



January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024

## First Sunday After the Epiphany

*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?*

### GATHER

PRELUDE *Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern*, P.46 Johann Pachelbel

\*HYMN 309 **We Are Your People** WHITFIELD

\*INVOCATION Rachel J. Barton

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

*\* Indicates all who are able may stand*

WELCOME

ANTHEM

Walk in the Light

André J. Thomas, *arr.*

*We'll walk in the light, beautiful light,  
come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright.  
Shine all around us by day and by night,  
Jesus, the light of the world.*

Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord!  
Jesus, the light of the world.

Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings.  
Jesus, the light of the world.

## LISTEN

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kate M. Nintcheu

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 2

\*HYMN 550

**O God, as with a Potter's Hand**

WINSTON-SALEM

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

SERMON

John M. Edgerton

\*HYMN 306

**The Church of Christ, in Every Age**

WAREHAM

# RESPOND

## \*CALL TO PRAYER

Ashley J. Poppersen

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. *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, 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

The Shepherds' Farewell  
from *L'enfance du Christ*, Op. 25

Hector Berlioz

Thou must leave thy lowly dwelling, the humble crib, the stable bare.

Babe, all mortal babes excelling; content our earthly lot to share.

Loving father, loving mother, shelter thee with tender care!

Blessed Jesus, we implore you with humble love and holy fear:

in the land that lies before you, forget not us who linger here!

May the shepherd's lowly calling ever to your heart be dear!

Blest are you beyond all measure, O happy father, mother mild!

Guard you well your heavenly treasure: the Prince of Peace, the Holy Child!

God go with you, God protect you, guide you safely through the wild!

## LAY REFLECTION

Charles St. Amant

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 GOOD KING

*A micro-opera in two scenes*

Libretto: John Mason Neale

Music: Leo Sowerby

*Dramatis personae:*

Wenceslaus I, Duke of Bohemia (Tenor)

Otto, a Royal Page (Soprano)

Peasant (Mime)

The Narrator (Chorus)

*The story takes place within the Duchy of Bohemia, early in the 10th century.*

Scene I.

*Narrator:*

Good King Wenceslas looked out on the Feast of Stephen,  
when the snow lay round about, deep and crisp and even;  
brightly shone the moon that night, though the frost was cruel,  
when a poor man came in sight, gathering winter fuel.

*Wenceslaus:*

Hither, page, and stand by me; if thou know'st it, telling—  
yonder peasant, who is he? Where and what his dwelling?

*Otto:*

Sire, he lives a good league hence, underneath the mountain,  
right against the forest fence, by Saint Agnes' fountain.

*Wenceslaus:*

Bring me flesh and bring me wine! Bring me pine logs hither!  
Thou and I will see him dine when we bear them thither.

Scene II.

*Narrator:*

Page and monarch forth they went, forth they went together,  
through the rude wind's wild lament and the bitter weather.

*Otto:*

Sire, the night is darker now, and the wind blows stronger;  
fails my heart, I know now how; I can go no longer.

*Wenceslaus:*

Mark my footsteps, my good page, tread thou in them boldly:  
thou shalt find the winter's rage freeze thy blood less coldly.

*Narrator:*

In his master's steps he trod, where the snow lay dinted;  
heat was in the very sod which the saint had printed.  
Therefore, Christians all, be sure, wealth or rank possessing,  
you who now will bless the poor shall yourselves find blessing.

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*HYMN 154

**Go Tell It on the Mountain**

African American Spiritual

\*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

John M. Edgerton

POSTLUDE

Tuba Tune

Norman Cocker



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

The flowers today are given  
in loving memory of their son Benjamin Coalter Crawford  
by James and Linda Crawford.

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



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

**HOLY WEEK 2024**

*Palm Sunday* — March 24<sup>th</sup> | 9AM & 11AM

*Maundy Thursday* — March 28<sup>th</sup> | 7PM

*Good Friday* — March 29<sup>th</sup> | 12PM & 7PM

*Easter Sunday* — March 31<sup>st</sup> | 9AM & 11AM

**MARATHON SUNDAY — April 14<sup>th</sup>, 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 12<sup>th</sup>, 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.

**ALL SAINTS SUNDAY — November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 | 11AM**

In a solemn service of sacred music, we gather to name and remember our own beloved dead who now rest from their labors in the arms of God.

## 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto: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](http://www.oldsouth.org/your-first-visit) or see the front desk.

### LEARN MORE

Check out the church website at [www.oldsouth.org/calendar](http://www.oldsouth.org/calendar) for a calendar of events, and the general website [www.oldsouth.org](http://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.





# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## STEWARDSHIP AT OLD SOUTH CHURCH

Go to [tinyurl.com/2024OSCPledge](https://tinyurl.com/2024OSCPledge) to make your pledge

In this year's Stewardship campaign, we invite you to join us down a new road brimming with possibilities. Like vibrant rainbows adorning the sky, our collective efforts illuminate the path ahead. Join us in sharing the treasures of community, commitment, and collaboration, including the invaluable contribution of your financial support as we forge a brighter future together. During Stewardship month, each member of Old South Church is encouraged to commit annually, or pledge, a certain financial donation to Old South Church. Together, our dollars fuel the church's ministries. We ask members to consider giving a meaningful amount for them. Or, by pledging a percentage of their income: 1%, 2% up to 10%. We ask members to "Give until it feels good!"



## STEWARDSHIP CELEBRATION LUNCH

Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, following Festival Worship

Go to <http://tinyurl.com/2024Stewardshiplunch> to RSVP

We will lift up our communal generosity at Stewardship Celebration services on Thursday, January 25<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup> and celebrate our shared belonging to this faithful community of givers who support all that Old South Church has to offer. Everyone is invited to a joyful Stewardship Celebration Lunch following Festival Worship on January 28<sup>th</sup>.

