



Old South Church

Copley Square, Boston

*A Congregation of the
United Church of Christ*

Gathered 1669

September 24, 2023

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

*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

Aria

Charles Callahan

*HYMN 1

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

ST. DENIO

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Ashley J. Popperson

One: We have promised to live as Your people, o God.

**Many: Yet we confess that we have fallen short
of what we owe one another.**

One: We do not always hear your cry for help,

Many: Your cry for help in the voices of the poor and hungry.

One: We have not always been faithful to your dreams for us,

Many: Your dreams which are for our flourishing.

One: Encourage us with Your love,

Many: For we belong to you through Christ's grace.

** Indicates all who are able may stand*

One: Your love has no bounds, O God.

Many: In Christ we are forgiven.

One: And so we promise once again,

Many: We will live as Your people, O God.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

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

SUNG RESPONSE

Solo: *Gathered in God's name 'round the living Word.*

Gathered as one family in the name of love.

Congregation:



Gath-ered from near and far, gath-ered in this ho-ly place,




gath-ered as stran-gers and friends, gath-ered and gift-ed by grace.



Gath - ered in God's name, 'round the liv - ing Word.



Gath - ered as one fam-ly in the name of love,



slowing
in the name of love, in the name of love.

Text and Music: Michael Burkhardt, 2021

WELCOME

ANTHEM

Wade in the Water

Harry T. Burleigh, *arr.*

*Wade in the water, wade in the water, children,
wade in the water, God's a-gonna trouble the water.*

See that band all dressed in white,
the leader looks like an Israelite.

See that band all dressed in red,
It looks like the band that Moses led.

LISTEN

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kate M. Nintcheu

SCRIPTURE

Ruth 4:1-10

Madison T. Chau

*HYMN 18

Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer

CWM RHONDDA

SERMON

The Way it's Supposed to Work

John M. Edgerton

*HYMN 20

God of Abraham and Sarah

CONSTANTINE

RESPOND

*CALL TO PRAYER

Rachel J. Barton

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. *Please be seated.*

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Creator in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen. Ecumenical Version (1988)

PRAYER RESPONSE My Shepherd Will Supply My Need Jason W. Krug, *arr.*
THE OLD SOUTH RINGERS
Peter Coloumbe, *director*

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 God Has Work for Us to Do Mark A. Miller

Till all the jails are empty and all the bellies filled;
till no one hurts or steals or lies, and no more blood is spilled;

*God has work for us to do, God has work for us to do,
till God's will is done, and all things are made new,
God has work for us to do!*

Till age and race and gender no longer separate;
till pulpit, press, and politics are free of greed and hate:

God has work for us to do...

In classroom, church, and office, in shops or on the street;
in ev'ry place where people thrive or starve or hide or meet:
God has work for us.

By sitting at a bedside to hold pale trembling hands,
by speaking for the powerless against unjust demands,
by praying through our doing and singing though we fear,
by trusting that the seed we sow will bring God's harvest near:

God has work for us to do...

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN 394 **In Christ There Is No East or West** MCKEE

*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION John M. Edgerton

POSTLUDE Trumpet Tune and Chorale in D Major David V. Hufford



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

The flowers today are given
by Elizabeth and Betty Pitcher
in loving memory of
those who have gone before

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



NOTES ON TODAY’S MUSIC

It is hard to overstate the importance of **Henry Thacker (“Harry”) Burleigh** (1866–1949) to the development of the spiritual as a genre within western music. Burleigh was a composer, arranger, and professional singer renowned for his baritone voice. It is perhaps the last of these — Burleigh’s vocal training in the classical tradition — that made him such an effective conveyer of the spiritual to audiences otherwise ignorant of the rich variety the genre comprised. His arrangements for solo voice cast the spiritual in the guise of the western Art Song — softening the rhythmic and harmonic contours of the melodic material, adding simple piano accompaniments — allowing them to be easily absorbed by new audiences eager to experience this music. A few of Burleigh’s solos were later adapted into arrangements for full choir; among these is the setting of “Wade in the Water” we hear today.

