

Christmas Eve
December 24, 2018
8:00 pm

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 *Amazing Peace: A Christmas Poem* by Maya Angelou

PRELUDE

Noel
Berceuse (Cradle Song)
Greensleeves
Puer natus est

Henri Mulet
Louis Vierne
Richard Purvis
Everett Titcomb

*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!

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*)

*CHRISTMAS CREED FROM LATIN AMERICA

Rev. John M. Edgerton,
Associate Minister

I believe in Jesus Christ and in the power of the gospel, begun in Bethlehem. I believe in the One whose spirit glorified a small village, of whose coming shepherds saw the sign, and for whom there was no room at the inn. I believe in the One whose life changed the course of history, over whom the rulers of the earth had no power, and who was not understood by the proud. I believe in the One to whom the oppressed, the discouraged, the afflicted, the sick, the blind, the injured gave welcome, and accept as Lord and Savior. I believe in the One who—with love—changed the hearts of the proud and with His life showed that it is better to serve than to be served, and that the greatest joy is giving your life for others. I believe in peace, which is not the absence of war, but justice among all people and nations and love among all. I believe in reconciliation, forgiveness, and the transforming power of the gospel.

* Indicates all who are able may stand

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.

*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.

A WORD OF WELCOME

The Rev. Dr. Nancy S. Taylor, *Senior Minister*

THE ANTICIPATION AND PROCLAMATION OF A NEW CREATION IN LESSONS AND CAROLS

THE FIRST LESSON

Dr. Paula Hammond Cunningham

Isaiah 9: 2-7: *The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior*

ANTHEM

I Wonder as I Wander

Calvin Hampton, *arr.*

I wonder as I wander out under the sky,
how Jesus the Savior did come for to die
for poor o[r]n'ry people like you and like I...
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus 'twas in a cow's stall,
with wise men and farmers and shepherds and all.
But high from God's heaven a star's light did fall,
and the promise of the ages it then did recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
a star in the sky, or a bird on the wing,
or all of God's angels in heav'n for to sing,
He surely could have had it, 'cause he was the King.

THE SECOND LESSON

Julia Mull

Luke 1: 26–35; 38: *The angel Gabriel visits the Virgin Mary*

ANTHEM

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!

*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*)

THE THIRD LESSON The Rev. Dr. James W. Crawford, *Senior Minister Emeritus*
Luke 2: 1–14: *Luke tells of the birth of Jesus*

ANTHEM

The Huron Carol

Dan Forrest, *arr.*

Jesous Abatonia. Gloria.

'Twas in the moon of winter-time, when all the birds had fled,
That mighty Gitchi Manitou sent angel choirs instead;
Before their light the stars grew dim, and wand'ring hunters heard the hymn:
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria.

Within a lodge of broken bark the tender Babe was found,
A ragged robe of rabbit skin enwrapp'd His beauty round;
But as the hunter braves drew nigh, the angel song rang loud and high,
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria.

The earliest moon of wintertime is not so round and fair
As was the ring of glory on the helpless infant there.
The chiefs from far before him knelt with gifts of fur and beaver pelt.
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria.

O children of the forest free, O sons of *Manitou*,
The Holy Child of earth and heaven is born today for you.
Come kneel before the radiant Boy who brings you beauty, peace and joy.
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria.

CHRISTMAS WORD

Nancy S. Taylor

*CAROL

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

1. **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!"**
2. **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!"**
3. **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 FOURTH LESSON

Sam Ou

Matthew 2: 1–12: *The wise men are led by the star to Jesus*

*CAROL

We Three Kings

Steve Pilkington, *arr.*

**1. We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.**

Refrain:

**O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!**

**2. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign. (*refrain*)**

**3. Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a deity nigh;
prayer and praising voices raising, worshiping God on High. (*refrain*)**

Choir alone: (the *refrain* is sung by **all**)

4. Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. **All:** (*refrain*)

**5. Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice:
Alleluia! Alleluia! sounds through the earth and skies. (*refrain*)**

THE CHRISTMAS OFFERING

John M. Edgerton

OFFERTORY

In the Bleak Midwinter

Dale Wood, *arr.*

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan;
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall pass away when he comes to reign:
in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there;
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
only his mother, in her maiden bliss,
worshiped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

PASSAGES OF LIGHT

Sumner and Patience Gubisch

CAROL

Silent Night

STILLE NACHT

**1. 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.**

**2. 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!"**

**3. 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!**

Be sure to extinguish your candle before rising to depart.

SENDING FORTH

Nancy S. Taylor

POSTLUDE

In Dulci Jubilo, BWV 729

J. S. Bach



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

*The poinsettias are given by Old South members and friends,
in honor and in memory of loved ones.
A listing of gifts is available at the back of the Sanctuary.*



JOIN OLD SOUTH CHURCH NEW YEAR'S EVE

3:00 pm **King of Instruments Organ Demonstration**

6:30 & 8:00 pm **Pipes and Pops Concert**

Free and open to the public.



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.

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, Oppong Serebour, & David Brode, *Sextons*
Corey Spence, Rubia Reyes, & Carrie Swayne-Gerrish, *Receptionists*

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.

Weekly Worship

First Worship *informal and vibrant, with attention to young families* Sundays, 9 am

Festival Worship *grand and expressive* Sundays, 11 am

Jazz Worship *with soul and sax* Thursdays, 6 pm

Healing Worship *gentle and tender* Second Sundays, 10 am