

Old South Church *in* Boston
Third Sunday of Advent

December 17th, 2023 ❖ 11:00 a.m.

A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

PRELUDE

VENI EMMANUEL

Calvin Hampton, *arr.*

*CAROL

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL



O come, O come, Em - ma - nu - el and ran - som cap - tive
O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, and or - der all things
O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on
O come, thou Root of Jes - se, free thine own from Sa - tan's
O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen wide our
O come, thou Day - spring, come and cheer our spir - its by thine
O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind all peo - ples in one



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
far and nigh; to us the path of knowl - edge show,
Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the law
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple save
heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that leads on high,
ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,
heart and mind; bid en - vy, strife, and dis - cord cease;



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
and cause us in thy ways to go.
in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
and give them vic - tory o'er the grave. } Re - joice! Re - joice!
and close the path to mis - er - y.
and death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
fill the whole world with heav - en's peace. }



Em - ma - nu - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

Text: Latin prose, pre-9th cent.; trans. composite
Tune: VENI EMMANUEL, Plainsong

*LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH: JOY

Gun Ho Lee and Joonhee Cho

One: The days are short. The night is long. The cold creeps in.
As despair pursues us, we light a candle for hope.

Many: May God's hope flicker within us through deepest night.

One: Bombs fall. Violence persists. The way to healing eludes us.
Within the rubble, we light a candle for peace.

Many: May God's peace abide within us as we work for peace around us.

One: Suffering abounds. As trials and tribulations mount,
we light this candle as a declaration of joy amidst sorrow.

Many: May God's joy renew us and sustain us in the work of love. Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

*SUNG RESPONSE



He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;



he came down that we may have love. Hal-le - lu - jah for-ev - er - more.

Text: Cameroon song
Tune: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon song;
transcr. and arr. John L. Bell (1986)

WELCOME

Rachel J. Barton

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-9

Jack Millard

The prophet speaks of the coming of a redeemer who will bring light and peace.

CAROL *seated*

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ES IST EIN' ROS

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



Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath sprung! Of
I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the rose I have in mind; with



Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing, as saints of old have sung. It came, a flow'r - et
Mar - y we be - hold it, the vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a -

bright, a - mid the cold of win - ter, when half-spent was the night.
right, she bore to us a Sav - ior, when half-spent was the night.

Text: German carol; stanzas 1 and 2 trans. Theodore Baker, 1894, alt.
Tune: ES IST EIN' ROS', *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, 1599;
arr. Michael Praetorius, 1609

THE SECOND LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

Grace Rousseau

The angel Gabriel announces to Mary the fullness of time.

*CAROL

The Angel Gabriel

GABRIEL'S MESSAGE

The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
"For known a bless - ed Moth - er you shall be,
Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
Of her, Em - ma - nu - el, the Christ, was born

his wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame;
all gen - er - a - tions praise con - tin - ual - ly,
"To me be as it pleas - es God!" she said.
in Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn;

"All hail," said he, "O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,"
Your son shall be Em - ma - nu - el, by seers fore - told.
"My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly name."
And Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:

"Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy!" Glo - - - ri - a!

Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834–1924)
Tune: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE, Basque traditional (Bordes, 1895; arr. Edgar Pettman [1866–1943])

After Mary and Joseph find no room in the inn, Jesus is born in a stable.

ANTHEM

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

Calvin Hampton

God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,
remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day;
to save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray:

O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy!

From God our heavenly Father a blessed angel came;
and unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same;
how that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name: *O tidings...*

"Fear not, then," said the angel, "Let nothing you affright;
this day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright,
to free all those who trust in him from Satan's power and might." *O tidings...*

Sing praises, praises to the Lord, all you within this place,
and with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace;
this holy tide of Christmas doth bring redeeming grace: *O tidings...*

SERMON

John M. Edgerton

*HYMN 106

My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise

MARIAS LOVSÅNG

*CALL TO PRAYER

Ashley J. Popperson

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. Please be seated.

PASTORAL PRAYER

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE

Manger Carol

Leo Sowerby, *arr.*

Here betwixt ass and oxen mild, sleep, sleep, sleep my little child.
Angels from on high hover in the sky, keeping watch above the incarnate God of love.

