



Old South Church *in Boston*

December 24th, 2021

A CANDLELIGHT SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

*It is Christmas time, a halting of hate time.
On this platform of peace, we can create a language
to translate ourselves to ourselves and to each other.
At this holy instant, we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.*
— from Maya Angelou's *Amazing Peace: A Christmas Poem*

PRELUDE Carillon de Westminster Louis Vierne
 Greensleeves Richard Purvis
 Puer natus est Everett Titcomb

CAROL **O Come, All Ye Faithful** ADESTE FIDELIS

**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!**

refrain:

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

**Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! (*refrain*)**

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born that happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! (*refrain*)**

CHRISTMAS CREED FROM LATIN AMERICA *unison* Shawn M. Fiedler
 Acting Associate Minister

**I believe in Jesus Christ and in the power of the Gospel which began in Bethlehem.
I believe in the One whose spirit glorified a small village,
 of whose coming the shepherds saw the sign,
 and for whom there was no room in the inn.
I believe in the One whose life changed the course of history,
 for whom the kings of the earth had no power,
 and who was not understood by the proud.
I believe in the One to whom the poor, the oppressed, the discouraged,
 the afflicted, the sick, the blind and the leprous gave welcome
 and accepted as Savior.**

**I believe in the One who, with love, changed the hearts of the proud,
showing, with his life, that it is more important to serve than to be served,
and that the greatest joy is in giving your life for others.
I believe in peace, which means justice among all peoples and nations,
and love among all.
I believe in reconciliation, forgiveness and the transforming power of the gospel.
I believe that Christmas is strength and power, and that this world can change
if, with humility and faith, we kneel before the manger.
I believe that I must be the first one to do so. Amen.**

WELCOME AND BIDDING PRAYER

CAROL

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

CAROL

**It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven’s all-gracious King”:
the world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.**

**Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long;
beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled two thousand years of wrong;
and we at war on earth hear not the tidings that they bring;
O, hush the noise and cease the strife to hear the angels sing!**

**And you, beneath life’s crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,
look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing:
O, rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing.**

**For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.**

THE FIRST LESSON The angel Gabriel Isaac & Julia B.
 visits the Virgin Mary
 Luke 1:26–35; 38

ANTHEM Ding! Dong! Merrily on High Gerald Near, *arr.*

Ding! dong! merrily on high in heaven the bells are ringing!
 Ding! dong! verily the sky is riven with angel singing!
 Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below, let steeple bells be swungen,
 And "i-o, i-o, i-o!" by priest and people sungen!
 Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!

Pray you, dutifully prime your matin chime, ye ringers!
 May you beautifully rhyme your eve-time song, ye singers!
 Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!

THE SECOND LESSON Luke tells of the birth of Jesus Reamogetje S. Ngoepe
 Luke 2:1-7 *Pastoral Resident*

CAROL **O Little Town of Bethlehem** ST. LOUIS

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.

**How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.**

**O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!**

THE THIRD LESSON The Angels and Shepherds Deb Washington
pay homage to the babe
Luke 2:8-14

ANTHEM Hydom, Tiddlydom* *Traditional Czech,*
Mark Burrows, arr.

Shepherds in the field at night all behold a wondrous sight.
Hear the song the angels sing, hear the happy news they bring.

Hurry shepherds far and wide, gather near the baby's side.
Play the pipe and beat the drum, now a joyous time has come.

Peace so precious, love so small, sleeping in a cattle stall.
Gentle Joseph, Mary mild, tending to the little child.

Shepherds run to spread your cheer, night is ending—hope is here.
Play the pipe and beat the drum, now a joyous time has come.

**The word “hydom” mimics the drone of bagpipes;
“tiddlydom” represents the rhythm of the drum.*

THE FOURTH LESSON The wise men are led Manuel Navia
by the star to Jesus
Matthew 2: 1–12

ANTHEM

MILFORD

Joseph Stephenson

If angels sung a Savior's birth, on that auspicious morn,
we well may imitate their mirth, now he again is born.

