

One: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to continue in the life of faith, be Christ's disciple, resist oppression and evil, show love and justice, and bear witness to Jesus Christ as best you are able?

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

All: Do you promise to walk with us in faithfulness and love, and to participate in the life of this church, by worshipping God with us, and offering your time, talent, and treasure for the ministry of the church?

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

One: We then welcome you as partners in the common life of this church and we expand this circle of community, all rising in body or spirit to share our covenant of mission with you.

***All: I do now in the presence of God and before this assembly give myself to the One whom Jesus called "Abba, Father" as the God in whose love I am grounded and whose realm I serve; to Jesus Christ, God incarnate, to whom I surrender and who rules my life; to God the Holy Spirit as the One who sustains, recreates, and guides me. I will share God's everlasting covenant by loving and living responsibly in communion with this one God. And I do furthermore engage to walk with my brothers and sisters in the wider Church and the Old South Church secure in God's grace, prepared in gratitude to live by the promise and serve in the hope of the Gospel.**

*THE RIGHT HAND OF CHRISTIAN LOVE

Jonathan Aleshire

ANTHEM

Walk Together Children

Evelyn Simpson-Curenton, *arr.*

Walk (sing, work) together, children, don't you get weary,
there's a great camp meeting in the promised land.

We're gonna' walk (sing, work) and never tire,
there's a great camp meeting in the promised land.

ATTEND

SCRIPTURE Exodus 3. 7-10 *abridged* Amo Ngoepe

*HYMN 572 **When Israel Was in Egypt's Land** GO DOWN, MOSES

During the hymn children are invited to leave for care.

SERMON Sankofa June R. Cooper
& Nancy S. Taylor

*HYMN 574 **In Egypt Under Pharaoh** LANCASHIRE

RITUAL OF REMEMBERING

*Congregants are asked to rise and face Africa as the names are read
of members of Old South Church in Boston from the 1600s and 1700s
who were enslaved or of African descent. We remember them.*

*THE NAMES Vivian R. Johnson

*THE MIDDLE PASSAGE (THE MAAFA) June R. Cooper

One: Eternal God, our Creator, the descendants of earth's firstborn
ancestors come to you in remembrance of tragic death.

**All: We have often spoken and acted in ignorance of our history,
but today we remember the sufferings of the past. We grieve
for those who made the long transatlantic crossing on slave
ships.**

One: We remember those dark-hued kings and queens, chiefs and
warriors who were stolen, shackled, and sold from African soil and
kindred.

**All: In the Middle Passage from Africa to the New World, they
traveled cramped in spaces too small for them to turn.**

One: We remember those who died from exhaustion, and cruel conditions; we remember those who were killed for their resistance.

All: We remember our brothers and sisters whose bodies were beaten, broken and violated. We remember our sisters who bore their young, only to be torn from them. We remember those who found freedom's final rest hanging from a tree. May we never see this sort of atrocity again.

One: We remember the cries of children whose tears were never comforted, and whose hearts were never warmed by the embrace of their mothers and fathers; and who were afflicted with the diseases of their oppressors.

All: Africa, our Africa, we may never have known you, but our faces are full of your blood. We, your children, cry, "God, have mercy." May the world never see this atrocity again.

One: May faith in Christ sustain us as we forgive the trespassers of the past.

All: We vow to remember and to honor the resistance and endurance of our ancestors. We thank you, God, for bringing us to freedom and for showing us the pathway to hope.

– African American Heritage Hymnal

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.

RESPONSE: I Love the Lord, Who Heard My Cry Richard Smallwood, *arr.*

I love the Lord, who heard my cry and pitied every groan.
Long as I live and troubles rise, I'll hasten to God's throne.

I love the Lord, who heard my cry and chased my grief away.
O let my heart no more despair while I have breath to pray.

RESPOND

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY The Drinking Gourd André J. Thomas, *arr.*
“The Drinking Gourd” is a map song used by Underground Railroad operatives to disseminate escape instructions. The many ‘sing posts’ encoded in the text enabled fleeing slaves to make their way north along the Ohio River to freedom. Taken at face value, the “drinking gourd” refers to the hollowed-out gourd used by slaves (and other rural Americans) as a water dipper. But here it is used as a code name for the Big Dipper star formation, which points to Polaris, the North Star.

Follow the drinking gourd, follow the drinking gourd,
For the old man is a-waitin’ for to carry you to freedom,
If you follow the drinking gourd.

When the sun comes back and the first quail calls, follow the drinking gourd.
The river bank will make a very good road, the dead trees will show you the way.
Left foot, peg foot, traveling on, follow the drinking gourd.

The little river ends between two hills,
There’s another river on the other side,
Where the great river meets the little river,
Follow the drinking gourd.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION Katherine A. Schofield

*HYMN 570 **We Shall Overcome** WE SHALL OVERCOME

*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BLESSING Nancy S. Taylor

POSTLUDE Hold On! Calvin Taylor



*Close-Up, a 20-minute tour of the Sanctuary, begins following worship at the front of the Sanctuary. Led by docent **Mary Hunter**.*

New here? Join a few Old Southerners at **The Welcome Hub** by the piano immediately following the Postlude.

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS:

Nancy S. Taylor, *Senior Minister*
Jonathan Aleshire, *New Member Deacon*
June R. Cooper, *Theologian in the City*
Mitchell Crawford, *Minister of Music*
Vivian R. Johnson, *Educator, Activist, History Maker*
Amo Ngoepe, *Urban Pastoral Minister*
George Sargeant, *Associate Organist and Choirmaster*
Katherine A. Schofield, *Interim Associate Minister*

The flowers today are given by **Suzanne Bacon**
in loving memory of her mother, **Geraldine Bacon**.



WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Edwin George & Barbara Susan Shriver—*Joining at First Worship*

Ed and Barbara moved to Fitchburg in 2017 to be near their son Ed (who is an Old South member). Previously they were in Carrollton, OH for twenty-seven years. Barbara worked in the Head Start Preschool and Ed served in churches in Pennsylvania, Indiana, West Virginia and Ohio. Ed's grandmother was a founding member of, and he was ordained in, the Christian Church (Disciples). Currently Ed has a Partnership Standing in the UCC.

Arthur L. (Tim) & Janet Marie Doggett—*Joining at Festival Worship*

Tim and Janet Doggett moved to Cambridge from the north shore community of Hamilton-Wenham in November where they were members of First Congregational Church of Hamilton for 15 years. They met in Texas where Janet is from originally, and Tim was in graduate school and an avid tornado chaser. Janet is a writer and watercolor artist, while Tim likes all things "weather" and works in Boston as an atmospheric scientist. Janet has autoimmune cirrhosis and is waiting for a liver transplant. They are both excited to be transferring their membership to Old South.

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 out <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, staff, and other information about this storied ship of faith!

CCLI License #2802138

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.