Here in the crib, secure from harms, sleep, sleep in your mother's arms.
Angels from on high hover in the sky, keeping watch above the incarnate God of love.

Here betwixt rose and lily white, sleep, sleep, sleep my son tonight.
Angels from on high hover in the sky, keeping watch above the incarnate God of love.

On this fair night of holy joy, sleep, sleep, sleep my little boy.
Angels from on high hover in the sky, keeping watch above the incarnate God of love.

THE FOURTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12

David Story

Sages led by a star encounter the power of evil and the Epiphany of Love.

CALL TO THE OFFERING

John M. Edgerton



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

A Joyous Christmas

John Leavitt, *arr.*

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold him, born the King of Angels!

*O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!*

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

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!

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.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE FIFTH LESSON

Luke 2:22-35

Rob Gabler

Simeon's Song of Praise

*CAROL

Once In Royal David's City



Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of all,
For he is our child - hood's pat - tern: day by day like us he grew;
And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;



where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:
and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;
he was lit - tle, weak, and help - less; tears and smiles like us he knew;
for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;



Mar - y was that moth - er mild; Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
with the poor and meek and low - ly lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
and he feel - eth for our sad - ness, and he sha - reth in our glad - ness.
and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1848, alt.
Tune: IRBY, Henry John Gauntlett, 1849

*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

John M. Edgerton

POSTLUDE

Toccata on VENI EMMANUEL

Andrew Carter



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

The large red poinsettia in the basket in front of the pulpit is given to the glory of God
and in loving memory of Anna Dartley and Dr. Seth Ephraim Dartley
by Saideh, Anna Nicole and Sara Ann.

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



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*
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*

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

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.

"How Does a Weary World Rejoice?" Art Exhibit

December 17th

With the Advent Season upon us, you may be feeling stressed, overwhelmed, or weary. This time of year is full, and for all of us, frequent news of wars makes all our hearts especially heavy. Take a quiet moment in Mary Norton Hall on the second floor to peruse this beautiful exhibit of visual representations of Advent, a reminder that even in a weary world, joy is for you too.

BLUE CHRISTMAS JAZZ WORSHIP

Thursday, December 21st at 6 p.m.

While we're bombarded with words lauding the wonders of the season, many people find the holidays anything but joyful. Blue Christmas provides an opportunity to step away & let go into music and readings that acknowledge your feelings without trying to talk you out of them. Even if you love the holidays, you may find comfort in this special service. The service is followed by a party to celebrate the ministries of Zoe Kronhe and Doug Rich.

FIRST NIGHT PIPES AND POPS

Sunday, December 31st, 7 p.m.

The best of Boston's brass and percussion artists join Minister of Music Mitchell Crawford in a supersonic program, presenting fun and engaging arrangements of popular classics, as well as a seasonal sing of "Auld Lang Syne." Free and open to the public.

CHURCH CLOSED BETWEEN CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S

No Jazz Worship on December 28th

The staff of Old South has been running at top speed this fall creating and carrying out our signature services. To allow them time to rest and prepare for the start of the new year, the church will be closed the week between Christmas and New Year's Eve. May you and yours have a blessed Christmas and a most joyous New Year!

HEARD IT AT COUNCIL

Go to oldsouth.org/news/heard-it-council-november-2023 to read Kate Silfen's blog on the latest happenings at Church Council including budget, staffing, and a time to wish godspeed to Katherine Schofield.

GBIO ACTIONS TO SUPPORT AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Next action January 10th, in Lexington

Go to www.gbio.org/idms.html to register and find actions in your area

GBIO is in the middle of an ambitious campaign to bring more affordable housing to Massachusetts and ensure that existing housing is safe, dignified, and accessible for some of the most vulnerable among us - public housing tenants and people returning home from incarceration. At these In District Meetings, we will gather by town/neighborhood to hear stories from people in our communities about why affordable housing is critical and ask our elected officials to make commitments to support our priorities - and it'll all be grounded in our values as people of faith.



