

May 26, 2019
**Fifth Sunday
after Easter**
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?*

GATHER

PRELUDE Air Gerre Hancock

*HYMN 307 **Glorious Things of You Are Spoken** AUSTRIAN HYMN

*CALL TO WORSHIP Katherine A. Scofield

One: May God be gracious to us and bless us and lift up the light of a loving countenance upon us.

All: May Your way be known upon the earth, and Your saving power among all nations.

One: Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You.

All: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for You judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.

One: Let the peoples praise You, O God.

All: Let all the peoples praise You.

** Indicates all who are able may stand*



To God be the glo - ry; great things he has done!
Great things he has taught us; great things he has done,



So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
and great our re - joic - ing through Je - sus the Son;



who yield - ed his life— an a - tone - ment for sin—
but pur - er and high - er and great - er will be



and o - pened the life - gate that all may go in.
our won - der, our trans - port, when Je - sus we see.



Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice!



Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the peo - ple re - joice!



O come to the Fa - ther through Je - sus the Son,



and give him the glo - ry: great things he has done!

*CALL TO PRAYER

Betsy Wooster

One: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: May the peace of Christ dwell in your hearts.

All: Christ is our peace, our light and our hope.

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

PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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

All the Way

Robert Lowry

All the way my Savior leads me,
What have I to ask beside?
Can I doubt His tender mercy,
Who through life has been my Guide?
Heavenly peace, divinest comfort,
Here by faith in Him to dwell!
For I know, whate'er befall me,
Jesus doeth all things well;
For I know, whate'er befall me,
Jesus doeth all things well.

All the way my Savior leads me,
Oh, the fullness of His love!
Perfect rest to me is promised
In my Father's house above.
When my spirit, clothed immortal,
Wings its flight to realms of day
This my song through endless ages:
Jesus led me all the way;
This my song through endless ages:
Jesus led me all the way.

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Rescue the Perishing
Jay Blackwell, *baritone*

David Schwoebel, *arr.*

Rescue the perishing, care for the dying;
Snatch them in pity from sin and the grave.
Weep o'er the erring one, lift up the fallen,
Tell them of Jesus, the mighty to save.

Though they are slighting him, still he is waiting,
Waiting the penitent child to receive.
Plead with them earnestly, plead with them gently;
He will forgive if they only believe.

*Rescue the perishing, care for the dying;
Jesus is merciful, Jesus will save.*

Down in the human heart, crushed by the tempter,
Feelings lie buried that grace can restore.
Oh, touched by a loving heart, wakened by kindness,
Chords that are broken will vibrate once more. [*refrain*]

Rescue the perishing; duty demands it.
Strength for thy labor the Lord will provide.
Back to the narrow way patiently win them;
Tell the poor wanderer a Savior has died. [*refrain*]

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Katherine A. Schofield

*HYMN 385

O What Their Joy

O QUANTA QUALIA

*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

John M. Edgerton

POSTLUDE

Praise Him! Praise Him!

Larry Shackley, *arr.*



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

Notes on Today's Music

from MITCHELL CRAWFORD

Music at Festival Worship today surveys just a handful of the over 8,000 (!) hymns composed by American author Fanny Crosby. Crosby is a fascinating individual whose proverbial “greatest hits” are widely known and beloved, but whose prose — intertwined with an enthusiastic embrace of salvation doctrine — can sometimes be difficult to square with progressive theology and the desire of congregations like Old South for inclusion and

welcome. This is unfortunate, for it clouds the ways in which Crosby promoted social justice and the notion that God’s surpassing love is meant for *all*, without exception.

Take, for example, the exuberant hymn of praise **To God Be the Glory**, sung today. Already in the first verse, Crosby inundates us with masculine images of God; not only is it all *he* and *his*, but the design of the poetry seems intended to maximize the occurrence of these pronouns. Yet, at a foundational level, this hymn speaks of the relationship between Jesus and the God he called *Abba* — Father. Likewise, we can be distracted by the characterization of Jesus’s sacrificial death as ‘an atonement for sin’ and miss the impact of that sacrifice: ‘and opened the life-gate that *all* may go in.’

Another verse, here omitted, speaks of redemption in a manner which, once again, can cause us to miss Crosby’s overarching message. She writes, “O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood, to every believer the promise of God; the vilest offender who truly believes, that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.” I won’t lie: it can be hard to get past the bloody purchase and *vilest offender*. Nevertheless, embedded within this unsparing language is truth: first, “*to every believer* the promise of God,’ and second, this idea that no act — no matter how reprehensible — can cause God to rescind from us God’s grace.