Composer and Church Musician **Mark A. Miller** serves as Assistant Professor of Church Music at Drew Theological School and is a Lecturer in the Practice of Sacred Music at Yale University. He also serves as Minister of Music for Christ Church, Summit, New Jersey. A crusader for progressive theology and inclusive music for worship, Miller has said his dream is that the music he composes, performs, teaches and leads will inspire and empower people to create community. To that end, Miller has led music for United Methodists and others around the country, including directing music for the Methodist’s General Conference in 2008. He has dozens of hymns and anthems in print — and, given the universally progressive orientation of the texts he sets, this points to the hunger for affirming, uplifting texts which convey modern values around inclusion and belonging. Lastly, speaking of texts, the one set by Miller in “God Has Work For Us to Do” was authored by none other than the Rev. Dr. Carl Daw, who Old Southerners will recall helped shape this year’s Lenten season through his Psalter paraphrases.

—Mitchell Crawford, *Minister of Music*



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

John M. Edgerton, *Senior Minister*
Ashley J. Popperson, *Associate Minister* ❖ Katherine A. Schofield, *Interim Associate Minister*
Donald A. Wells, *Theologian in Residence* ❖ June R. Cooper, *Theologian in the City*
David Story, *Wedding Minister* ❖ Ken Orth, *Healing Worship Minister*
Rachel Barton, *Nancy S. Taylor Fellow and Youth & Young Adult Leader*
Madison Chau, *Seminary Fellow*
James W. Crawford, *Senior Minister Emeritus* ❖ Nancy S. Taylor, *Senior Minister Emeritus*
Mitchell Crawford, *Minister of Music*
George Sargeant, *Associate Organist & Choirmaster*
Tim Harbold, *Director, Gospel Choir* ❖ Peter Coulombe, *Director, Old South Ringers*
Kate Nintcheu, *Director, Children & Family Ministries*
Summer Marsh, *Director, Old South Preschool*
Aislin Kate Anderson, *Children's Choir Director*
Amelia Gerrard, *Church Administrator* ❖ John Braught, *Director of Operations*
Kathleen Steen, *Staff Accountant*
Emily Ross, *Archivist* ❖ Karen Hand, *Wedding Coordinator*
Jamie Garuti, *Multimedia Director*
Rémy Hatfield-Gardner and William Wei, *Livestream Production Assistants* ❖ Ava Welling, *Sound Technician*
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*
Debby Kuenstner, *Chair, Board of Trustees* ❖ Kate Silfen, *Historian*
Christine Del Favero and Tony Rich, *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

COMMUNITY HOUR FORUMS

Sundays, 10 a.m. in Mary Norton Hall on the 2nd floor,
Zoom at tinyurl.com/OSC23-24Forum

- **September 24th** - Meet Madison: Our New Seminary Fellow!
- **October 1st** - no Forum, join us on retreat in Craigsville - see below!
- **October 8th** - Meet John Edgerton, Our New Senior Minister

CONNECTIONS LUNCHEON

Sunday, September 24th, following Festival Worship, 4th Floor Phillis Wheatley Room

To be a member of Old South Church is to enter the company of Revolutionary Era heroes, abolitionists, suffragettes, anti-poverty crusaders, and poets. Our saints include Benjamin Franklin, Samuel Adams, Phillis Wheatley... and maybe you! Want to learn more about the life of this community of faith and break bread with other newcomers and church members? Join our Connections Info Session! Contact Rev. Katherine Schofield katherine@oldsouth.org for more info.

ANNA YODER MEMORIAL SERVICE

Sunday, September 24th, 1pm

Anna was a very active and faithful member and leader at Old South having served as a deacon and leading and participating in numerous committees, including as co-chair of the inaugural congregational care and support committee. To read her full obituary, go to tinyurl.com/YoderObit.

ALL-CHURCH RETREAT

Friday, September 29th - Sunday, October 1st, Craigville Retreat Center, Cape Cod

Go to tinyurl.com/OSC2023Retreat to register by noon this Sunday, September 24th
go to oldsouth.org/all-church-retreat to learn more

Get excited! It's time for the All-Church Retreat -- our yearly weekend on the Cape. This intergenerational opportunity to connect, relax, play, and learn together is unique - and we hope you will join in! This year we are ecstatic that our special guest will be Rev. Dr. Mary Luti, world-renowned author, professor and theologian - and long time member of Old South Church. Online registration is now open. Adult price for the weekend is \$190 - which includes 2 nights lodging, 5 meals, and the program. Teens and children are free. Day visitors may join in for \$40. Scholarships are available - please reach out to Kate Nintcheu at children@oldsouth.org.



