



Old South Church

Copley Square, Boston

*A Congregation of the
United Church of Christ*

Gathered 1669

December 4th, 2022

Second 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?*

GATHER

PRELUDE "Pifa" from *Messiah*, HWV 56 Georg Friedrich Händel

*HYMN 101 **Comfort, Comfort O My People** PSALM 42

*LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH: PEACE The Wadlington Family

One: Let the heavens be glad,
let the earth rejoice before the God of all peoples.

**Many: Both mighty and tender, you come.
Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you.**

One: A voice cries out and declares the Promise of Peace.

**Many: The kingdom of heaven has come near!
Prepare the way of the Lord!**

** Indicates all who are able may stand*

One: We light these candles, the candle of abundant hope
 and the candle of proclaimed peace,
 in part to remind ourselves that we are a people
 rising toward God's promise.
 But we also light them as a sign to the world,
 an announcement there are some who hold on to hope
 and there are some who work in the ways of peace.
 We stand as a sign that Emmanuel is still our fervent prayer.

Many: **Be not afraid, God's peace is at hand.**

*SUNG RESPONSE

Choir:

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
 Longing for hope, many despair.
 Your word alone has power to save us;
 make us your living voice.

Congregation:

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
 Shine through the dark - ness. Christ, be our
 light! Shine in your church gath - ered to - day.

Text and Music: Bernadette Farrell, 1993

WELCOME

Richard E. Spalding

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

ANTHEM "And the Glory of the Lord" Georg Friedrich Händel
from *Messiah*, HWV 56

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.

LISTEN

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Kate M. Nintcheu

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 11:1-10 Anne Scholder

*HYMN 109 **With Joy Draw Water** ST. COLUMBA

*During the hymn, children that wish may meet childcare staff
in the back of the sanctuary and proceed to the 3rd floor.*

SERMON Waiting Like Fools Katherine A. Schofield

*HYMN 153 **Who Would Think That What Was Needed** SCARLET RIBBONS

RESPOND

*CALL TO PRAYER Howard Cha-Young Kim

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Redeemer, 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

Lo, How a Rose | The Rose
Music by Michael Praetorius (1571–1621)
and Amanda McBroom (b. 1947)
Craig Hella Johnson, *arr.*

*Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,
Some say love, it is a river that drowns the tender reed;
Of Jesse's lineage coming as men of old have sung,
Some say love, it is a razor that leaves your soul to bleed;
It came a flowret bright,
Some say love, it is a hunger, an endless aching need;
amid the cold of winter
I say love, it is a flower, and you its only seed.
when half-spent was the night.*

It's the heart afraid of breaking that never learns to dance;
It's the dream afraid of waking that never takes the chance;
It's the one who won't be taken, who cannot seem to give;
And the soul afraid of dying that never learns to live.

*This Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
When the night has been too lonely and the road has been too long;
Dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.
And you think that love is only for the lucky and the strong;
True Man, yet very God,
Just remember in the winter far beneath the bitter snow;
from sin and death he saves us
Lies the seed that, with the sun's love, in the spring becomes the rose.
and lightens every load.*

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

Peng He
Youngjin Kim
Savannah Strange

PRESENTATION

Katherine A. Schofield

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

LITANY OF INTENT

One: Friends in Christ, we are all received into the church through the sacrament of baptism. These people have found nurture and support in the midst of the family of Christ. They have been led by the Spirit to affirm their baptism and to claim in our presence their covenantal relationship with Christ and the members of the Christian church.

Many: They are here, as we are here, to endeavor to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind, and our neighbors as ourselves. God help us.

One: Friends who are joining, we rejoice in your pilgrimage of faith which has brought you to this time and place. We give thanks for every community of faith which has been your spiritual home, and we celebrate your presence in this household of faith. Do you promise, by the grace of God, to continue in your pilgrimage of faith, to be Christ's disciple, to resist oppression and evil, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

Those joining: We promise, with the help of God.

