

**Welcome to  
Old South Congregational Church, United Church of Christ  
Hallowell, Maine  
Hybrid Worship (In-person: Sanctuary)**

**10:00 am— Announcement and Community Joys & Concerns**

**10:10 am— Worship begins**

**December 18, 2022**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

*No matter who you are, no matter where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here.*

**Announcements/Joys & Concerns**

**Welcome**

**Prelude** "Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme" J.S. Bach (see announcements page for text)

**Introit** "The Baptist Shouts on Jordan's Shore" *Winchester New*/Charles Coffin Choir

**Call to Worship/Invocation/Lord's Prayer/Lighting of 3rd Advent Candle**

Leader: Darlene Davis

Advent Candle Lighter: Cynthia McGuire

One: We gather this day, seeking a sign from You, O God.

**Many: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be renewed.**

One: We come seeking to worship You, the One who dwells with us always.

**Many: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be renewed.**

One: We come seeking to know your presence anew, to know and to share your love.

**Many: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be renewed.**

One: Let us pray: God of love— steadfast, unending love— we gather in gratitude for the ways your love has called us out of the bleakest dimensions of our human existence and into comfort and wonder of your presence in our midst. Help us to trust and to know that we are indeed Your people, each one of us and all of us together. Grant us a new awareness of who we are, that we may live our lives more fully connected to Your hope, peace, joy and love, in this season and in all times. In the name of the One who taught us to pray together:

**Many: 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.**

**\*Hymn and Lighting of Candles** "O Come, All Ye Faithful" Pilgrim #132  
(words can be found on the Announcements page)

[During the hymn, those attending in person are invited to come forward and to light one of the votive Advent Candles at the front of the sanctuary. Those on Zoom may light a candle and to keep it close by during the service.]

**Scripture** Romans 1:1-7

**Sermon** “Mail Call!” The Rev. Susan M Reisert

**Anthem** “How Far Is It To Bethlehem?” Choir

**Mission Moment** Christine Bartlett

**Offering**

**Offertory:** “Huron Carol” French Canadian/Alfred Fedak

**Doxology** (Pilgrim #515)

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

**Pastoral Prayer**

Silence, Prayer, Response

**\*Hymn** “Come, O Long-Expected Jesus” NCH #122  
(words can be found on the Announcements page)

**\*Blessing**

“Go Out With Joy!” Mark Patterson Choir

**Postlude** “Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending” arr. Terry Osman

**Fellowship**

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**\*Please stand, if you are able**

**Call to Worship and Invocation adapted from Worship Ways at ucc.org.  
Copyright Information:**

**Greeter, In-person:** Ron Bansmer **Greeter, Zoom:**

**Worship Assistant:** Cynthia McGuire

**More Info/Contact Info**

oldsouthhallowell.org

[oldsouthhallowell@gmail.com](mailto:oldsouthhallowell@gmail.com)

207-622-1220

Pastor Susan’s blog: [hopeinthewilderness.com](http://hopeinthewilderness.com)

Pastor Susan’s podcast: <https://anchor.fm/susan-reisert>

**Old South Staff:**

The Rev. Susan M Reisert, Pastor and Teacher  
Mr. Bradley Krueger, Music Director  
Ms. Cynthia McGuire, Administrative Assistant  
Ms. Marcy Fullmer, Sexton

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS!**

### **This is the Fourth Sunday of Advent!**

**DEVOTIONAL CALENDAR**— is available, if you haven't picked one up already. You can pick one up by the south door, if you are attending in person. If not, look through your emails (it was sent last Sunday night) or email the church office.

**ADVENT GATHERINGS**— this coming Tuesday (at Noon) Hybrid. We meet in the parish house and on Zoom. The Zoom link is in the Tuesday News&Notes. We will NOT gather on December 27, but will wrap up our Advent discussion on 1/3/23.

### **Meetings This Week:**

**Tuesday, 12/20—**

Advent Gathering at Noon. Hybrid (use the Bible Bunch link)

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## **NEWS&NOTES**

Are you receiving the church email that's sent out on Tuesdays and Thursdays? If not, send an email to the church office and we'll add you to the list!

The News&Notes will keep you up-to-date on everything that's happening at Old South. And, it provides important Zoom links and, occasionally, a fun quiz.

## **OUTREACH NEWS**

**Outreach Fund Focus for December:** Heating assistance

**BREAD OF LIFE DINNER DELIVERY**— Our next delivery is January 3rd.

### **SUPPORT the Ministry of Old South:**

1. Checks may be sent to the church PO Box 508, Hallowell, ME 04347 or directly to Wendy Wells: Wendy Wells, 9 Densmore Court, Hallowell, ME 04347
2. Online giving (credit card) is available through the Maine Conference. Please find the link on our webpage: <https://oldsouthhallowell.org/>

**HANNAFORD PROGRAM:** Next deadline: January 15. Send to Wendy at the above address, or place in the offering plate. Please mark your check clearly for Hannaford.

**Today's Prelude: "Wachet Auf, ruft uns die Stimme" J.S. Bach**

*Sleepers, wake! The watch cry pealeth,  
While slumber deep each eyelid sealeth:  
Awake, Jerusalem, awake!  
Midnight's solemn hour is tolling,  
And seraph-notes are onward rolling;  
They call on us our part to take.  
Come forth, ye virgins wise:  
The Bridegroom comes, arise!  
Alleluia! Each lamp be bright with ready light  
To grace the marriage feast tonight.*

**HYMNS FOR December 18:**

**O Come, All Ye Faithful**

**Pilgrim #132**

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;  
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;  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

3 Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,  
We would embrace thee, with love and awe;  
Who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

**Come, O Long-Expected Jesus**

**NCH #122**

1 Come, O long-expected Jesus, born to set all people free;  
From our fears and sins release us; grant us your true liberty.

2 Israel's strength and consolation, hope to all the earth impart;  
Dear desire of every nation, enter every longing heart.

3 Born all people to deliver, born a child, you came to reign!  
Born to rule on earth forever, come, be known to us again.

4 By your own eternal Spirit, come to claim us as your own;  
By your all-sufficient merit, let us share your cross and crown.