



Old South Church

Copley Square, Boston

*A Congregation of the
United Church of Christ*

Gathered 1669

March 17, 2023

5th Sunday in Lent

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

O Lamm Gottes, unschuldig, BWV 618

J.S. Bach

INTROIT

FRANCIS

David Hurd

Great God, your love has called us here
as we, by love, for love were made.

Your living likeness still we bear,
though marred, dishonored, disobeyed.

We come, with all our heart and mind
your call to hear, your love to find.

**Indicates all who are able may stand*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rachel J. Barton

One: Thus says the Lord, who gives the sun for light by day
and the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night,

**Many: who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar—
the Lord of hosts is God's name.**

One: O God, when will the people of God cease to be your children?

**Many: Thus says the Lord: If the moon were to cease to wax and wane,
if the sun were to stop it's burning.**

All this would come to pass before you would cease to be my children.

One: O God, what is the measure of your love for us?

**Many: Thus says the Lord: Measure the heavens above,
put your arms around the foundations of earth.**

If you can do this, then you will have the measure of my love for you.

*HYMN 43

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

BEECHER

WELCOME

*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM

Little Innocent Lamb

Marshall Bartholomew, *arr.*

*Little Lamb, little Lamb, little innocent Lamb,
I'm a-gonna serve God till I die.*

Hypocrite, hypocrite, tell you what he do,
he'll talk about me, and he'll talk about you.

Devil, he's got a slippery shoe,
now if you don't mind, he gonna slip it on you.

'Cause there ain't no dyin' over there
in that heavenly land,
'cause there ain't no dyin' over in-a that land,
there'll be joy, joy, joy!

Just take one brick from Satan's wall,
Satan's wall gonna tumble and fall.

'Cause there ain't no dyin' over there...

LISTEN

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kate M. Nintcheu

SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 31:27-34

Betsy Ragan

*HYMN 412

God Moves in a Mysterious Way

DUNDEE

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

SERMON

John M. Edgerton

*HYMN 208

God Loved the World

ROCKINGHAM

RESPOND

*CALL TO PRAYER

Ashley J. Popperson

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.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

time of silent confession

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

Celtic Prayer
THE OLD SOUTH RINGERS
Peter Coulombe, *director*

Gary Brubaker

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Rachel J. Barton



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

Psalm 86

Gustav Holst

To my humble supplication, Lord, give ear and acceptance;
save thy servant, that hath none help nor hope but thee alone.
Send, O send relieving gladness to my soul oppressed with sadness,
which, from clog of earth set free, winged with zeal, flies up to thee.

Bow down thine ear, O Lord, hear me;
for I am poor and needy.

To my humble supplication...

Preserve thou my soul, for I am holy;
O thou my God, save thy servant that trusteth in thee.

Save thy servant...

Be merciful unto me, O Lord, for I cry unto thee daily.
Rejoice the soul of thy servant, for unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.

Send, O send relieving gladness...

For thou, Lord, art good and ready to forgive,
and plenteous in mercy unto them that call upon thee.
Give ear, O Lord, unto my prayer,
and attend to the voice of my supplication.
I will praise thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart,
and I will glorify thy name for evermore.

To thee, rich in mercies' treasure, and in goodness without measure,
never failing help to those who on thy sure help repose.
Heavenly Tutor, of thy kindness, teach my dullness, guide my blindness,
that my steps thy paths may tread which to endless bliss do lead.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN 24

The God of Abraham Praise

LEONI

*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

John M. Edgerton

POSTLUDE

March from "An Occasional Oratorio," HWV 62

G. F. Handel



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

The flowers today are given by Carol Boggs
with many thanks to Tony Rich
for his service as Senior Deacon

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



NOTES ON TODAY'S MUSIC

British Composer **Gustav Holst** (1874–1934) is best remembered today for his orchestral suite *The Planets*, written in an opulent style he would later abandon. Holst found inspiration in the English folksong revival of the early 20th century, and above all, in the works of his close friend and fellow composer, Ralph Vaughan Williams. Vaughan Williams, an agnostic, unwittingly became a seminal figure in 20th century sacred music, making significant and diverse contributions to the genre over the long span of his life and career. Among the earliest was the 1906 edition of *The English Hymnal*, which Vaughan Williams edited (and contributed a few original tunes: SINE NOMINE — “For All the Saints” — being one). In soliciting material for the hymnal — harmonizations, arrangements, newly-composed original tunes, etc. — it was natural Vaughan Williams should turn to Holst, who contributed a now famous setting of “In the Bleak Midwinter,” as well as a harmonization of a melody from the *Genevan Psalter*. He paired this music with an English metrical paraphrase of Psalm 86 dating from around 1620 — roughly contemporaneous with the *Psalter*.