One: Do you promise to walk with us in faithfulness and in Christian love? And do you promise that, so far as able, you will participate in the life of this church, by worshiping God with us, and offering your time, talent and means for the ministry of this church and for the larger church of which this is a part?

Those joining: We promise, with the help of God.

One: Friends, we then welcome you as partners in the common life of this church and we rise as we are able and share our covenant of mission with you.

***Many: We pledge to give ourselves to the one whom Jesus called "Abba, Father," as the God in whose love we are grounded, and to Jesus Christ, God incarnate, who rules our lives. We give ourselves to God the Holy Spirit, the One who sustains, recreates and guides us. We promise to walk in covenant with one another, with the wider church, and with the Old South Church, secure in God's grace, and prepared in gratitude to live by the promise and serve in the hope of the Gospel.**

THE RIGHT HAND OF CHRISTIAN FRIENDSHIP Paul Brouillette, *Deacon*

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Richard E. Spalding



*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

People, Look East

Henry Lebedinsky, *arr.*

People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there:
give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the rose, is on the way.

Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are frozen God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the bird, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the star, is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

*DOXOLOGY

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

**Let the highest heavens ring out with angelic melody.
All who have the pow'r to praise God, sing, wherever you may be.
Let no mortal tongue keep silent; voices, blend in harmony,
evermore and evermore.**

—Text: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius;
Carl P. Daw, Jr., *trans.*, ©2019 Hope Publishing Co.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN 609

Now Is the Time Approaching

WEBB

*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

Katherine A. Schofield

POSTLUDE

"Humoresque" L'Organo primitivo: Toccatina for Flute
from 12 Divertimenti for Organ

Pietro Yon



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

The large red poinsettia in the basket in front of the pulpit
is given to the glory of God
and in loving memory of Anna Dartley and Dr. Seth Ephraim Dartley
by Saideh, Anna Nicole and Sara Ann.

Close-Up, a twenty minute tour of the Sanctuary,
begins immediately following worship at the front of the Sanctuary.
Led by docent Dick Yeo.



NEW MEMBERS JOINING TODAY

Peng He

Peng moved to Boston from China for graduate school more than 10 years ago. Other than doing web development for an internet company as his job, Peng enjoys hiking, skiing, and traveling in his free time. He also likes to sing and was on the school choir back in college. Having never been a member of a church and knowing there's a lot to learn, Peng is looking forward to a new chapter of his life and upcoming adventures.

Youngjin Kim

Youngjin first came to America from South Korea for college. She went to Baltimore for a master degree, and now Boston to further her studies in Piano Performance. Youngjin is teaching the piano at Boston University and privately while pursuing her degree. She likes cats, mint tea, and traveling.

Savannah Strange

Savannah Strange is originally from Wilmington, Delaware and moved to Boston to attend Emerson College. Savannah earned a Masters in Speech and Language Pathology at Boston University and currently works as a Speech Language Pathologist at Easterseals Massachusetts. Savannah started worshipping with Old South in the depths of the pandemic and is grateful to have found a spiritual home.



WELCOME TO OLD SOUTH CHURCH

For LARGE print bulletins or children's bulletins, please ask an Usher.

Restrooms are available. Just ask!

An accessible, single-use restroom is available near Reception.

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 church in the heart of Boston.

If you are interested in deepening your participation, or if you just love Old South, it's time to think about **membership**. Contact Interim Associate Minister Katherine Schofield at katherine@oldsouth.org

HEARING ASSISTANCE

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 www.oldsouth.org/your-first-visit or see the front desk.

