Jamie Garuti, *Multimedia Director* ❖ Linda Van Praet, *Accounting & Human Resources*
Alex Pickering, *Administrative Assistant* ❖ Emily Ross, *Archivist*
Ralph Watson, *Snowden Partnership Coordinator* ❖ Karen Hand, *Wedding Coordinator*
Oussama Ouadani and William Wei, *Livestream Production Assistants*

Elias Perez, *Senior Sexton* ❖ Ozo Nwodo, Richard Serebour, and David Brode, *Sextons*
Corey Spence, *Weekday Receptionist*
Shirley Bivins and George Sargeant, *Evening & Weekend Receptionists*

Phil Stern, *Moderator* ❖ Rob Gabler, *Clerk* ❖ Bill Bulkeley, *Treasurer*
Kristi Geary, *Chair, Board of Trustees* ❖ Kate Silfen, *Historian*
Paul Brouillette & Susan Navia, *Senior Deacons* ❖ Vicki Newman, *Pledge Secretary*

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.



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