Holst returned to the Genevan-tuned Psalm 86 in the following decade, pairing it with an arrangement of Psalm 150 which uses the familiar LASST UNS ERFREUEN (perhaps best know as “All Creatures of Our God and King,” though the tune accommodates many texts, including the Doxology — “Praise God from whom all blessings flow”). Composition on Holst’s *Two Psalms* was completed in 1912, though they would remain unpublished until 1920.

With simple and repetitive rhythm, Holst’s treatment of the Genevan tune casts a pall over the music of the Psalm, which is stark and austere (one commentator suggests “monastic”). Helpful in the conjuration of this aura is the minor, Dorian modality which permeates the work’s harmony. In service to the text, the setting takes on a general bleakness, and a feeling of otherworldliness. Though Holst’s work concludes with a full-voiced presentation of the tune, the energy cannot be sustained, and the piece ultimately dies away: against the neutral backdrop of a C major chord, two plucked bass notes trail off into vast silence.

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 Associate Minister Ashley Popperson for more info at ashley@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*

Rachel Barton, *Assistant Minister and Nancy S. Taylor Fellow*

Donald A. Wells, *Theologian in Residence* ❖ June R. Cooper, *Theologian in the City*

David Story, *Wedding Minister* ❖ Ken Orth, *Healing Worship Minister*

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*

Rémy Hatfield-Gardner, *Administrative Assistant* ❖ Kathleen Steen, *Staff Accountant*

Emily Ross, *Archivist* ❖ Karen Hand, *Wedding Coordinator*

Jamie Garuti Sage, *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*

Maren Batalden, *Moderator* ❖ Rob Gabler, *Clerk* ❖ Bill Bulkeley, *Treasurer*

Debby Kuenstner, *Chair, Board of Trustees* ❖ Kate Silfen, *Historian*

Christine Del Favero and Laurie Stickels, *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.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE: LEGACY LIVES ON



Sunday, March 17, 12:15 p.m., Mary Norton Hall, Light lunch will be served

Do you struggle with offering (or wanting) forgiveness? On Sunday March 17 following Festival Worship, we will be led by Legacy Lives On. This OSC grantee organization is founded by women who have experienced the loss of loved ones to violence. Join Clarissa Turner, Janet Connors, and Mahogany Payne in hearing and telling stories of needing or offering forgiveness. During this season of Lent, as we struggle with our individual and corporate sins, this event will offer a deep look at the work of restorative and transformative justice. Learn more about Legacy Lives On at legacyliveson.org. Questions? Email Charlotte Simpson char.r.simpson@gmail.com.

THE COMMUNITY HOUR FORUM

Sundays, 10 a.m., 2nd floor Mary Norton Hall and online, go to tinyurl.com/OSCForums for Zoom link, 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. For nearly a whole liturgical season, we've been thinking through different perspectives on the theological concept of sin. Now it's the congregation's turn to talk about it!

- **March 17:** Join Rev. Ashley Popperson this week for a conversation about our own understandings of sin and how it has changed throughout our lives.
- **March 24:** Join Rev. John Edgerton to hear about one of the most ancient concepts of sin--learn how pomegranate shaped bells would help avoid being accidentally struck dead by God!

BLESSINGS FOR MARATHON SUNDAY

Coffee Hours through April 15

This year, we will be distributing felt hearts on the weekend of the Boston Marathon as a blessing for their race. We invite you to decorate these hearts with us by embroidering encouraging words, patterns, or designs. We will have supplies available for decorating on the Sundays leading up to April 15th during coffee hour. Questions? Email children@oldsouth.org.

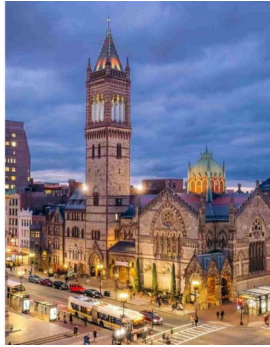


JOIN OUR USHER TEAM

Training session, Sunday, March 17, 12:30 p.m., in the Sanctuary

**become
an
usher
at
Old
South
Church**

help make our welcomes
wider and our doors more
open



Looking to meet more people at Old South? Wondering how you can contribute to our wide open door? Think about serving as an usher! Ushering is an easy way to get more involved at Old South. Everyone is welcome, and you only need to be friendly and willing to help. Interested, or even just a little curious? Join us Sunday, March 17 in the rear of the Sanctuary from 12:30 – 1:15pm to learn about serving at 11am worship. Potential, new, and returning ushers are encouraged to attend- we could all use a refresher, and it will be wonderful to get to know each other! Questions? Email hospitality@oldsouth.org.

VOLUNTEER TO READ SCRIPTURE

Go to tinyurl.com/OSCScriptureReaders to sign up

Reading the Bible in community is an essential Christian spiritual practice. Each week at Festival Worship a volunteer reads scripture before the sermon. People of all ages are encouraged to volunteer! Questions? Email ashley@oldsouth.org.