LEARN MORE

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

CCLI #2802138 ❖ CCS #12028 ❖ OneLicense #A-700000

OLD SOUTH CHURCH IN BOSTON MINISTERS, OFFICERS, & STAFF

Richard E. Spalding, *Interim Senior Minister*
James W. Crawford, *Senior Minister Emeritus* ❖ Nancy S. Taylor, *Senior Minister Emeritus*
Katherine A. Schofield, *Interim Associate Minister*
Donald A. Wells, *Theologian in Residence* ❖ June R. Cooper, *Theologian in the City*
Howard Cha-Young Kim, *Pastoral Resident*
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*
Summer Marsh, *Director, 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* ❖ Dee Kovrlija, *Bookkeeper*
Ralph Watson, *Snowden Partnership Coordinator* ❖ Karen Hand, *Wedding Coordinator*
Rémy Hatfield-Gardner and William Wei, *Livestream Production Assistants*

Elias Perez, *Senior Sexton* ❖ Ozo Nwodo, Richard Serebour, and David Brode, *Sextons*
Corey Spence, *Weekday Receptionist*
Shirley Bivins, Shelia Randolph, 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.



OLD
SOUTH
CHURCH
in BOSTON

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCING OUR NEW ASSOCIATE MINISTER!!!

Meet the **Rev. Ashley J. Poppersen**, the enthusiastic choice of the Search Group unanimously approved by Council on November 20 to fill the pastoral position formerly held by Shawn Fiedler. A seasoned pastor, a great organizer, a strong voice for justice and gifted and creative liturgist - a native of Colorado, now our neighbor in Jamaica Plain - Ashley will begin her ministry at Old South in February, following the completion of her current call at the United Church of Christ in Norwell, MA. Read more about Ashley, and about our call to her to join our staff and our ministry go to tinyurl.com/OSCNNewAssociateMinister.



CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS (IN LIEU OF FLOWERS)

Donations due by THIS SUNDAY, December 4th

Since 2020 our Christmas Memorials have gone to Allston Brighton Food Pantry. Originally this was because no poinsettias decked our chancel. Now, though we are back in person and will have beautiful poinsettias on the chancel, the needs of the Food Pantry have not gone away. So we will continue to direct the memorial gifts to them. The requested contribution is still \$20. Go to tinyurl.com/oldsouthgiving and choose "Christmas Memorial" to make your gift. Your message in honor or memory of loved ones, or special occasions, can be entered on the second page of the donation screen or you can give anonymously. Questions? Contact helen@oldsouth.org.

OLD SOUTH FORUM

Sundays, 10:00 a.m., 2nd Floor and online, go to tinyurl.com/OSCForums, password Community
This casual, no-commitment, come-when-you-can forum hosts series on a variety of topics. Clergy, lay, and special guests share in leading sessions.

Annual Advent Poetry Fest

December 4th

Come and listen as parishioners and friends share poetry that makes their Advent and Christmas seasons meaningful.

Maya Angelou and The Freedom Poetry of Advent

December 11th, and December 18th

Maya Angelou is an Advent poet extraordinaire, in the sense that she often stands in the shadows and writes of the light. She boldly insists on blessedness and freedom, even as she confronts - with both candor and wit - the pain and injustice of the world. This month we will let scripture and Angelou's poems be our guide, together pointing towards weekly practices that can help deepen and enrich our experience of the season.



STEWARDSHIP: AN EPIPHANY!

January is Stewardship month at Old South Church: the season when we all pledge our financial resources to fuel the work of Mercy, Justice & Beauty for 2023 - a threshold year for a new season of our ministry! We think of it as following in the footsteps of the Magi, bearing our own gifts for the Christ child as we explore what *Faithful Belonging* means - to God, and to each other. Watch the stars for more information.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Sunday, December 11th, 9 a.m.

The kids of Old South have been hard at work rehearsing for the annual Christmas Pageant, and you don't want to miss it! Join us in the Gordon Chapel for this spectacular, funny, heartwarming event.

HEALING WORSHIP

Sunday, December 11th, 5 p.m., on Zoom, go to tinyurl.com/OSCHealing to join

Please join us to take a moment for rest and renewal in the presence of God and other spiritual companions gathering by Zoom. All are welcome to share this quiet space and lift up our concerns, our losses, our hurts, and our celebrations in the Healing Presence of God and one another.