A CHRISTMAS WORD

Nancy S. Taylor
Senior Minister & CEO

CAROL

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

**Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
*Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"***

**Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity,
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
*Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"***

**Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
*Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"***

THE CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Katherine A. Schofield
Interim Associate Minister



*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 Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow David Hurd, *arr.*
*We look forward to welcoming Dr. Hurd to Old South this coming February
for a Festival celebrating his hymnody.*

There's a star in the East on Christmas morn,
rise up, shepherd, and follow;
it will lead to the place where the Christ was born,
rise up, shepherd, and follow.

Leave your flocks and leave your lambs,
rise up, shepherd, and follow;
Leave your ewes and leave your rams,
rise up, shepherd, and follow.

*Follow, follow, rise up, shepherd, and follow,
follow the star of Bethlehem.
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.*

If you take good heed to the angel's words,
rise up, shepherd, and follow;
you'll forget your flock, you'll forget your herd,
rise up, shepherd, and follow.

Leave your flocks and leave your lambs,
rise up, shepherd, and follow;
Leave your ewes and leave your rams,
rise up, shepherd, and follow. (*refrain*)

PASSAGES OF LIGHT

Reamogetje S. Ngoepe
Pastoral Resident

Jessica Young Chang
Seminarian

CAROL

Silent Night

STILLE NACHT

**Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
'round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing: "Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born!
Christ the Savior is born!"**

**Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from Thy holy face
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth!
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth!**

BENEDICTION

Nancy S. Taylor
Senior Minister & CEO.

CAROL

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

**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.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;

**he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.**

**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.**

POSTLUDE

In Dulci Jubilo, BWV 729

J. S. Bach



Worship With Us

Sunday Worship *grand & expressive* Sundays, 10 a.m.

Jazz Worship *with soul & sax* Thursdays, 6 p.m.

Healing Worship *gentle & tender* Second Sundays, 12:30 p.m.

OLD SOUTH CHURCH IN BOSTON MINISTERS, OFFICERS, & STAFF

Nancy S. Taylor, *Senior Minister* ❖ James W. Crawford, *Senior Minister Emeritus*
Katherine A. Schofield, *Interim Associate Minister* ❖ Shawn M. Fiedler, *Acting Associate Minister*
Donald A. Wells, *Theologian in Residence* ❖ June R. Cooper, *Theologian in the City*
Reamogetje S. Ngoepe, *Pastoral Resident* ❖ Jessica Young Chang, *Seminarian*
David Story, *Wedding Minister* ❖ Ken Orth, *Healing Worship Minister*

Mitchell Crawford, *Minister of Music*
George Sargeant, *Associate Organist & Choirmaster*
Tim Harbold, *Director, Gospel Choir* ❖ Willie Sordillo, *Director, Jazz Worship Music*
Peter Coulombe, *Director, Old South Ringers*

Kate Nintcheu, *Director, Children & Family Ministries*
Martha Schick, *Youth & Young Adult Ministries Leader*
Summer Marsh and Carolyn Davis, *Co-Directors, Old South Preschool*

Helen McCrady, *Senior Church Administrator* ❖ John Braught, *Director of Operations*
Jamie Garuti, *Multimedia Director* ❖ Linda Van Praet, *Accounting & Human Resources*
Alex Pickering, *Administrative Assistant* ❖ Emily Ross, *Archivist*
Ralph Watson, *Snowden Partnership Coordinator* ❖ Karen Hand, *Wedding Coordinator*
Oussama Ouadani and William Wei, *Livestream Production Assistants*

Elias Perez, *Senior Sexton* ❖ Ozo Nwodo, Richard Serebour, and David Brode, *Sextons*
Corey Spence, *Weekday Receptionist*
Shirley Bivins and George Sargeant, *Evening & Weekend Receptionists*

Phil Stern, *Moderator* ❖ Rob Gabler, *Clerk* ❖ Bill Bulkeley, *Treasurer*
Kristi Geary, *Chair, Board of Trustees* ❖ Kate Silfen, *Historian*
Paul Brouillette & Susan Navia, *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.



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