## THE COMMUNITY HOUR FORUM

Sundays, 10 a.m., 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Mary Norton Hall and online,

go to [tinyurl.com/OSCForums](https://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.

### January 7<sup>th</sup> Stewardship

This week at The Forum, Old South's Stewardship Committee will lead a discussion about this month's Stewardship Campaign. All are welcome to sit in to learn about this month's giving activities and engage in a conversation about our shared life journey and when those moments have intersected with our faith. There will be coffee and snacks!

## REGISTER FOR THE OLD SOUTH TEAM AT THE 8th ANNUAL WINTER WALK



*Sunday, February 11th, meet at at 8:30am for registration*

*On the Common at the corner of Beacon and Charles Streets*

The Winter Walk is an initiative that believes ending homelessness is within our reach. Their mission is to raise awareness and funds towards that goal, and to support organizations that are working on prevention, support, and care for our homeless community. Join the Old South team as we take

this 2 mile walk through the streets of Boston during the coldest month of the year, beginning and ending on Boston Common on Sunday, February 11th, 2024 from 9am - 11am! To register, go to [tinyurl.com/winterwalk2024](https://tinyurl.com/winterwalk2024) and select either fundraiser or donate (your registration fee is already covered because OSC is a sponsor), then select Join a Team and find Old South's team. From there you may choose to donate extra money if you choose! Questions? John Edgerton [jme@oldsouth.org](mailto:jme@oldsouth.org)

## SNACKS FOR FESTIVAL WORSHIP COFFEE HOUR

*Go to [tinyurl.com/OSC2024hospitality](https://tinyurl.com/OSC2024hospitality) to sign up*

Join us in spreading joy through snacks! We're on the lookout for volunteers, individuals or families, to whip up delicious treats and bring them to OSC for coffee hour. Whether you're a whiz at picking treats from the store, a baking aficionado, or prefer assembling fruit plates, your talents are welcome. Each volunteer will bring enough snacks for around twenty people, and we usually need three volunteers per Festival service. If you're ready to serve and satisfy taste buds, sign up at the link above and drop off your creations in the Crawford Library with David Brode just before the Festival Service.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy birthday to our members and friends with December birthdays! Apologies for the delay, we wanted to keep the celebrations going into the new year. Join us at coffee hour after Festival Worship to celebrate with cake and singing!



## DONALD A. WELLS PREACHING PRIZE WINNER ANNOUNCED



The Donald A. Wells Preaching Prize is awarded yearly to a student in any of the theological schools in the Southern NE Conference of the UCC. The prize was established in 2007 by the Massachusetts Bible Society in honor of retiring Executive Director Donald Wells honoring the best social justice sermon based on Biblical texts. This year's recipient is Andrea Barton Reeves, who is a Social Justice Scholar working toward her Master of Arts in Religion degree at Yale Divinity School. Reeves is the Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Social Services and a member of Faith Congregational Church in Hartford, CT. "The question posed in the title of her sermon, Jesus Loves the Little Children. Do We? was an invitation to interpret Matthew 18:1-5 in a new way, as well as a call to action," said Rev. Margret Hofmeister, Area Conference Minister, who staffed the contest review committee. Reeves' sermon will be presented during the Conference's online Martin Luther King, Jr. Day worship service on Monday, Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>.

### GREEN TIP: Green Clothes

How green are the clothes you are wearing? It can be challenging to discern this information, even from product labels. Yet a growing variety of environmentally friendly textiles are available for the choosy shopper. As a general rule, you can read the labels to find out if fabrics require dry cleaning or are treated with chemical flame retardants, and avoid buying them because they are not sustainable. It's a good idea to steer clear of polyester because it comes from petroleum. For an eco-responsible textile guide to make more informed purchases go to [tinyurl.com/eco-friendlyfabric](http://tinyurl.com/eco-friendlyfabric).

### HEALTHY CHURCH, HAPPY CHURCH

Friends, as winter continues, 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!

## **TWILIGHT WORSHIP: EXPECT CREATIVE DISRUPTION**

*Thursdays, 6 p.m., in the Gordon Chapel*

Our Thursday evening worship service is undergoing some creative change. You'll notice these changes over the next few months. We'll be trying out various orders of worship, styles of music, and working toward a more formal launch of a renewed service in the months to come. If you have feedback, we'd love to hear it! Email [ashley@oldsouth.org](mailto:ashley@oldsouth.org).

## **VESPERS HEALING WORSHIP**

*Next service January 14<sup>th</sup>, 5pm on Zoom, go to [tinyurl.com/OSHealing](https://tinyurl.com/OSHealing) to join*

Please join us to take a moment for rest and renewal in the presence of God and other spiritual companions gathering by Zoom. All are welcome to share this quiet space and lift up our concerns, our losses, our hurts, and our celebrations in the Healing Presence of God and one another.

## **SAVE THE DATE FOR HUGE GBIO GATHERING**

*Sunday, March 3rd, exact time and location TBD, [tinyurl.com/March24GBIOAction](https://tinyurl.com/March24GBIOAction) to register*

On the afternoon of Sunday, March 3, GBIO will be coming out to bring our Housing Justice Campaign home. Register now for this huge and important action. Starting with 300 of us on the steps of the State House, then 1,400 together at Temple Israel in June and 100s so far with our legislators in our ongoing In-District Meetings, we have demanded affordable housing through the real estate transfer fee, full funding of public housing, and key supports for our reentering citizens. And we will continue to raise our voices as one. Everyone deserves a home.

### **WEEKLY WORSHIP**

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

**TWILIGHT 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.*

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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.

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Old South Church in Boston ❖ 645 Boylston Street, Boston 02116 ❖ [www.oldsouth.org](http://www.oldsouth.org)