EXCITING STAFF UPDATE

Go to oldsouth.org/news/exciting-staff-update to learn more

Rachel Barton will be taking on the position of Assistant Minister and Nancy Taylor Fellow. Rachel is a gifted pastor, and has already shown herself to be an invaluable colleague. Rachel will take on the lion's share of Katherine's responsibilities, while also retaining the work she does as our Nancy Taylor Fellow. There are a few areas of responsibility that will be covered by Rev. John, Rev. Ashley, and Rev. David Story. Overall, there will be minimal disruption to our current programming.

SAVE THE DATE: Consecration Week Lunch

Sunday, January 28th

Join us to celebrate Old South Church's stewardship campaign generosity for food, fellowship, and fun in Mary Norton Hall after Festival Worship.





REDISCOVERING THE BIRTH: A CHRISTMAS REFLECTION

Don Wells, Theologian in Residence

The birth of Jesus in Bethlehem's stable is a wonderfully celebrative event. That is as it should be. It is what Christmas is all about. But I fear we have domesticated it and sanitized it way too much. We celebrate the Nativity with angels singing, shepherds kneeling, cattle lowing, Magi coming, Handel's music playing, and on and on. One of the favorite hymns of the season has a verse: *'The cattle were lowing, the poor baby wakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.'* What kind of a baby is that? Thus, Jesus was born. Or so we think. Go to oldsouth.org/rediscovering-birth-christmas-reflection to continue reading.

HEALTHY CHURCH, HAPPY CHURCH

Friends, as Fall turns to Winter we want to lift up our goals of keeping each other healthy by being diligent about our own health.

- If you are feeling off, or coughing and drippy, we encourage you to tune into worship and Community Hour online. (This doesn't apply to chronic/non-contagious conditions.)
- As a reminder, we also have masked sections set apart in worship every week, so that everyone can feel comfortable in our community.
- During this flu and cold season, we will continue to encourage non-touch ways to pass the peace and have available masks and hand sanitizer.

Thank you for sharing these goals for keeping our community comfortable and healthy!

CHRISTMAS GREEN TIP: Purchase Gifts from Sustainable Businesses

- Reuse gift boxes, wrapping paper, ribbons, and gift bags. Store them in a large container for reuse.
- Repurpose what you have around the house: newspapers, magazines, pillowcases, scarves, cloth napkins, recycled paper decorated by you or your kids, or pretty glass containers.
- Make the wrapping the gift, such as reusable shopping bags, reusable containers (cookie jar, mason jar, decorative glass containers), scarves, blankets, pretty planter pots.
- Pass the (reusable) parcel. Wrap gifts in reusable gift sacs for reuse by the recipient.
- A gifting plate for edible gifts is also a nice touch.
- Ditch the tissue and unnecessary filler unless they're made from reusable components.
- Use natural decorations, such as pinecones, evergreen sprigs, dried leaves.

Go to greenthatlif.com/eco-friendly-gift-giving-guide/ for more ideas.

CHRISTMAS EVE MORNING WORSHIP

We will gather for a single simple service in the Gordon Chapel at 10am. Come ready to sing your favorite Christmas Carols! Childcare provided.

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Sunday, December 24th at 5 p.m., 8 p.m., and 11 p.m.

We offer three unique candlelit services on Christmas Eve, the first two of which will also be viewable via live stream. We hope you can join us!

5 p.m. Candlelight Family Service

Children are invited to participate in an impromptu Christmas pageant, with simple costumes provided. We sing carols to tell the Christmas story together.

8 p.m. Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols

An elegant telling of the Christmas story in carols and readings with music for choir and organ, culminating in the singing of "Silent Night" in our candle-lit sanctuary.

11 p.m. Candlelight Communion

A warmly traditional service with festive carol singing, traditional lessons, and communion in our garland-bedecked chapel. We greet the birth of Christ by singing "Silent Night" outdoors by candlelight just after midnight.

NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE

Join us for a simple New Year's service on December 31st, at 10 a.m. in the Gordon Chapel.

WEEKLY WORSHIP

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

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

FIRST Worship Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

FESTIVAL Worship Sundays at 11:00 a.m.

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.