

December 23, 2018
**Fourth Sunday
in Advent**
11:00 am

*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?*

A CEREMONY OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

PRELUDE Savior of the Nations, Come, BWV 659 J.S. Bach

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

**1. 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!**

** Indicates all who are able may stand*

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

3. 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*)

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Doannie Tran & Holly Gooding

One: Holy One, Hope of the wretched, Help of the poor, to You we pray:

All: Give us to sing with the prophets of that world which might yet be –

One: where the bound are set free, the shamed lifted up, and the lonely embraced;

All where hunger shall be sated, the warring reconciled, every good longing fulfilled, and all tears wiped away.

One: With hymns of justice firing our hearts, we would be at work, heralding Your advent, O God our Savior and Healer.

All: We would be at work, heralding Your advent, lighting now the 4th Advent Candle, the candle called “Love.”

*LIGHTING THE 4TH ADVENT CANDLE: LOVE

*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

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 40:1-5

Hillary Mull, PhD, Research Health Scientist, VA Boston Healthcare System

*CAROL 101

Comfort, Comfort O My People

PSALM 42

** Indicates all who are able may stand*

**3. 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.**

**4. 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 FIFTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-14

Holly Gooding, Interim Director, STEP Program, Children's Hospital

*CAROL

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

**1. 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!

**2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?**

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

**3. 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!

THE SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2:15-20

Bethany Duca-Johnson, Librarian, Boston Public Schools

*CAROL

The First Nowell

THE FIRST NOWELL

**1. The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

*Refrain: Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.*

2. Then they looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. (*refrain*)

3. This star drew nigh to the northwest;
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay,
right over the place where Jesus lay. (*refrain*)

4. Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood our life hath bought. (*refrain*)

*CALL TO PRAYER

John M. Edgerton

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. *The congregation may be seated.*

PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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.

PRAYER RESPONSE

Away in a Manger

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.**

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Donald A. Wells

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

OFFERTORY

Ding! Dong! Merrily on High

Mack Wilberg, *arr.*

Ding! dong! merrily on high in heav'n the bells are ringing!
Ding! dong! verily the sky is riv'n 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 rime your evetime song, ye singers!
Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!

THE SEVENTH LESSON

John 1: 1-14

Doannie Tran, Assistant Superintendent, Innovative Programs,
Fulton County Schools, Atlanta, Georgia

*CAROL

Joy to the World!

ANTIOCH

**1. 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.**

**2. 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.
3. 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.

*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

Nancy S. Taylor

POSTLUDE

Organ Flourish on “Joy to the World”

Michael Dell



Our lay readers and liturgists this morning all serve in the public sector.
We are proud of them for their service and grateful for all the good they do!



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

The Poinsettias in the Sanctuary and Gordon Chapel Chancel are given in honor
and in memory of many loved ones. See the list included in this bulletin.



OLD SOUTH 350TH CELEBRATION!

On Sunday, May 12, 2019

350 YEARS TO THE DAY OF OUR FIRST GATHERING

we'll throw an all-church, family-friendly, Birthday Party. Huzzza!

Mark your calendar.

WELCOME TO OLD SOUTH CHURCH

Welcome! We are a progressive Christian church first gathered in 1669. The Church played a significant role in early American history. We continue to outfit ourselves for mission and ministry in the 21st century as a thriving urban church in the heart of Boston. Join us following worship for fellowship and refreshments in the Gordon Chapel.

Need to stretch your legs during worship? The Chapel has full audio of the service.

Name tags facilitate community and help newcomers feel welcomed. If you don't see a tag with your name on it, let us know. For LARGE print bulletins or hearing assistance devices ask an Usher.

The lovely poinsettia display is donated by church members.

HEARING ASSISTED DEVICES

Old South has installed a **Hearing Loop** in the Sanctuary, the latest technology in hearing assisted devices.

1. If you have a hearing aid: the loop works directly for those whose hearing aids have a "T-Coil."
2. If you are hard of hearing but don't use an aid: ask for one the devices that is paired with the loop.

Note: The sound will be best if you sit further inside the pews, away from the aisles. The loop does NOT work in the upper galleries.

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):

1. Park at the **Garage@100 Clarendon** (behind Back Bay Station), have your ticket validated at our Front Desk, and **you** pay the discounted rate of \$7 for up to 3 hours. Old South bears no cost.
2. Park at the **Prudential Garage** for up to 5 hours on Saturday or Sunday, have your ticket validated at our Front Desk, and the Prudential Garage will bill **Old South** (costing us \$15k - \$20k per year).

CALENDAR

Sunday, December 23	9:00 am	FIRST Worship, <i>Nancy S. Taylor preaching</i>
	9:45 am	Old South Café in Gordon Chapel
	10:00 am	Lectionary Bible Study
	10:00 am	Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 am	Church School
	10:00 am	Community Hour
		A Child is Born: Carrying the Spirit of Christmas into the New Year
	11:00 am	FESTIVAL Worship, <i>Congregational Lessons and Carols</i>
	12:15 pm	Fellowship Hour
	1:30 pm	O.W.L. Program
	3:00 pm	ICE Vigil at <i>Suffolk County Immigrant Detention Center</i>
Monday, December 24	5:00 pm	Family Worship
	8:00 pm	Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols
	11:00 pm	Candlelight Chapel Communion
Tuesday, December 25	All Day	Church Closed, <i>May you and yours have a blessed Christmas</i>
Wednesday, December 26	All Day	Church Closed
Thursday, December 27	12:00 pm	Women's Lunch Hour Small Group
	6:00 pm	JAZZ Worship
Sunday, December 30	9:00 am	FIRST Worship, <i>John Edgerton preaching</i>
	9:00 am	Children's Choir
	9:45 am	Old South Café in Gordon Chapel
	10:00 am	Lectionary Bible Study
	10:00 am	Movie for Families and Children
	11:00 am	FESTIVAL Worship, <i>Lessons and Carols</i>
	11:15 am	Children's Music
	12:15 pm	Fellowship Hour

OLD SOUTH CHURCH IN BOSTON MINISTERS, OFFICERS, AND STAFF

Nancy S. Taylor, *Senior Minister*
John M. Edgerton, *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*
Calvin Genzel, *Wedding Outreach Minister* ❖ Ken Orth, *Healing Worship Minister*
Martha Schick, *Youth & Young Adult Ministries Leader* ❖ Betsy Wooster, *Seminarian*
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*

Helen McCrady, *Sr Church Administrator* ❖ Jamie Garuti, *Communications Administrator*
Linda Van Praet, *Accounting & Human Resources* ❖ David Albaugh, *Building Manager*
Allison Albaugh, *Wedding Coordinator* ❖ Emily Ross, *Archivist*
Rebecca Bowler & Lena Rojas, *Administrative Assistants*
Elias Perez, *Senior Sexton* ❖ Ozo Nwodo, *Opong Serebour, & David Brode, Sextons*

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
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