CHILDREN'S CLOTHING DRIVE FOR CRADLES TO CRAYONS

Gather December 17th, 9 a.m. - noon to sort donations, RSVP at tinyurl.com/2022OSCAgentClothing

Old South's Children & Family Ministries is collecting new and gently used children's clothing through December 17th for Cradles to Crayons. We will then gather to sort and compile donations into packs for children in transitional situations like foster care, new immigrants, and domestic emergencies. We encourage you to focus on new or gently used children's clothing and winter coats -- as these are what are most needed at this time of year. While we do accept underwear, socks, and pajamas, these items must be NEW, in packaging/with tags. Donations can be brought to the Chapel donation box on Sundays, or left for Kate Nintcheu at reception during the week.

OLD SOUTH RINGERS: THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR

Sunday, December 18th, 4 p.m.

Come celebrate the most wonderful time of the year with the Old South Ringers at our annual Christmas Concert! Enjoy familiar Christmas carols and songs played on our historic handbells and chimes. There's no better way to ensure your holiday season hits all the right notes! Free admission and family friendly.

GREEN GIVING GUIDE: GIFT EXPERIENCES INSTEAD OF PHYSICAL GIFTS

Most physical gifts are a one-time moment. Experiences create lasting, deeper feelings of happiness. They let you create memories, and have multiple layers of excitement built right in! Consider museum memberships, special day trips, concerts, outdoor experiences, and more!

CHRISTMAS AT OLD SOUTH

BLUE CHRISTMAS JAZZ WORSHIP

Thursday, December 22 at 6 p.m.

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

Saturday, December 24th

We offer three unique candlelit services - the first two of which will also be viewable via live stream. We hope you can join us!

5 p.m. 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 p.m. 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 p.m. Candlelight Communion

A warmly traditional service with festive carol singing, traditional lessons, and communion in our garland-bedecked chapel. We greet the birth of Christ by singing "Silent Night" outdoors by candlelight just after midnight.

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP

Saturday, December 25th, 10 a.m.

June Cooper, Rick Spalding and Mitchell Crawford will lead a festive and joyful celebration of the Nativity - full of beloved carols, with a special Christmas story and prayers of new hope for the world now illuminated again by the Light of Christ.

HOSPITALITY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR JANUARY, FEBRUARY, AND MARCH

Go to tinyurl.com/OSCWinterHosp2023 to sign up by **THIS SUNDAY, December 4th**

Old South is known for its extravagant welcome to visitors and members alike. We need you to help create this experience. Sign up to Usher, Welcome, and bring food or serve at Coffee Hour. Help bring a smile to someone's day!

CHRISTMAS GIFT DRIVE FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

Connect with a child in foster care to help make their holiday bright. Old South is partnering with the Department of Children and Families to provide gifts for 75 or more children in foster care. All OSC members who choose to participate will be matched with a specific child and given a wish list with web links to the child's requested gifts. You will shop online and ship the items directly to our DCF partner. The estimated cost is \$50+ per child. Just email David Story and the team at oscgiftdrive@gmail.com and let us know how many children you will sponsor and if you are able to do a more expensive gift like a bicycle. Old South's Santas are the BEST!

FIRST NIGHT CONCERTS

See more info at oldsouth.org

King of Instruments Demonstration

Saturday, December 31st at 3 p.m. in the Sanctuary, free and open to the public

First Night Pipes and Pops Concerts

Saturday, December 31st at 6:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. in the Sanctuary, free and open to the public

WEEKLY WORSHIP

Join us in person, on Vimeo, Facebook, and YouTube

JAZZ Worship, Thursdays at 6:00 p.m.

FIRST Worship Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

FESTIVAL Worship Sundays at 11:00 a.m.

HEALING Worship, the second Sunday at 12:30 p.m. via Zoom



*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.

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 the Sanctuary, for any length of time.

Old South Church in Boston ❖ 645 Boylston Street, Boston 02116 ❖ www.oldsouth.org