

September 8th, 2019
**Reflections on
Life's Journey**

*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?*

PRELUDE *Cantabile* César Franck

*HYMN *Insert* **Here in This Place** GATHER US IN

*CALL TO WORSHIP Shawn M. Fiedler

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

Many: God's steadfast love endures forever.

One: For human life; for talking and moving and thinking together;
For common hopes, and hardships shared from birth until our dying;

Many: Thank you God.

One: For children; for their energy and curiosity;
For their brave play, startling frankness, and striking sympathies;

Many: Thank you, God.

* *Indicates all who are able may stand*

One: For the young; for their high hopes;
For their irreverence toward worn-out values, their search for freedom
And their solemn vows;

Many: Thank you, God.

One: For growing up and growing old; for wisdom deepened by experience;
For rest in leisure; and for time made precious by its passing;

Many: Thank you, God.

One: For the church into which we have been called;
For the good news we receive by Word and Sacrament;
For our life together in faith

Many: We thank and praise you, Eternal God. Amen.

*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

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 71: 5-6, 17-18

ANTHEM

Mothering God

Larry J. Long

Mothering God, you gave me birth in the bright morning of this world.
Creator, source of every breath, you are my rain, my wind, my sun.

Mothering Christ, you took my form, offering me your food of light,
Grain of life, and grape of love, your very body for my peace.

Mothering Spirit, nurturing one, in arms of patience hold me close,
So that in faith I root and grow until I flower, until I know.

BIRTH

REFLECTION

Erin Hull

HYMN 325 *Seated*

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

STUTT GART

GROWING UP

REFLECTION

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Kate Nintcheu

HYMN 359 *Seated*

O God, Who Teaches Us to Live

ST. ANNE

Children may leave for choir and childcare.

FINDING OUR WAY

REFLECTION

Toby Herrmann

*HYMN *Insert*

Here I Am, Lord

HERE I AM

SETTLING DOWN AND SERVING

REFLECTION

Jonathan Aleshire

HYMN 516 *Seated*

O Grant Us, God, a Little Space

WINCHESTER OLD

REFLECTION

Eliette Hilaire

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Katherine A. Schofield

*In thanksgiving to God and giving witness to generous hearts,
our financial gifts support ministries of mercy, justice, and beauty.*

OFFERTORY

Psalm 150

Franck

Alleluia!

O praise ye the Lord, praise God in the temple.
Praise ye the Lord in the firmament of God's power.
O praise God for her might, and the greatness of his wonders.
O praise God according to his majesty.

Praise the Lord with the sound of the trumpet.
Praise the Lord with the lute and the harp.
Praise the Lord with the timbrel and the dance.
O praise God with the organ and instrument of strings.

Praise God upon the loud cymbals.
Praise God upon the high sounding cymbals.
Let everything that hath breath, praise the Lord.

Alleluia!

GROWING OLDER

REFLECTION

David Story

*HYMN 476

My Life Flows On

ENDLESS SONG

*CALL TO PRAYER

Nancy S. Taylor

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. *You may be seated.*

PASTORAL PRAYER 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.

*HYMN 366

God of Our Life

SANDON

*BENEDICTION

Katherine A. Schofield

POSTLUDE

Sortie en sol majeur, FWV 41.56

Franck



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

Close-Up, a 20-minute tour of the Sanctuary, begins following worship at the front of the Sanctuary.

*Led by Docent **Mary Hunter.***

The flowers today are given in celebration of our 60th wedding anniversary. We give thanks for the extraordinary gift of a lifetime together since our wedding on September 5, 1959, in Clemson, SC by **Nan Tull** and **Frank Wezniak.**



TODAY'S REFLECTORS

Jonathan Aleshire, *7 Year Church Member*

Aria Chitty, *Church School Member*

Toby Herrmann, *1 Year Church Member*

Eliette Hilaire, *3 Year Church Member*

Erin Hull, *13 Year Church Member*



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

CCLI #2802138

CONGREGATIONAL CARE & SUPPORT AT OLD SOUTH CHURCH IN BOSTON

The Congregational Care and Support team provides ways for our congregation to respond to short term, real-life needs of individuals and families. The team is comprised of volunteers working together to offer practical, emotional, and spiritual support to those in need. Have you lost a loved one, incurred illness or injury, or faced a diagnosis of a chronic disease? Are you struggling with divorce or estrangement from family members? Are you experiencing a difficult life transition? Do you question your faith in times of difficulty? We are here to help you. Are you celebrating a new baby, a graduation, marriage, new jobs, award, retirement, or other momentous event? We are also here to celebrate your joys!

THE CALL CREW

contacts homebound members

THE CARD CREW

sends cards expressing concerns
and celebrating joys and accomplishments

THE FOOD CREW

prepares meals for those experiencing loss, medical need,
family disruptions, and the birth or adoption of children

THE PRAYER SHAWL CREW

knits or crochets shawls to bring comfort to members in need

We also lift up **PRAYERS** for personal support, coordinate **PASTORAL CARE** with hospital or home visits in times of acute need, and give **RIDES** to appointments and church-related functions. Team members can provide information about preparing life care documents such as advanced medical and dementia care directives and living wills as well as designating medical representatives.

Contact us at care@oldsouth.org to learn more about how we can help, or to volunteer for one of our groups.

**OLD SOUTH CHURCH IN BOSTON
MINISTERS, OFFICERS, & PROGRAM STAFF**

Nancy S. Taylor, *Senior Minister*
Katherine A. Schofield, *Interim Associate Minister* ❖ Shawn M. Fiedler, *Acting Associate Minister*
James W. Crawford, *Senior Minister Emeritus*
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, *Assistant Minister for Urban Life*
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*

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.