

Meeting House Worship **Old South Church *in* Boston**

November 19th, 2023 ♦ 11:00 a.m.

WELCOME TO THIS 68th ANNIVERSARY of the return of Old South Church to our ancestral home. While we left the Meeting House in 1872 for our current location in Copley Square, we return annually to honor our forebears in the faith — they who still rejoice with us, but upon a farther shore and in a greater light. Join us next Sunday back at 645 Boylston Street.

GATHER

PRELUDE

Music for a Solemn Occasion
A Mighty Fortress

Calvin Hampton,
Mitchell Crawford, *arr.*

Simple Gifts
[Theme and 5 Variations]

Jari A. Villanueva, *arr.*

Autumn Carol

Russell Schulz-Widmar, *arr.*

Manhattan Beach

John Philip Sousa
Mitchell Crawford, *arr.*

CHORAL INTROIT

AFRICA

William Billings

Now shall my inward joys arise, and burst into a song;
almighty love inspires my heart, and pleasure tunes my tongue.

God on his thirsty Sion-Hill some mercy-drops has thrown,
and solemn oaths have bound his love to shower salvation down.

Why do we then indulge our fears, suspicions and complaints?
Is he a God, and shall his grace grow weary of his saints?

Though omitted in performance, the bracketed verses are included for context:

[Can a kind woman e'er forget the infant of her womb,
and 'mongst a thousand tender thoughts her suckling have no room?

Yet, saith the Lord, should nature change, and mothers monsters prove,
Sion still dwells upon the heart of everlasting Love.]

“Deep on the palms of both my hands I have engraved her name;
my hands shall raise her ruined walls, and build her broken frame.”

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Phil Stern, *Moderator, Old South Church in Boston*

The Old South Meeting House resides on the ancestral and unceded land of the Massachusett people, past and present, whose name was appropriated by this Commonwealth. We pay respect to the Massachusett elders past and present. We name and recognize the Massachusett people as traditional stewards of this land and we acknowledge the enduring relationship that exists between them and their traditional territories. We admit the truth of violence perpetrated against the Indigenous peoples of the land; perpetrated, moreover, both in the name of this country and in the name of Christ, and we make a commitment to uncovering that truth. We comprehend that a land acknowledgment is a small yet important step towards ensuring a culture of respect, truth, and accountability in our church, in our city, in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and in our nation.

*HYMN lyrics on next page **Come, Ye Thankful People, Come** ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR
Setting: Richard Webster

The settings of the Thanksgiving hymns heard during today's Meeting House worship, commissioned in honor of The Reverends Elinor and Richard Yeo, are offered this year in loving memory of Elinor Yeo (1934-2023).

*CALL TO WORSHIP *adapted from Psalm 90* Ashley J. Popperson

One: Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.
Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,

Many: From everlasting to everlasting you are God.

One: For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past,
or like a watch in the night.

**Many: You sweep them away; they are like a dream,
like grass that is renewed in the morning.**

One: Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

Many: So teach us to count our days, that we may gain a wise heart.

HYMN

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR



Come, ye thank - ful peo - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest-home:
 All the world is God's own field, fruit un - to God's praise to yield;
 Our Cre - a - tor - God shall come, and shall take the har - vest home;
 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come, to thy fi - nal har - vest-home;



all is safe - ly gath - ered in, ere the win - ter storms be - gin.
 wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown:
 from the field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way.
 gath - er thou thy peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin;



God our Mak - er doth pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied;
 first the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear;
 Giv - ing an - gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
 there, for ev - er pu - ri - fied, in thy pres - ence to a - bide;



come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest-home.
 God of har - vest, grant that we whole - some grain and pure may be.
 but the fruit - ful ears to store in the gar - ner ev - er - more.
 come, with all thine an - gels come, raise the glo - rious har - vest-home.

Text: Henry Alford, 1844, alt.

Tune: ST. GEORGE'S, WINDSOR, George Job Elvey, 1858

*A SIGN OF OUR UNITY AND RECONCILIATION

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

WELCOME

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ANTHEM

Hymn to the New Age

Lee Hoiby

Through the long night we have come.
The sky is bright, radiant with sun.
We will unite. We will be one.
A new light has begun.