THURSDAY EVENING WORSHIP DEVELOPMENTS

Our Dreaming Team worked diligently through the Fall to clarify our vision for the service. It is our hope that this mid-week service will provide sanctuary to those in need of rest, particularly for Christians who have found themselves without a church and who seek a more progressive and welcoming church home with vibrant and modern worship. This week we launched the search for a music director. Please keep this process lifted in your prayers. We hope to hire a director by mid-Spring. This director will hire a house band. We will work together throughout the summer, preparing for a September 2024 launch. Questions, [email ashley@oldsouth.org](mailto:ashley@oldsouth.org).

THE WORK THAT RECONNECTS WORKSHOP

April 13, 9:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Guild Room, register at bit.ly/WTRReconnects



Join The Climate Crisis Task Force, in partnership with the Boston University School of Theology's Faith and Ecological Justice Program for a day-long workshop inviting us to grieve, give thanks, and grow hope for a world impacted by climate change. We'll be led by facilitators trained in the Work That Reconnects, a global network of leaders collaborating in service to the Great Turning (<https://workthatreconnects.org/>). Have questions? Talk to Rachel at rachel@oldsouth.org.

BANNER PAINTING - LAST CHANCE!

Sunday, March 17, 10 a.m. in the Guild Room

Remember those five 9 foot tall climate change banners we started painting in the summer? We are *so close* to finishing, and we need your help! Join us for what is likely to be the final painting session of the banners.

DONATE OLD BOOKS AND PUZZLES



Old South Preschool, in celebration of National Reading Month, will host a used Book Fair and puzzle swap in the last week of March. They are now accepting donations of used books (all genres and audiences) as well as used puzzles (for any age and # of pieces). If you have items that you no longer need and would like to see them find a new home, kindly bring them in. There is a donation box on the side of the reception desk, in the elevator lobby and on the 3rd floor. This fundraiser will directly support Arts & Literacy here at OSP, and also captures our spirit of recycling and upcycling. Thank you for your support! Questions? Summer Marsh preschool@oldsouth.org

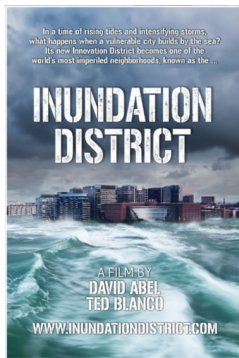
DONATE FLOWERS FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP

Go to tinyurl.com/2024FlowersOSC to sign up for a Sunday, dates are filling quickly

The church is open for worship on Sunday mornings and we have beautiful flowers in front of the pulpit again! Would you like to give the flowers one Sunday - in memory or in honor of a special person or event? I find it quite meaningful every Sunday to read the flower message. The price is \$100. Please send you message along with your payment. You can drop it off, send a check, or click here and make your gift online.



GREEN TIP: Inundation District Event



Tuesday, March 19, 7pm, Online only, register at www.tfaforms.com/5113627

INUNDATION DISTRICT, the newest film from David Abel and Ted Blanco, explores the implications of the City of Boston's decision to spend more than \$20 billion on building a new waterfront district — on landfill, at sea level. The film raises awareness about an era of rising seas and strengthening storms and the impacts on coastal communities. On Tuesday March 19th, at 7:00pm, the BTS Center will host an online panel discussion about the film, featuring journalist David Abel, Rob Mark, pastor of our neighbor Church of the Covenant, and Rev. Mariama White-Hammond, pastor of New Roots AME in Dorchester, and the former Chief of Environment, Energy, and Open Space for the City of Boston.

HOLY WEEK 2024

***Palm Sunday* — March 24th | 9AM & 11AM**

We mark Jesus' triumphal entrance into Jerusalem as our shouts of Hosanna fade to the drama of the coming week.

***Maundy Thursday* — March 28th | 7PM**

This service of Tenebrae (Latin for Shadows) tells the story of Jesus' last days. Led by the Willie Sordillo Ensemble, we journey from the Communion Table to the Cross as the light around us dims.

***Good Friday* — March 29th | 7PM**

Guided by Franz Liszt's Via Crucis, we journey through the stations of the cross on the most somber day of the Christian year. We gather in prayer and song to reflect on the last hours of Christ, and mourn the death that changed the world.

***Easter Sunday* — March 31st | 9AM & 11AM**

The triumph of the Christian story of resurrection informs a service of worship that is characterized by joyous celebration. Trumpet and organ, voice and timpani combine to bring us to the empty tomb, to peer inside, to see it is empty, to give God wild thanksgiving for the hope of everlasting life.

WEEKLY WORSHIP

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

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

FIRST Worship Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

FESTIVAL Worship Sundays at 11:00 a.m.

VESPERS HEALING Worship, the second Sunday at 5:00 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