

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

10:00 am– Announcements and Community Joys & Concerns

10:10 am– Worship begins

December 25, 2022

Christmas Sunday

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

Announcements/Joys & Concerns

Welcome

Prelude “God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen” arr. John Klein Old South Ringers

Introit “Brightest and Best” *Morning Star* James P. Harding/Reginald Heber Choir

Call to Worship/Invocation/Lord's Prayer/Lighting of Candles

Leader: Ron Bansmer

Candle Lighter: Erroll Adams, Jr.

One: Break forth into singing, for God has comforted the people, brought bloom to the wasteland, shown strength in all the nations.

Many: Word of the infant born in Bethlehem is our good news.

One: Christ is born. The prophet's hopes are made flesh and all our longings are made human in joy.

Many: Rejoice and be glad for Christ is born today!

One: Let us pray: Emmanuel, God promised and God with us: Awaken us this joyful morning to the hope of your reign. Free us to claim our own welling-up joy, and sustain us when joy seems far. Lead us in ministry and service. Strengthen us anew and show us the way. Be with us and help us to know more fully your presence in our midst. In the name of the One we worship, Jesus the Christ, we pray and continue our prayer with the words He 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** “What Child Is This” NCH #148
(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 keep it close by during the service.]

Christmas Intercessions “When the World Was Dark”

Hymn #141 (Pilgrim) “The First Nowell” (verses 1 and 2)

Anthem “What Gift Can I Bring?” Cristi Cary Miller/Kathlyn Reynolds Choir

Christmas Proclamation “They Have Heard It On the Hills”

Hymn #128 (NCH) “In the Bleak Midwinter” (verses 1,2 and 4)

Mission Moment Christine Bartlett

Offering

Offertory: “Ring the Bells” Harry Bollback Old South Ringers

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.*

Christmas Prayer

Silence, Prayer, Response

***Hymn** “Joy to the World, the Lord Is Come” Pilgrim #130
(words can be found on the Announcements page)

***Blessing**

“Go Tell It on the Mountain” adapted by Joyce Finch Johnson Choir

Postlude “Voluntary on *In dulci jubilo*” James Masfield

Fellowship

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

Service information:

Christmas Intercessions and Christmas Proclamation are both from Cloth for the Cradle by the Iona Community (Wild Goose Worship Group)

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

Worship Assistant: Erroll Adams, Jr.

More Info/Contact Info

oldsouthhallowell.org

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207-622-1220

Pastor Susan's blog: 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!

Today is Christmas Day! We are so glad you have joined us for worship!

ADVENT GATHERINGS— We will NOT meet this week. We will wrap up our Advent discussion on 1/3/23. Then, we'll take a week or two off before beginning a new discussion. More information next week.

This Week:

Thursday, 12/29, 1:00— Memorial Service for Jane Harvey. This service will be hybrid (in the sanctuary and on Zoom— use the Worship link)

Next Sunday, January 1— we'll worship at 10:00. It's our last Sunday in the sanctuary, for a couple of months. We'll move worship to the Parish House for January 8. We will NOT have communion on the 1st. We'll wait until 1/8/23.

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.

HYMNS FOR December 25:

What Child is This?

NCH #148

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this, the angels sing, is Christ, God's holy offering;
Haste, haste your praise to bring the babe, the child of Mary!

2 Why lies the Child in manger bare where ox and ass are feeding?
Give heed, draw near; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the child of Mary!

3 Bring gifts of incense, gold, and myrrh, come, join in jubilation;
The Holy Child, though meek and mild, has come with God's salvation.
Raise, raise the song on high, the mother sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the child of Mary.

The First Nowell

Pilgrim #141

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.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel.

2 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.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel.

In the Bleak Midwinter

NCH #128

1 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.

2 Our God transcends all heaven, earth, and its domain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when Christ comes to reign;
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
The sovereign God almighty, Jesus Christ.

4 What can I offer, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise one, I would do my part;
But what I can I offer: all my heart.

Joy to the World! the Lord Is Come Pilgrim #130

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 men 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.