SNEUCC JUSTICE SUMMIT: Trans and Nonbinary Belonging in the Church

Saturday, October 7th, 10am-5pm, in person at Old South and online

Go to tinyurl.com/2023SNEUCCJustice to register by September 16th

The Justice Summit on Trans & Nonbinary Belonging in the Church is a chance for worship, learning, and connection for people on all stages of their journey of trans-affirmation. These conversations will help us explore how we can deepen our Open & Affirming commitments as a church and bring those values into our wider communities. Youth & Adults welcome!



HOSPITALITY FOR JUSTICE SUMMIT

Go to tinyurl.com/SummitHospitality to sign up

We need you to help fling wide Old South's Open Door on October 7th, as UCC folks throughout our region gather to worship, learn, and connect about expanding our Open & Affirming commitments to intentionally include trans and nonbinary people. There are a variety of short (about an hour) volunteer shifts from 8:45am-5pm on October 7th, which means you're also able to join the rest of the program. If you haven't already, be sure to register at tinyurl.com/2023SNEUCCJustice, and check that you're an Old South volunteer so that your registration fee is covered.

TRANS JUSTICE AND BELONGING AT OLD SOUTH

OSC has been selected as one of a few churches within the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ (SNEUCC)'s inaugural program: Trans Affirming Church Affinity Group! If you would like to join our leadership team to plan and support programming, education, and other events to support our mission throughout this program year (and beyond!), email Ashley Popperson at ashley@oldsouth.org.



HOSPITALITY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Scan the QR code with your phone camera to sign up

Help us swing our open doors even wider. We need you to welcome worshipers, usher, provide food or host at coffee hour, or become a docent and give tours of the Sanctuary. Join the teams that make worship services and the life of Old South

CHURCH SCHOOL BEGINS

Go to oldsouth.org/children-youth-families to learn more about Old South's offerings to students of all ages. Email Kate Nintcheu for more information at children@oldsouth.org.

MUSIC AT OLD SOUTH

Visit oldsouth.org/music to learn more.

Old South is home to a vibrant array of vocal, choral, and instrumental ensembles, and no matter your age or ability, there is a place for you in our music ministry. This Fall, we're delighted by the return of our First Singers!

First Singers — rehearse Sundays at 8:30 a.m.

Festival Choir — rehearse Thursdays at 7 p.m. and Sundays at 10 a.m.

Children's Choir — rehearse Sundays at 9 a.m.

Old South Ringers — rehearse Tuesdays at 6 p.m.

Gospel Choir — rehearse once monthly; visit oldsouth.org/music to see the full schedule.

PAUL SOPER IN CONCERT

Sunday, October 1st, 3 p.m.

Our very own Paul Soper, Festival Choir Choral Fellow, will appear alongside Bradley Pennington in recital at the Dante Alighieri Society (41 Hampshire St., Cambridge). Contact BBCO@comcast.net for more information.

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

Sundays, 10 a.m., 4th Floor Phillis Wheatley Room,

go to tinyurl.com/OSC23-24BibleStudy to join via Zoom, password: BibleStudy

Delve into the day's scripture passage heard in worship. This no-homework Bible study delights in taking a scholarly look at ancient texts. Don't leave your questions at the door; we need them. For more information contact Katherine Schofield.

THROUGH THE BIBLE

Thursdays, 7 p.m., 4th Floor Phillis Wheatley Room, go to tinyurl.com/OSCThroughBible for Zoom link

Join us as we journey at a reflective and thorough pace through the Hebrew Bible. We are about to begin studying the Book of Isaiah. For more information contact Katherine Schofield.

GREEN TIP

Listen Now - Maya van Rossum on the Green Amendment for the Generations. Are the laws of the United States fitted for sustainability? Go to tinyurl.com/OSCGreenTip to listen to a podcast featuring Maya van Rossum, who argues that it is time for a new approach - environmental constitutionalism, a campaign to add environmental amendments to state and U.S. constitutions.



Go to tinyurl.com/CityMission2023 to register by September 27th

WEEKLY WORSHIP

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

First Worship Sundays at 9 a.m.

Festival Worship Sundays at 9 a.m.

Jazz Worship Thursdays at 6 p.m. with communion

Vespers Healing Worship 2nd Sundays at 5 p.m.



*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