Smile, heaven, on our loving land,
shine blessings on our fair kingdom.
Enrich our time to come, with growing love,
with joy abundant and long, prosperous days.

God's blessings are renewed again.
The face of freedom is revealed in sunlight.
Now sing in praise of life:
with poems praise, with voices praise,
with drums, with trumpets praise.

God's loving kingdom come to us.
The gift of life and the gift of freedom.
Now shall peace reign, truth be revealed,
and all wounds be healed.

So was it ever meant to be, resplendent hope of humankind:
to follow with the dove the way of peace, the way of love.

So shall it be. So shall it ever be.

LISTEN

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kate M. Nintcheu

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 4:18-22

SERMON

Guiding Star

Katherine A. Schofield

*HYMN

We Gather Together

KREMSER

Setting: Richard Webster



We gath - er to - geth - er to ask for God's bless - ing; who chas - tens and
Be - side us to guide us, our God with us join - ing, or - dain - ing, main -
We all do ex - tol thee, thou lead - er tri - um - phant, and pray that thou



has - tens God's will to make known; the wick - ed op - press - ing now
tain - ing the path - way di - vine; so from the be - gin - ning the
still our de - fend - er wilt be. Let thy con - gre - ga - tion es -



cease from dis - tress - ing: sing prais - es to God's name; she for - gets not her own.
fight we were win - ning; thou, God, wast at our side: all glo - ry be thine!
cape trib - u - la - tion: thy Name be ev - er praised! O God, make us free!

Text: attr. Adrianus Valerius, c. 1626; trans. Theodore Baker, 1894; alt.

Tune: KREMSER, *Neder-landsch Gedenck-Clanck*, 1626; harm. Eduard Kremser, 1877

RESPOND

CALL TO PRAYER

June R. Cooper

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Let us give thanks to God, the Creator of all things visible and invisible, powerful beyond measure, good beyond all understanding.

Many: God's steadfast love endures forever.

One: Let us pray. *You may be seated.*

LITANY OF CONFESSION AND THANKSGIVING

One: We give hearty thanks, O God, for divine gifts granted to us and to this earth, gifts that are greater than we can ask for or understand.

Many: Thanks be to you, O God.

One: We remember those coming to these shores seeking freedom to worship and to build a community with you at its heart.

With poignancy, pain, and regret, we remember the indigenous inhabitants of this land, ranging from coast to coast, now diminished—victims of those claiming to “build a city on a hill.”

Many: Have mercy on us, O God.

One: We sorrowfully recall oppression visited over the centuries upon Black Americans, immigrants, women, the poor, and persons of differing sexual orientations and gender identities, oppressions enshrined in law and blessed by the church.

Many: Forgive us, O God.

One: In a season in which war, incivility, terror, the plight of refugees and asylum seekers, and economic chaos wreak havoc with human lives; as hunger, pandemics, and ecological disasters afflict hundreds of millions of our dear kindred and as your good earth suffers at human hands—we beg you:

Many: Have mercy on us, O God.

One: God of grace and God of glory, we ask your forgiveness and pray we may recast our priorities to more nearly coincide with those of your son: healer of the ill, feeder of the hungry, lover of the outcast, welcomer of the stranger, Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace.

Many: Have mercy on us, O God, and hear our earnest desire to serve you and your realm all the days of our lives.

One: Thank you, O God, for bestowing forgiveness on those who seek it and who express a readiness to repent and radically change their ways.

Many: Thanks be to you, O God.

One: Thanks indeed be to you, O God, forgiver of our sins and provider of all the good gifts of the earth.

Many: Thanks be to you, O God.

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

Be Thou My Vision
THE OLD SOUTH RINGERS
Peter Coulombe, *director*

Karen Thompson, *arr.*

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

The Battle Hymn of the Republic

Peter J. Wilhousky, *arr.*

*When directed by the Minister of Music,
you are invited to rise and sing the final refrain.*

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
he is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
he hath loosed the fateful lightning of his terrible swift sword:
God's truth is marching on.

*Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! God's truth is marching on.*

I have seen him in the watchfires of a hundred circling camps;
they have builded him an altar in the evening dews and damps;
I can read his righteous sentence in the dim and flaring lamps,
God's truth is marching on.

