

O come, thou Root of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save and give them victory o'er the grave.
(refrain)

O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. *(refrain)*

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
(refrain)

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
(refrain)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

3rd & 4th Graders
of the Old South Church School

One: Holy God, our very waiting in Advent is, itself, a confession:
Many: If we are waiting for Emmanuel, we are not yet with you.
One: If we are waiting for the Messiah, the proud are still powerful,
the mighty are still exalted, the hungry stand unheard at the door;
**Many: In this season of great meaning, in the stillness of your love and
light, hear our deepest confession;**
One: Heal us and make us new through the good tidings of peace on earth
and good will to all.
**Many: Be born in us this hour as we come before you to make our silent
confession....**

SUNG RESPONSE

**For You, O Lord,
My Soul in Stillness Waits**

Marty Haugen

Refrain: *(choir and congregation)*

For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits; tru-ly my hope is in you.

choir:
O Lord of Light, our only hope of glory,
Your radiance shines in all who look to you;
Come, light the hearts of all in dark and shadow. (*to refrain*)

LIGHTING THE FOURTH CANDLE

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*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

Nancy S. Taylor

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-9

*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

He Is the Way

W. H. Auden

Donald A. Wells, *representing our Theological Book Group*

ANTHEM

MILFORD

Joseph Stephenson

If angels sung a Savior's birth, on that auspicious morn,
We well may imitate their mirth, now he again is born.

THE THIRD LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

Cara Steinborn, *representing our young families*

*CAROL

The Angel Gabriel

GABRIEL'S MESSAGE

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
"All hail," said he, "O lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favored lady!" Gloria!

"For known a blessed Mother you shall be,
all generations praise continually,
Your son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold.
Most highly favored lady!" Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
"To me be as it pleases God!" she said.
"My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name."
"Most highly favored lady!" Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born in Bethlehem,
all on a Christmas morn;
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
"Most highly favored lady!" Gloria!

THE FOURTH LESSON

The Risk of Birth

Madeleine L'Engle

Pamela Roberts, *representing the Church Council*

*CAROL

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

THE FIFTH LESSON Luke 2:1-14
Jan Monsma, *representing the Sunday Bible Study*

*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 Amazing Peace: A Christmas Poem Maya Angelou
Paula T. Hammond, Ph.D., *representing Old South scholars*

*CAROL

The First Nowell

THE FIRST NOWELL

**The first Nowell 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:

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, 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

Katherine A. Schofield

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. *The congregation may be seated.*

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER *unison*

**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.**

PRAYER RESPONSE

Away in a Manger

MUELLER

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.**

VESTURE AND TINGE: A BLESSING

Nancy S. Taylor

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

The Huron Carol

Dan Forrest, *arr.*

Jesous Abatonia. Gloria.

'Twas in the moon of winter-time, when all the birds had fled,
That mighty *Gitchi Manitou* sent angel choirs instead;
Before their light the stars grew dim, and wand'ring hunters heard the hymn:

Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, *in excelsis gloria.*

Within a lodge of broken bark the tender Babe was found,
A ragged robe of rabbit skin enwrapped His beauty round;
But as the hunter braves drew nigh, the angel song rang loud and high... (*refrain*)

The earliest moon of wintertime is not so round and fair
As was the ring of glory on the helpless infant there.
The chiefs from far before him knelt with gifts of fur and beaver pelt... (*refrain*)

O children of the forest free, O sons of Manitou,
The Holy Child of earth and heaven is born today for you.
Come kneel before the radiant Boy who brings you beauty, peace and joy... (*refrain*)

*DOXOLOGY

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

**Depths and heights break forth in singing; angels, saints, make melody,
All dominions, every power sing, make new psalms of ecstasy,
Let no heart refrain from praising God,
celebrate in harmony, evermore and evermore.**

*THE SEVENTH LESSON John 1: 1-14

Bob Kosturko, *representing the Festival Choir*

*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



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 **Chuck Gerlinger**.

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 <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 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

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*
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.