

May 1st, 1861: Our National Flag is thrown to the breeze from the Tower of the Old South Meeting House amid much fanfare, prayer, and ceremony.

FESTIVAL THANKSGIVING WORSHIP

at the Old South Meeting House
Sunday, November 18, 2018

OLD SOUTH CHURCH *in* BOSTON
— Gathered 1669 —

WELCOME TO THIS 63rd ANNIVERSARY of the return of Old South Church to our ancestral home. While we left this Meeting House in 1872 for our current location in Copley Square, we return on this Sunday before Thanksgiving to honor our forebears in the faith, who still rejoice with us but upon a farther shore and in a greater light. Join us next Sunday back home at 645 Boylston Street.

PRELUDE

Music for a Solemn Occasion
THE OLD SOUTH BRASS Calvin Hampton
M. Crawford, *arr.*

Song of Thanksgiving
THE OLD SOUTH RINGERS Arnold Sherman

A Mighty Fortress
America, the Beautiful
Praise to the Lord
THE OLD SOUTH BRASS Calvin Hampton
M. Crawford, *arr.*

CHORAL INTROIT

CREATION

William Billings

When I with pleasing wonder stand
And all my frame survey
Lord, 'tis thy work, I own thy hand
Thus built my humble clay.

Our life contains a thousand springs,
And dies if one be gone.
Strange that a harp of thousand strings
Should keep in tune so long.
THE OLD SOUTH CHOIR

Fanfare
THE OLD SOUTH BRASS

Erik K. Gustafson

A PROCLAMATION OF THANKSGIVING

by President Abraham Lincoln, 1863 (excerpt)
Read by Dr. Deborah Washington, *Old South Church Moderator*

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

God save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts! (3x)

*HYMN **Come, Ye Thankful People, Come** ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

**Come, ye thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home;
All is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin.
God our Maker doth provide for our wants to be supplied;
Come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.**

**All the world is God's own field, fruit unto God's praise to yield;
Wheat and tares together sown, unto joy or sorrow grown.
First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear;
God of harvest, grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be.**

**Our Creator God shall come, and shall take the harvest home;
From the field shall in that day all offenses purge away.
Giving angels, charge at last, in the fire the tares to cast;
But the fruitful ears to store in the garner evermore.**

**Even so, God, quickly come, to Thy final harvest home;
Gather Thou Thy people in, free from sorrow, free from sin.
There, forever purified, in Thy presence to abide;
Come, with all Thine angels come, raise the glorious harvest home.**

*PRAYER OF PREPARATION *unison* John M. Edgerton, *Associate Minister*
**O Almighty God, from whom every good prayer cometh, and who pourest
out on all who desire it the spirit of grace and supplication; deliver us, when
we draw nigh to Thee, from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind, that
with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections we may worship Thee in
spirit and in truth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*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

ANTHEM Give Thanks Unto the Lord Robert Starer

Give thanks unto the Lord; for his mercy endureth forever.

Give thanks unto the Lord of Lords,
Who alone doeth great wonders, for his mercy endureth forever.

Give thanks to him that by wisdom made the heavens.
Give thanks to him that stretched out the earth above the waters.

Give thanks to him that made great lights:
The sun to rule by day; and the moon and stars to rule by night.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Kate Nintcheu, *Director of Children & Family Ministries*

SCRIPTURE Revelation 19:11-16 John M. Edgerton

SOLO Thanksgiving Carol Hampton
Alecia Batson, *soprano*

Fields of corn, give up your ears,
Now your ears are heavy,
Wheat and oats and barley spears,
All your harvest levy.
Where your sheaves of plenty lean,
We once more the grain shall glean
Of the Ever Living,
God the Lord will bless the field,
Bringing in its autumn yield
Gladly to Thanksgiving.

Vines, send in your bunch of grapes,
Now the bunch is clustered,
Be your gold and purple shapes
Round the altar mustered.

Where the hanging bunches shine
We once more shall taste the wine
Of the Ever Living,
God the Lord will bless the root,
Bringing in its autumn fruit
Gladly to Thanksgiving.

Garden, give your gayest flowers,
Hedge, your wildest bring in,
Turn the churches into bowers
Little birds shall sing in.
Where all the children sing their glee
We once more the Flower shall see
Of the Ever Living,
God the Lord will bless the throng,
Lifting up its Autumn song
Gladly in Thanksgiving.