In the beauty of the lilies, Christ was born across the sea,
with a glory in his bosom that transfigures you and me:
as he died to make us holy, let us live to make all free,
while God is marching on.

*Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! God's truth is marching on.*

Amen! Amen!

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN *lyrics on next page*

Now Thank We All Our God

NUN DANKET

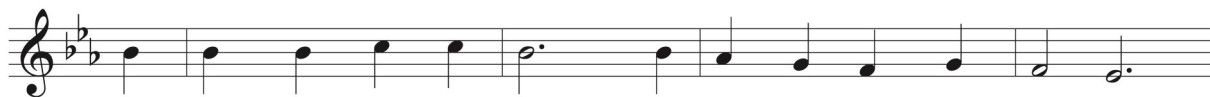
Setting: Richard Webster

HYMN

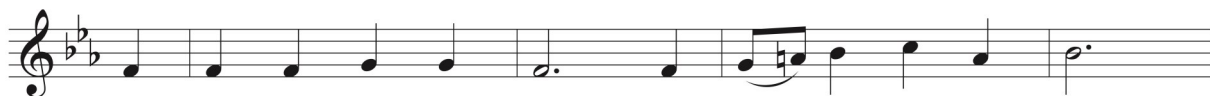
Now Thank We All Our God



Now thank we all our God, with heart, and hands, and voic - es,
 O may this boun - teous God through all our lives be near us!
 All praise and thanks to God our Mak - er now be giv - en,



who won - drous things hath done, in whom this world re - joic - es;
 With ev - er - joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us;
 to Christ, and Spir - it, too, who reign in high - est heav - en,



who, from our par - ents' arms hath blessed us on our way
 to keep us in God's grace, and guide us when per - plexed,
 the one e - ter - nal God, whom earth and heav'n a - dore;



with count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.
 and free us from all ills in this world and the next.
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be, ev - er - more.

Text: Martin Rinkart, c. 1636; trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1858, alt.

Tune: NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT, Johann Crüger, 1647; harm. Felix Mendelssohn, 1840

*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

The Thunderer

John Philip Sousa



You are invited to take a celebratory cookie as you depart.

*Old South's Ministers and staff wish you and yours a happy Thanksgiving.
Just a reminder that Old South Church will be closed November 23rd and 24th.*

*First and Festival Worship return to 645 Boylston Street on Sunday, November 26th;
Jazz Worship resumes Thursday, November 30th.*



THE OLD SOUTH BRASS

Mary-Lynne Bohn, Andrew Sorg, & Steve Banzaert, *trumpet*
Kevin Owen, *horn* • Hans Bohn, *trombone* • Don Rankin, *tuba*
Robert Schulz, Desiree Glazier-Nazro, & Amy Budka, *percussion*
Leslie Amper, *piano*

Old South Church *in* Boston invites you
to its *Signature Services* during the coming year.

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE — December 24th, 2023

FAMILY SERVICE WITH IMPROMPTU PAGEANT | 5PM

LESSONS AND CAROLS | 8PM

CAROLS AND COMMUNION | 11PM

HOLY WEEK 2024

Palm Sunday — March 24th | 9AM & 11AM

Maundy Thursday — March 28th | 7PM

Good Friday — March 29th | 12PM & 7PM

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

MARATHON SUNDAY — April 14th, 2024 | 9AM & 11AM

Each year hundreds of marathoners join us for worship, where we pause to acknowledge the runners, their families, and volunteers in a special “Blessing of the Athletes.”

PHILLIS WHEATLEY SUNDAY — May 12th, 2024 | 9AM & 11AM

Old South honors and learns from one of the saints of this church who was stolen from Africa, suffered the Middle Passage, was sold into slavery, and triumphed through her awesome wit and the mighty power of her pen.

WELCOME TO OLD SOUTH CHURCH

For LARGE print bulletins or children's bulletins, please ask an Usher.
Accessible restrooms are available. Just ask!

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

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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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* ❖ Katherine A. Schofield, *Interim Associate Minister*

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

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

Rachel Barton, *Nancy S. Taylor Fellow and Youth & Young Adult Leader*

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