

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  
September 10, 2023

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

**Announcements/Joys & Concerns**

**Welcome**

**Prelude**      “Pastel Blue”      Anthony Giamanco

**Introit**      “I Was Glad”      C.O. Beck      Choir

**Call to Worship/Invocation/Lord's Prayer** Bonnie Dufty

One: I was glad when they said to me, let us go to the house of the Living God.

**Many: This is the day we rejoice in God's act of creation.**

One: This is our sabbath, when we rejoice in the good news of Jesus Christ.

**Many: We give thanks that once more, God has brought us together, that we might encourage one another.**

One: May God's peace and blessings be with all who gather here. Let us pray:

**Many: As we gather this day, Loving God, we are aware of the various ways You have blessed Your people. In beginnings and in endings, You shower upon us Your grace. Help us, Merciful God, to welcome Your way, that we may follow in faith, in paths that feel familiar and safe, as well as paths that feel strange and new. Be among us this day and every day. In the name of our beloved Savior we pray, the One who taught us to pray together: 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 & Lighting of Candles** “I Sing the Mighty Power of God (*Ellacombe*) NCH #12

[In addition to the hymnal, words to the hymns 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 candles at the front of the sanctuary. Those on Zoom may light a candle and keep it close by during the service.]

**Psalm**      Psalm 149      p.583      Erroll Adams, Jr.

**Scripture**      Genesis 2:4b-25      p.2

**Message**      Looking Backward and Forward at the Same Time: Beginnings

**Anthem**                      “Let All the People Praise Thee”    Natalie Sleeth                      Choir

**Mission Moment**    Christine Bartlett

**Offering**

**Offertory:** “More About Jesus”                      Todd Smith

**\*Doxology** (Pilgrim #515)                      (*Old Hundredth*)

You may sing the traditional version or the inclusive language version:

*Trad: 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.*

*Inclusive: Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;*

*Praise God above, ye heavenly host: Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

**The Sacrament of Communion**

Invitation

Communion Hymn “As We Gather” (*Beach Spring*)    NCH #332, verses 1 & 3

Communion Prayer, Story, Consecration

Sharing of the Elements

Music: “My Faith Looks Up To Thee”    Terry Kirkland

Prayer of Thanksgiving, Pastoral Prayer and Response

**\*Hymn**                      “Breathe on Me, Breath of God” (*Trentham*)    Pilgrim #234

**\*Blessing**

**\*Sung Response** “Go In Peace” Barber Waters/Kenneth White (*Ocean Park*) Chalice #445

Choir and  
Congregation

*Go in peace and the peace of God be with you this day. Go in peace and the peace of God be with you always. Celebrate and share the joy! Celebrate new life! Go in peace and the peace of God be with you always.*

**Postlude**    “Be Thou My Vision”                      James Michael Stevens

**Fellowship**

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

**More Info/Contact Info**

Call to Worship adapted from *Flames of the Spirit*, edited by Ruth C. Duck. Invocation written by Susan Reisert.

Greeter: Ron Bansmer

Worship Assistant: Deb Morgan

Zoom: Joseph Reisert

Hospitality: Darlene and Galen Davis

License: CCLI#3214081

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  
Director

Ms. Cynthia McGuire, Administrative Assistant

Mr. Bradley Krueger, Music

Ms. Marcy Fullmer, Sexton

## **Announcements and Hymns for 9/10/23**

Welcome to Worship at Old South! We're glad you are here!

**OFFICE HOURS**—Tuesday & Thursday, 9:00 - Noon.

### **FALL WORSHIP SERIES**

“Looking Backward and Forward at the Same Time”

We'll use the Narrative Lectionary this fall, focusing on the ancient stories from the Hebrew Scriptures. As we consider these old stories, we'll look for new wisdom as we gather as God's holy people.

For the next few Sundays:

Sept 10, Genesis 2, Beginnings (worship will include communion)

Sept 17, Genesis 18, Isaac is born to Sarah

Sept 24, Gen 32, Jacob Wrestling

### **RECORDING SESSIONS— What makes Old South special?**

As part of our fall worship series, we'll begin recording short pieces, with individuals from Old South reflecting briefly on what makes Old South special. Do you have a short story or reflection to share?

You'll find slots on the Worship Sign Up, starting on the first Sunday of October (most of these will be recorded on Sunday mornings, before or after worship, or we can find another time that works for your schedule). The reflections should be just one or two minutes long.

### **MEETINGS/GATHERINGS/EVENTS:**

Choir rehearsal— Wed, 9/13/23, in the sanctuary, 5:30.

**BIBLE BUNCH** will begin meeting again on Tuesday, Sept 26, at Noon, in the Parish House and on Zoom.

**NEWS&NOTES**— Are you receiving the church email that's sent out on Tuesdays & Thursdays? If not, send an email to the church office. We'll add you to the list!

### **OUTREACH NEWS**

**Outreach Fund Focus/September:** Kennebec Behavioral Health

**BREAD OF LIFE DINNER DELIVERY**— the next one is Tues, 10/3. The sign up will be posted in a couple of weeks.

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

1. Checks may be sent to the church PO Box 508, 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: Today, September 10. Send your check to the office, or place in the offering plate. Please mark your check clearly for Hannaford.

**TODAY'S HYMNS**

**I Sing the Mighty Power of God      (Ellacombe)      NCH#12**

1 I sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise,  
That spread the flowing seas abroad, and built the lofty skies.  
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;  
The moon shines full at God's command, and all the stars obey.

2 I sing the goodness of our God that filled the earth with food;  
God formed the creatures with a word, and then pronounced them good.  
Oh, how your wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eye:  
If I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky!  
3 On earth there's not a plant or flower but makes your glory known.  
The clouds arise and spread their showers by order from your throne.  
All life is but a gift from you and ever in your care;  
Wherever people gather, you, O God, are present there.

**As We Gather At Your Table      (Beach Spring)      NCH #332 v.1&3**

1 As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word,  
Help us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;  
Teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's victory known.

3 Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast  
Where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least.  
There no more will envy bind us nor will pride our peace destroy,  
As we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.

**Breathe on Me, Breath of God      (Trentham)      Pilgrim #234**

1 Breathe on me, Breath of God, Fill me with life anew,  
That I may love what thou dost love, And do what thou wouldst do.

2 Breathe on me, Breath of God, Until my heart is pure,  
Until with thee I will one will To do and to endure.

3 Breathe on me, Breath of God, Till I am wholly thine,  
Until this earthly part of me Glows with thy fire divine.

4 Breathe on me, Breath of God, So shall I never die,  
But live with thee the perfect life Of thine eternity.