SERMON

A Noble Inheritance
Nancy S. Taylor, *Senior Minister*

*HYMN

We Gather Together

KREMSER

**We gather together to ask for God's blessing;
Who chastens and hastens God's will to make known.
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing.
Sing praises to God's name; She forgets not Her own.**

**Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
Ordaining, maintaining the pathway divine;
So from the beginning the fight we were winning;
Thou, God, wast at our side, all glory be Thine.**

**We all do extol Thee, Thou leader triumphant,
And pray that Thou still our defender wilt be.
Let Thy congregation escape tribulation;
Thy name be ever praised! O God, make us free!**

*CALL TO PRAYER

Donald A. Wells, *Theologian in Residence*

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 native 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 African 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 and epidemics 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.

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. (*refrain*)

All rise and sing:

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

(*choir:*) Amen! Amen!

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

John M. Edgerton

*HYMN

Now Thank We All Our God

NUN DANKET

**Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices,
Who, from our parents' arms, hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.**

**O may this bounteous God through all our lives be near us,
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
And keep us full of grace, and guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills in this world and the next.**

**All praise and thanks to God, our Maker now be given,
To Christ, and Spirit, too, who reign in highest heaven.
The one eternal God, whom Earth and Heav'n adore,
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.**

*BIDDING TO MISSION AND BENEDICTION

Nancy S. Taylor

POSTLUDE

El Capitan
THE OLD SOUTH BRASS

John Philip Sousa



WELCOME

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 urban church in the heart of Boston. Join us for fellowship and refreshments following worship, and next Sunday at our regular home at the corner of Dartmouth and Boylston Streets at the Copley T.

Large print bulletins are available. Please ask an usher for assistance.



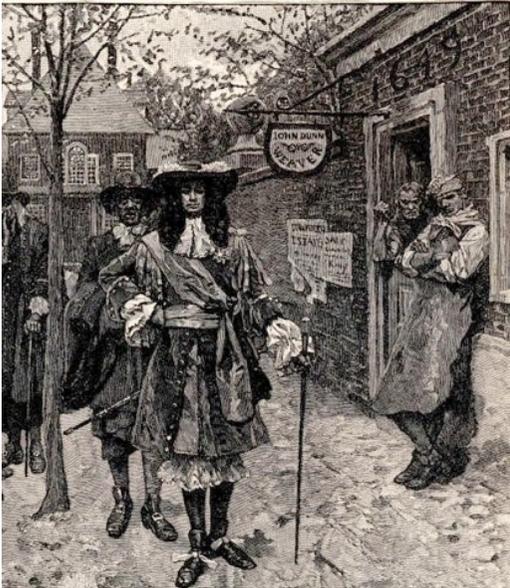
THANKSGIVING PROCLAMATIONS

Today, we read aloud an excerpt from President Abraham Lincoln's Thanksgiving Proclamation of 1863. This is a continuation of a long-standing tradition. On June 20, 1676, the governing council of Charlestown, Massachusetts held a meeting to determine how best to express thanks for the good fortune that had seen their community securely established. By unanimous vote they instructed Edward Rawson, the clerk, to proclaim June 29 as a day of thanksgiving, our first.

The first national Thanksgiving proclamations were issued by the Continental Congress between 1777 and 1784. Annual Presidential Thanksgiving proclamations began with George Washington's (1789). Among the most famous is Abraham Lincoln's (1863; the proclamation which set the precedent for America's national day of Thanksgiving).

In all cases, though for a variety of reasons, it has seemed meet and good to pause, turn our full attention to the Author of the Universe and give thanks for the varied gifts and graces of our lives.