To better understand these seeming incongruities, it seems necessary, then, to place Crosby’s life and work within their historical and cultural contexts. Born in Brewster, New York in 1820, Crosby would live to be nearly 95 old. Though blind essentially from birth, she became an ardent mission worker, activity that undoubtedly encouraged the outpouring of poetry that flowed from her pen. (Keen observers will note in *The New Century Hymnal* that **Blessed Assurance** was written on the spot after hearing the composer play the tune on the piano. Wow!) Despite the unimaginable success Crosby had as an author (an estimated 100 million books containing her lyrics were sold *in her lifetime*), her self-professed vocation was always that of city mission worker, and both **Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior** (1868) and **Rescue the Perishing** (1869) emerged from her involvement in urban ministry. For decades, Crosby lived and worked in the most vulnerable parts of Manhattan, serving immigrant communities as well as the urban poor. She denounced the “horror of wealth,” and devoted the income generated by her hymns and songs to the needy.

Given her obvious commitments to social justice and service to the needy, it is important to separate the intent of Crosby’s prose from the religious vernacular with which it elides. Indeed, one might say Crosby used the prevailing religious-poetic style of the day to espouse a theology that was by other measures ahead of its time. As a woman in a highly patriarchal society, she likewise exploited every avenue available to her to move those whose attitudes toward the foreigner and the poor were much less charitable than her own. And while the language of her hymns perhaps no longer represents where we are (theologically speaking), it is a valuable reminder of where we’ve been, and what barriers there remain to traverse.

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.

The flowers today are given to honor and remember all lives lost in war's violence by **Debbie Davis**.

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 children's bulletins please ask an Usher.

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

HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES

*Old South has installed a **Hearing Loop** in the Sanctuary.*

1. Our hearing loop works directly with devices equipped with a "T-Coil."
2. The sound is best if you sit further inside the pews, away from the aisles.
3. The loop does not work in the upper galleries.
4. 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):

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, May 26	9:00 AM	FIRST Worship, <i>John M. Edgerton preaching</i>
	9:00 AM	Children's Choir
	9:45 AM	Old South Café in Gordon Chapel
	10:00 AM	Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 AM	Community Hour, <i>350th Faith in Action: Urban Mission Ministry</i>
	10:00 AM	Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 AM	Lectionary Bible Study
	10:00 AM	Church School
	11:00 AM	FESTIVAL Worship, <i>John M. Edgerton preaching</i>
	11:15 AM	Children's Music
	12:15 PM	Fellowship Hour
	Monday, May 27	Closed
Tuesday, May 28	6:00 PM	Old South Ringers
	6:00 PM	Congregational Care and Support Committee
	6:15 PM	Young Adult Book Group
	7:00 PM	Board of Ministers and Deacons
Wednesday, May 29	12:00 PM	Men's Lunch Hour
	6:15 PM	Young Adult Book Group
	6:30 PM	Young Adult Small Group
	7:00 PM	Music Committee
Thursday, May 30	12:00 PM	Women's Lunch Hour Small Group
	6:00 PM	JAZZ Worship, <i>Katherine A. Schofield preaching</i>
	6:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 PM	"Through the Bible" Study
	7:00 PM	Young Adult Book Group
	8:00 PM	Women's Christianity and Civic Life Small Group

Sunday, June 2

- 9:00 AM FIRST Worship, *Katherine A. Schofield preaching*
- 9:00 AM Children's Choir
- 9:45 AM Old South Café in Gordon Chapel
- 10:00 AM Boston AIDS Walk *at the Hatch Shell*
- 10:00 AM Choir Rehearsal
- 10:00 AM Community Hour,
*350th Faith in Action:
Getting to Know and Serve Our Neighbors:
Snowden High School*
- 10:00 AM Choir Rehearsal
- 10:00 AM Lectionary Bible Study
- 10:00 AM Church School
- 11:00 AM FESTIVAL Worship, *Katherine A. Schofield preaching*
- 11:15 AM Children's Music
- 12:15 PM Fellowship Hour
- 12:30 PM Connections Lunch
- 12:30 PM 350th Anniversary Lecture, *Francis Bremmer*
- 12:30 PM Climate Justice and Advocacy Committee

Monday, June 3

- 6:00 PM Finance Committee
- 6:00 PM Theological Book Group
- 6:30 PM Christian Service and Outreach
- 7:00 PM Spiritual Classics

Tuesday, June 4

- 5:00 PM Operations Committee
- 6:00 PM Old South Ringers
- 6:30 PM Stewardship Committee
- 7:00 PM Christian Formation Committee

OLD SOUTH CHURCH IN BOSTON MINISTERS, OFFICERS, AND STAFF

Nancy S. Taylor, *Senior Minister*
John M. Edgerton, *Associate Minister* ❖ Katherine A. Schofield, *Interim 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*
David Story, *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, *Senior 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, *Administrative Assistant*
Elias Perez, *Senior Sexton* ❖ Ozo Nwodo, *Oppong Serebour, & David Brode, Sextons*
Corey Spence, *Rubia Reyes, & Matthew Hennessy Receptionists*
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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.