THE SANCTUARY OF FREEDOM ACROSS THE CENTURIES

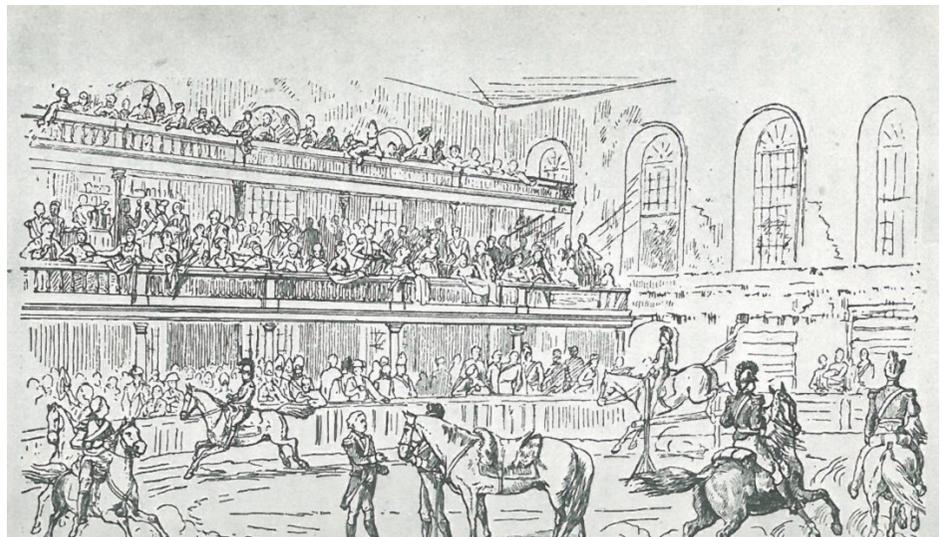


In 1687 Sir Edmund Andros, Royal Governor, is *en route* to take forcible possession of our Meeting House to use it for Anglican worship. *The outrage!*

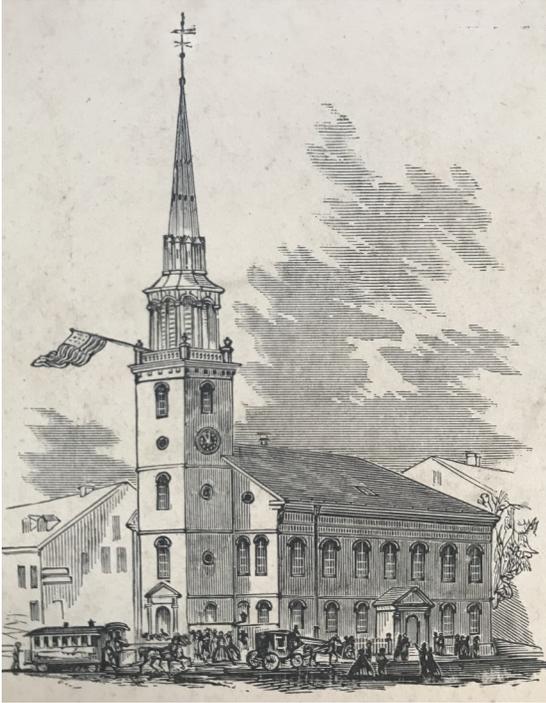


Our Meeting House, filled with pre-Tea Party agitators shouting of taxes and tea (1773).

The *Sanctuary of Freedom* desecrated by English dragoons, who turn it into a riding ring during the Siege of Boston, 1775.



Below. Exercises at *A Consecration of the Flag of the Union* by the Old South Society who threw the flag to the breeze from our spire on May 1, 1861 in response to the firing upon Fort Sumter.



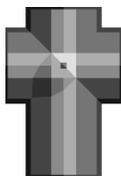
In 1862, we align with the anti-slavery cause, turning the Meeting House into a recruiting station for the Union Army. Over 1,000 men sign up. Our minister joins them, serving as chaplain to the 43rd Tiger Regiment. *Below.*



Saving the Meeting House from the wrecking ball in 1876 (and launching the historic preservation movement in America), the spire bristles with patriotic bunting and flags. *Left.*

CALENDAR

Sunday, November 18	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	Lectionary Bible Study
	11:00 am	MEETINGHOUSE Worship, <i>Nancy S. Taylor preaching</i> at the Old South Meetinghouse
	1:30 pm	O.W.L. Program at First Church, Cambridge
Monday, November 19	4:30 pm	Leadership Committee
	6:00 pm	Theological Book Group
	7:30 pm	Spiritual Classics Group – "A Canticle for Leibowitz"
Tuesday, November 20	5:30 pm	Board of Trustees
	6:00 pm	Old South Ringers Rehearsal
Wednesday, November 21	12:00 pm	Men's Lunch Hour Small Group
	6:00 pm	Young Adult Small Group – "The Beatitudes"
	6:45 pm	Young Adult Small Group
<i>Thursday, November 22</i>	<i>Church closed</i>	HAPPY THANKSGIVING!
<i>Friday, November 23</i>	<i>Church closed</i>	
Sunday, November 25	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	Lectionary Bible Study
	10:00 am	Choir Rehearsal
	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



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